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A Safe, Secure and Peaceful Society



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PNG launch Revised Marine Scientific Research Guidelines



Hon. Pila Niningi, MP
Minister for Justice & Attorney General



Hon. Justin Tkatchenko, MP
Minister for Foreign Affairs



Dr. Eric Kwa, PhD
Secretary for Justice

The Minister for Justice and Attorney General, Hon. Pila Niningi, proudly stated that there are some notable changes made to the guidelines, learning from experience. These changes include the increase in application fees from **3, 300 USD to 10, 000 USD**.

He further stated that one of the significant changes to the Revised Guidelines is that the NEC approved all relevant authorities to seek the consent of the Marine Scientific Research Committee to issue an exploration license for mining and petroleum. This will protect the ocean and marine environment from exploitation and risk to the marine environment.

"The guidelines ensure that research serves our people, protects our cultural heritages, and supports sustainable development for generations to come," said Minister for Justice and Attorney General.

Minister for Foreign Affairs Hon. Justin Tkatchenko, praised the two-decade effort, dating back to 2002, that led to the updated guidelines. "This milestone reflects years of dedication. Our Exclusive Economic Zone data is now safeguarded for the benefit of our people and future generations."

"Papua New Guinea's economy zone is one of the largest in the world, however, we are in danger of losing our legitimate rights to maritime boundaries and excess maritime resources. Climate change, illegal fishing, and transnational crimes are some of the challenges.

The implementation of the Revised MSR guidelines, will enhance national security, and support suitable fisheries management, among others."

Meanwhile, the Secretary for the Department of Justice and Attorney General, Dr. Eric Kwa, PhD, as the Chairman of the Marine Scientific Research Committee, thanked the members of the committee, who made significant inputs into the Revised Guidelines, the regional partners such as the South Pacific Community (SPC) and Pacific Solutions Integrated Oceans Management (PSIOM) Programme, who funded some of the technical skills and workshop with funding from the European Union.

He further stated that launching of the guidelines is a milestone achievement for the people, especially for the coastal communities, the 600-plus islands, and the 15 maritime provinces.

"It is important to protect our ocean and marine life and to use it sustainably for the benefit of the people, the country and the future," Kwa said.

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Secretary's Desk



Dr. Eric Kwa, PhD

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the festive new year, 2025!

I am delighted to present the first edition of our department's newsletter. This publication serves as a vital platform for sharing our successes and milestone achievements. I hope you find it both informative and engaging.

Last year, we launched the **Corporate Plan 2024–2028**, a strategic roadmap guiding our efforts in the coming years. I urge everyone to pledge their commitment to delivering our key priorities and objectives this year and beyond. Our Minister, Hon. Pila Niningi, MP, has emphasized the importance of collaboration, and I encourage us all to work together to achieve our shared goals.

As one of the central government agencies and the lead institution in the Law & Justice Sector, our leadership plays a crucial role in fostering effective partnerships with stakeholders.

In just the first two months of this year, our country has already witnessed significant achievements. We successfully launched the Revised Marine Scientific Research Guidelines and the National Oceans Policy (NOP)

Implementation Plan, facilitated by our department through the Office of Ocean Affairs, in collaboration with the Department of Foreign Affairs. This milestone sets a new standard for protecting our marine resources while ensuring benefits for our people.

Additionally, we are proud to be the first government department and legal agency to champion Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) training, made possible with donor support from the European Union.

Furthermore, the Prime Minister, Hon. James Marape, has commended our 2024 performance report and has called for greater collaboration to enhance the law and order system in the country.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to our Prime Minister, Hon. James Marape, for his leadership, and to our Minister, Hon. Pila Niningi, for his unwavering support. I also extend my appreciation to our stakeholders and all our dedicated staff for their tireless commitment to delivering quality legal and justice services to the State and the people of Papua New Guinea.

God bless Papua New Guinea.

Dr. Eric Kwa, PhD
Secretary for Justice

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Thank you for your cooperation.



DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

Core Mandate Functions

The Department of Justice and Attorney General (DJAG) serves as the primary legal body within the Government, tasked with a broad mandate that includes providing legal services to the state, administering justice, coordinating crime prevention strategies, and upholding the rule of law. The Department's core responsibilities are defined by its enabling legislation. Below are the key functions and mandates of the DJAG.

