

**DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL PLANNING & MONITORING**  
**DEDICATION SERVICE**  
**22<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY 2025**

**THEME: TO RECOMMIT AND TO RESET OUR COUNTRY FOR THE NEXT  
50 YEARS**

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Good morning and belated happy new year to you all.

Thank you, Pastor Wally Kapi, for being here this morning and gracing us with the Word of God. It must be mandatory and important to re-dedicate our lives, our Department, our plans and our future to God, the supreme Leader of the Universe that we all must submit to and obey at all times.

Let me on the outset thank everyone of you, the Deputy Secretaries Mr Roger Kara and Mr Michael Kumung, the Senior Management, the Middle Management, all our Project Management Units and all our staff for your support and cooperation throughout course of 2024. Unfortunately, we were not able to close the year with a Christmas Party and thank you all for your tireless efforts. However, as a token of appreciation for all your hard work, I have approved the shopping vouchers of K1,000 for you all to spend with your families during the festive season.

**CALL TO DUTY WITH GREATER APPRECIATION OF THE COUNTRY WE LIVE  
IN**

Many of you who have attended the Public Service Dedication Service and have heard the Prime Minister's call for greater recommitment and rededication for our call of duty for service to our people and our country. While as a country we have progressed in time, 50 years to be exact, I can see the path that we have come. It has not been easy but we managed to reach 50 this year, a testament to God's leading, right leadership at the formative years of our independence and strong leadership from our Prime Minister today and many others that have gone before him.

We must always be proud of who we are and of our beautiful country that we live in. Our sense of our duty to our country and its people must be our number one priority. We stand at this critical Juncture of our 50 years of Independence and reflect on the 50 years of our journey since 1975 and ready for BIG RESET as we set foot for the next 50 years.

I have seen every country has been built by their own people and citizens. The progress of their nation has been determined by a strong leadership and the people's hard work and strong commitment. Their commitment for a better future with hard work, with strong moral ethics and to see change in their time has compelled them to achieve greater progress than what we experience in our country today. The Asian Tiger Economies are case in point. Many African countries have time and again proven that sheer hard work and right and strong leadership can leapfrog this country.

I see no reason why we should sit in the same place and see others progress. We have all the necessary preconditions and natural wealth and greater assets in our people to move forward. I have said this over and over again, the Next 10 years must be a "DECADE OF CHANGE" if we have to be really on course to achieve our PNG Vision 2050 Goal "To Be Smart, Wise, Fair ,Healthy and Happy Society by 20250." I say this, the ability of a country to be transformed is in the hands of all Papua New Guineans. We must work hard and be diligent in what we want to achieve individually and collectively as a country. We can't sleep on the status quo. And the time is just right.

At the dawn of 50 years on the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025, I know there will be BIG BANG in this country, the echoes of 1975 will reverberate throughout the length and breath of this country. Our people are going to celebrate in style but we must assure them of the most optimistic future that we are ready to build for them and with their support. We must also be optimistic of our own future and have big dreams for better life and better future. It's all in the power of our minds and hands. We have to decide whether we will build this country or we will destroy this country.

## THE CHALLENGE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL PLANNING STAFF

As we come together today to rededicate our lives to God and our service to our fellow country men and women, it is important firstly to understand what is our role as a Department and secondly as an officer of the Department. We have to review our Duty Statements and understand individually what is my role in the department, and have I done enough since my official employment in the Department or not. Am I robbing the state by not turning up to work on time or just staying at home, getting being paid for doing absolutely nothing or I have been rewarded well for a days' work? We have to start pausing these fundamental questions to understand fully our commitment to our call of duty to serve this country with distinction.

I have said this on couple of occasions that the Department of National Planning is the EPICENTRE of Development Planning in this country or the NERVE CENTRE of Development Planning in this country. Our collective ability to deliver to this nation as a Department is incumbent on the individual efforts of each of you sitting here this morning. Our relevance amongst our stakeholders both the private sector and public sectors will depend how we carry ourselves and demonstrate in our work places and our engagements with those stakeholders. We must stand to be seen as leader in development planning at all times and at all costs. We must be the forerunners in setting the pace and keeping everybody behind us in building the right momentum to leapfrog in the next 10 years. The Medium-Term Development Plans we have formulated over the year have appropriate development directions and the road map for the country to see and follow. The current Medium Term Development Plan 4 must be successfully implemented as we continue to call for greater alignment and commitment from all our stakeholders including the sub-national governments. Our indicators and targets that we have set in the MTDP4 must be delivered. For that to happen, the Department of National Planning must stand as a light house to direct everyone in the right course. We have this opportunity now to do it. We don't have many opportunities like this.

## THE GREAT RESET

Today, I challenge all of us to seriously rethink and reposition ourselves for a greater call ahead. We must be selfless, honest and diligent in our commitment to do better for the greater good of our country and its people. We must rise up and challenge the status quo. The future is in our hands. I am confident in the greater pool of talents we have in the Department. We have to put our minds and acts together, we can harness these talents and use for better development outcomes for our country. Let's make our mark and leave an admirable legacy for our future generations.

In my faith in the living God, I am confident that we can scale the heights of the land.

God bless you all.