



Department of National Planning and Monitoring
Office of the Secretary

MEDIA STATEMENT

Secretary for National Planning Mr. Koney Samuel calls for “Greater Resolve and Determination from all Papua New Guineans to take this country forward”

As the National Planning Secretary, I join everyone in wishing all Papua New Guineans a happy and prosperous 2025. This year will mark the end of a journey of 50 years of our country. Looking back and reflecting on the experiences of our journey, it places us as a country in a better position to strategically plan our future for the next 50 years.

We have developed numerous planning systems in this country in the last 45 years, and recently we have mapped out our five-year development trajectory through the formulation of the Medium-Term Development Plan 4 (MTDP4) (2023-2027), which provides the development priorities of this government to be delivered in the course of next five years.

We have set range of ambitious targets in growing the K200 billion economy by 2030, creating additional one million jobs in the next 5 years and most importantly improving the livelihoods of our people.

These targets with other hosts of sector key targets in the MTDP4 compels all our stakeholders in development to pursue aggressively their respective targets so that we can able to measure our performance collectively at the critical juncture of 50 Years Golden Jubilee Anniversary. We must give account and be able to quantify to the nation what we have achieved to date and retrospectively since 1975.

We must collectively reflect on our planning systems, their effectiveness to service delivery, economic growth and in respect to meeting our international obligations such as Sustainable Development Goals (2030 Agenda) and other international conventions.

We have precisely envisioned our country's future in 50 years. The PNG Vision 2050 is a broader vision to build a country that must be able to look after its people well. We will develop into a mature economy with sufficient jobs, higher Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita, well improved national indicators, safer and secure environment for business and our people.

Our ability to deliver on the PNG Vision 2050 goal is incumbent on every single Papua New Guineans to rise up to the occasion and do the best for their country. The complacency of the last 50 years must not come back to haunt us in processing our future 50 years on. It is important that everyone must understand the urgency of our time.

Our political leaders, leaders of bureaucracy, leaders of private sector, leaders of Civil Society Organizations, Leaders of International Development Partner Organizations, and most importantly the citizens of this country will have to rise up with greater resolve and determination to move this country forward.

It must not be business as usual. There must be absolute paradigm shift in our development thinking going forward. We have to reset the course of our country if we have to leapfrog into an industrialized economy in the next 50 years.

Papua New Guinea remains at the bottom 20 countries in the Global Human Development Index (HDI) Ranking according to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Human Development Report. We are ranked 154/193 countries in terms of life expectancy, gross national income and better and quality education. This ranking also places us in the lower middle income country category status. It is a stark reminder of our commitment to addressing these critical issues that continue to hamper us on our progress to improve on the HDIs.

To address these critical development issues, we have set the development framework in place through the Medium-Term Development Plan 4. The respective sector agencies must work hard to meet your own targets. The health and education are critical sectors whose performance will largely determine on where we sit in the HDI ranking going forward into the future.

All Government sector agencies, private sector and development partners must align fully to the priorities of the MTDP4. I note most of the sectors have aligned their respective plans, but my only concern is on their commitment and consistency in implementing their plans. It is important that everyone understand the expectations before you all. We must worker hard to meet those expectations of our people.

As the National Planning Secretary, I expect no mediocre performance than the best for your country. Let us use every arsenal before our disposals to support the Marape – Rosso Government to build a bigger and better country for us all.

I challenged all our leaders and Papua New Guineans scattered across the length and breadth of this country to ensure that the next 10 years must be a “Decade of Change,” if we have to set the pace and momentum of us to leapfrog. I cannot see any other better time than this year of 50 years of Golden Jubilee.

As we welcome 2025, I pray for God’s Blessings, Guidance and Protection over this beautiful country.

HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR 2025 TO YOU ALL!!