1. STATE LEGAL & LEGAL POLICY SERVICES

- a. State Legal Advice
- b. State Representation in Legal Matters
- c. Deceased Estate Administration
- d. Legal Policy Advice and Legislative Drafting
- e. Ocean Affairs Secretariat
- f. Human Rights Secretariat
- g. Judicial and Legal Services Commission (JLSC) Secretariat

2. JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION SERVICES

- a. Village Courts and Land Mediation
- b. Parole Services
- c. Probation Services
- d. Juvenile Justice Services
- e. Restorative Justice and Victims Support Services

3. NATIONAL, PROVINCIAL COORDINATION & CRIME PREVENTION

- a. Sector Coordination at National & Sub-National levels
- b. Crime Prevention Coordination

4. CORPORATE AFFAIRS

- a. Library & Records Management
- b. Information & Communication Technology
- c. Assets & Facilities
- d. Human Resources
- e. Executive Management
- f. Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation
- g. Financial Management
- h. Internal Audits
- i. Ethics, Leadership, and Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

Our Mission

To Provide Quality, Reliable, Timely , and Accessible Legal and Justice Services to the State and the People of Papua New Guinea.

Our Vision



A Safe, Secure and Peaceful Society for all

Core Values



- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. Discipline | 4. Ethics |
| 2. Justice | 5. Honesty |
| 3. Equality | 6. Rule of Law |

Our Corporate Objectives



Deliver Timely, Accessible and Quality Legal and Legal Policy Services



Deliver Timely, Accessible and Quality Community Justice Services



Enhanced Effective Partnership for coordination at the Sectoral, National, and sub-national levels.



Improved Governance and Accessibility and Organizational capabilities.



Innovative Leadership and Sound Corporate Governance for Improved Systems Administration



TOP STORIES & HIGHLIGHTS

Dept. Champions MHPSS Training



The Department of Justice and Attorney General (DJAG) conducted its second **Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (PSEAH)** training at the Gateway Hotel from February 10-14, 2025. The program aimed to enhance participants' (senior dept. staff) ability to promote mental health, support survivors, and uphold integrity in public service.

Secretary for Justice Dr. Eric Kwa emphasized that mental health is a fundamental human right and is essential for overall well-being.

"Mental health is integral to our overall well-being, influencing how we think, feel, and act. It affects our ability to handle stress, relate to others, and make decisions."

Dr. Kwa advocated for a survivor-centered approach in preventing sexual exploitation and highlighted the importance of managing stress in demanding public service roles. He encouraged participants to view the training as an opportunity to contribute to a more just and inclusive environment, thereby fostering positive change in public service and communities.

The training covered critical topics, including Psychological First Aid (PFA), providing emotional support to survivors of gender-based violence, lay counselling, and stress management. Participants engaged in practical exercises to enhance their ability to offer effective assistance.



Secretary for Justice, Dr. Eric Kwa, PhD, speaking to the senior department staff during the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH) training.

Dr. Kwa Emphasizes New Rules for Travel and Meetings

At the recent Branch Heads Meeting (01/2025), Secretary Dr. Eric Kwa addressed the branch heads, emphasizing on important updates and conditions relevant to the department. His remarks emphasized the stricter rules to enhance coordination, efficiency, and transparency.

Dr. Kwa, emphasized and stressed the need for stricter guidelines regarding staff movements, travel, and meetings in order to enhance coordination and efficiency. This was addressed during the first Branch Heads Meeting on January 30, 2025.

He directed that all deputy secretaries and branch heads must inform him of their meeting plans and travel requests on a weekly basis. "My executive officer and office manager will coordinate with you regarding your travel and meeting plans," he stated.

All official travels must be approved by Dr. Kwa with a minimum notice period of two weeks. "I will not accept last-minute travel requests or approve trips without accompanying acquittals and reports from prior travels," he emphasized.

Dr. Kwa instructed that workshops and meetings should be conducted using the Department's in-house facilities. "We must minimize the use of hotels and external venues unless I grant approval," he said.

These measures aim to improve accountability and reduce unnecessary expenses, he explained.



LEGISLATIVE & POLICY UPDATES

PNG Launch Revised MSR Guidelines and NOP Implementation Policy



The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon. Justin Tkatchenko (center), alongside Secretary for the Department of Foreign Affairs, Elias Wohengu (left), and Secretary for the Department of Justice and Attorney General, Dr. Eric Kwa (right), officially launched the MSR and NOP Implementation Policy at the Airways Hotel in Port Moresby.

The Government of Papua New Guinea recently adopted and launched the **Revised Marine Scientific Research (MSR) Guidelines**, demonstrating a commitment to sustainable ocean management. The launch event took place on February 7, 2024, with attendance from various officials and international representatives.

The guidelines, along with the National Oceans Policy Implementation Plan for 2024-2030, were approved by the National Executive Council (NEC) on December 18, 2024. Key changes to the guidelines include an increase in application fees of USD **3,300 to USD 10, 000** and a requirement for relevant authorities to obtain consent from the Marine Scientific Research Committee before issuing exploration licenses for mining and petroleum. This aims to protect the marine environment from exploitation.

