



Department of National Planning and Monitoring
Office of the Secretary

MEDIA STATEMENT

**NEW WOMEN ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT CENTRE SET TO
INSPIRE ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN PNG**

Port Moresby – November 15, 2024 --- The commissioning of the Women Enterprise Development Centre under the Small and Medium Enterprise Corporation (SMEC) has been hailed as a critical step towards driving economic growth and creating jobs in Papua New Guinea.

The Minister for Commerce and Industry, Hon Win Daki unveiled the plaque to mark the official opening of the Women Enterprise Development Centre.

He was accompanied by the Governor for NCD, Hon Powes Parkop, Minister for National Planning, Hon Sir Ano Pala, Secretary for the Department of National Planning, Koney Samuel, and acting Managing Director of SME Cooperation, Petrus Ralda. Also there were past participants of the Government & Textile Training Program and dignitaries.

Speaking at the event, Minister for National Planning, Hon Sir Ano Pala reiterated that economic growth was the aim of the current Government.

“This Government wants to grow the economy to K200 billion by 2030. For us to meet our future expansions, a growing population and to meet the realities of our development, we must grow the economy; there is no other way,” Sir Ano said.

Secretary for the Department of National Planning and Monitoring, Koney Samuel stressed that the MSME sector is set to become a key driver of economic growth, job creation, and export expansion, which are central objectives in the Medium Term Development Plan 2023-2027 (MTDP IV).

“The MSME sector will be the main engine of our economy,” said Mr. Samuel. “It holds the potential to generate thousands of jobs and contribute significantly to the nation’s GDP. By focusing on empowering women entrepreneurs, we are unlocking new sources of growth and ensuring that more Papua New Guineans can participate in the economy.”

Acting Managing Director of SMEC, Mr Petrus Ralda said the Women Enterprise Development Centre will play a key role in coordinating training and mentorship programs, ensuring that women entrepreneurs are equipped with the skills they need to grow their businesses and create jobs.

The Women Enterprise Development Centre is part of a broader government effort to address the challenges posed by Papua New Guinea’s growing youth population. By

supporting small businesses, particularly those led by women, the centre offers a pathway to economic independence for young people, helping to absorb them into the workforce and reduce the risk of social unrest.

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