Minister for Justice and Attorney General Hon. Pila Niningi emphasized the importance of the guidelines in serving the community, preserving cultural heritage, and promoting sustainable development.

Minister for Foreign Affairs Minister Hon. Justin Tkatchenko, praised the two-decade effort, dating back to 2002, which led to these updated guidelines. "This milestone reflects years of dedication. Our Exclusive Economic Zone data is now safeguarded for the benefit of our people and future generations."

Meanwhile, Dr. Eric Kwa, Secretary for the Department of Justice and Attorney General, highlighted the collaborative efforts involved in the revision, expressing that these guidelines represent a significant achievement for coastal communities and emphasized the need for sustainable use of marine resources.

DEPARTMENT'S PERFORMANCE REPORT OF YEAR 2024 AND 2025 PRIORITIES

The Department successfully participated in a high-level meeting alongside key government law and justice sector agencies to present its performance report to the Prime Minister, Hon. James Marape. This meeting held on Sunday 16/02/2025 at the Hilton Hotel, was convened at the direction of the Prime Minister, following a circular issued by the Department of Prime Minister & National Executive Council (PMNEC **Circular No. 05/2025**), urging all key government agencies to report on their achievements and priorities.



Prime Minister Hon. James Marape (centre) and other key government agency leaders participated during the briefing at the Hilton Hotel in Port Moresby.

report to Prime Minister James Marape, who acknowledged and commended the key achievements.

Building on this momentum, the Department remains committed to delivering its core objectives in 2025. Key priorities include:

- Court Restructure – Enhancing the efficiency and accessibility of the judicial system.
- Implementation of the Law & Justice Sector Policy - Strengthening legal frameworks and sector coordination.
- Establishment of Law and Justice Sector Headquarters in Morobe and Kokopo.
- Community Justice Service Centres to be set up in Obura-Wonenara, Wau-Waria, and Menyama.
- Construction of Village Court Houses in Mt.

The Department presented its 2024 Performance Report and its 2025 priorities. This is in accordance with Circular Instructions dated 15th November 2024, outlining Key Result Areas and Achievements for 2024, and Circular Instructions No. 05/2025 dated 7th February 2025, detailing Key Priorities and Deliverables for 2025.

The Department successfully presented its 2024 performance

Hagen, West New Britain, Southern Highlands, and Hela.

- Hosting of the Pacific Islands Law Offices Network (PILON) 44th Annual Meeting in Port Moresby in October.
- Anti-Corruption Initiatives – Advancing efforts to combat corruption, including the establishment of the ICAC Oversight Committee.
- Law Reform Agenda – Supporting legislative changes aligned with government priorities.
- Decentralization of Services – Expanding DJAG services to provinces, ensuring legal and justice support is accessible across the country.

JUSTICE SECTOR NEWS

How IPO issued by Village Courts are preventing domestic violence



Gabi Diari (middle seated) with some of the Village Court officials preparing for a court session at Gaire village.

Papua New Guinea's Village Courts play a crucial role in grassroots justice, handling various community disputes, including domestic violence. **Gabi Diari**, a Village Court Chairman in Gaire, Central Province, highlighted the challenges of enforcing court orders but emphasized the effectiveness of Interim Protection Orders (IPOs) in preventing domestic violence.

With support from the European Union-PNG Partnership for Good Governance (P4GG), 24 Village Court officials received training on the *Family Protection Act 2013* (FPA), equipping them with the legal knowledge to issue IPOs. These orders provide immediate protection for survivors and deter perpetrators from reoffending due to legal consequences.

This initiative is part of broader efforts to strengthen the Village Court system under PNG's "*Crime Prevention Through Revitalized Village Court System Strategy 2020-2030*." The *Family Protection Act* enables courts to issue short-term IPOs (30 days, extendable) and longer-term Protection Orders (up to two years), with violations carrying criminal penalties. The training has improved justice delivery, raised awareness, and contributed to reducing domestic violence in communities.

Impact of the Training

Gabi shared that the training significantly expanded his understanding of IPOs and their importance.

"I have put this into practice with a few domestic cases here, and it is encouraging to see IPOs stopping husbands from beating their wives again out of fear of the consequences for breaching the order," he said.

The IPOs are not only protecting survivors but also raising awareness within communities about the support Village Courts can provide while emphasizing the importance of the rule of law.

Moreover, perpetrators are beginning to understand the serious consequences of breaching these orders, leading to reduced violence in some communities. This training has empowered officials to deliver justice, protect survivors, and promote peace more effectively.

Dept. Signs MoU with Oxfam to Combat SARV



Secretary Dr. Kwa signed the MoU with Oxfam Representative, Eunice Wotene, in Fiji"

The Department of Justice and Attorney General (DJAG) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Oxfam in the Pacific, aimed at strengthening coordination, accountability, and capacity among state and non-state actors in preventing, protecting, and responding to Sorcery Accusation Related Violence (SARV) in Papua New Guinea.

The MoU was signed on Thursday, October 31, 2024 in Fiji.

Oxfam in the Pacific has operated in PNG for nearly 20 years, working in the Highlands, Bougainville, Port Moresby, and Sepik regions. The organization focuses on three core areas, one of which is 'Eliminating Violence Against Women.'

Through community outreach, peer support services, and increasing access to quality crisis support centers, Oxfam aims to reduce violence against women. These services extend to survivors, perpetrators, and community members, including men and boys. Oxfam is currently the only international Non-Government-Organization (NGO) in PNG focused on addressing sorcery-related violence, and its Case Management Centre in Lae—the first of its kind—provides counseling,

support, and legal intervention for women affected by sexual and family violence. The MoU represents a milestone in DJAG and Oxfam's partnership, strengthening collaborative efforts to support victims and marginalized groups affected by SARV.

Secretary for the Department of Justice Dr. Eric Kwa, emphasized the importance of partnerships in addressing SARV, stating that government efforts alone are insufficient.

"I have been working in this field for over 20 years. I am also on the Board of Femili PNG, an NGO supporting victims of gender-based violence (GBV) and SARV, so I understand the critical need for collaboration to prevent and reduce SARV," Dr. Kwa stated.

He added that the Department's SARV Working Group Committee recently developed a new five-year National Action Plan (NAP) on SARV, which has been approved by the Social Sector Ministerial Committee and is awaiting cabinet approval.

Dr. Kwa thanked Oxfam for its ongoing commitment to supporting the PNG Government in combating SARV and also thanked partners such as DFAT, UN agencies, and the European Union (EU) for their continuous financial support in SARV work and other law and justice programs.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & AWARENESS

CNSP Project Meeting Focuses on Key Expansions



Participants of the CNSP Project briefing at Lamana Hotel. The Meeting chaired by Secretary for Justice, Dr. Eric Kwa.

The **Child Nutrition and Social Protection (CNSP)** Project, a community initiative launched in 2023 with funding from the World Bank, is set to expand its reach and impact in the country.

On February 11, 2025, the CNSP Project Steering Committee (PSC) convened at Lamana Hotel, chaired by Secretary for Justice, Dr. Eric Kwa, to assess progress, address implementation challenges, and map out strategic developments for the project.

Key discussions focused on:

- ✓ Completion of CNSP Phase One and preparations for the National Nutrition Summit 2025.
- ✓ Expansion to four additional provinces, prioritizing areas with high stunting rates, strong leadership, and prior donor project experience.
- ✓ Development of an integrated monitoring and evaluation system with a performance dashboard to enhance data management, reporting, and decision-making.
- ✓ Endorsement of the Faculty of Food Science and Human Nutrition at the University of Goroka to strengthen nutrition education and research.
- ✓ Approval of the NextGen Mascot Activation Plan, aimed at raising awareness on child nutrition through schools and communities.
- ✓ Review of a higher duty allowance proposal to support government staff working on the project, ensuring motivation and continued engagement.

Other key agenda items included a mid-term project review, approval of the Component Management Unit Three (CMU3) annual work plan and budget, and the extension of sub grant support to non-Catholic Church Health Services (CCHS) catchment areas.

The meeting concluded with key resolutions to strengthen child nutrition efforts nationwide, reinforcing the government's commitment to improving child health and social protection in Papua New Guinea.

Australian Awards Information Session at DJAG.



Mr. Miseal Racines, Senior Manager for Scholarships, Australia Awards, during his presentation for the AA information session at DJAG.

The Department (DJAG) hosted an Australian Awards Information Session on Thursday 13/02/25, providing staff with key details on the application process and requirements for the prestigious Australian Awards Scholarships.

In an exciting achievement, six officers from DJAG have been selected as recipients of the Australian Awards Scholarship (AAS) for 2025, a recognition granted by the Australian Government.

Each year, public servants are encouraged to apply for the scholarship, and last year, DJAG secured the highest number of recipients among all government departments.

DJAG has consistently seen a high number of successful applications for the Australian Awards Scholarships, thanks to its strong support system and strategic nomination process.

Unlike other departments that submit only a handful of nominations, DJAG puts forward a large pool of candidates, increasing the chances of selection. A key factor in this process is the department's highly supportive Human Resources team, which plays a crucial role in preparing quality applications.

"With DJAG, the department always submits high-quality applications. That's the reason why there has been a high number of intakes for the Australian Awards Scholarships over the past four years," said Miseal Racines, Senior Manager for Scholarships.

This approach has positioned DJAG as a leading contributor to scholarship success, ensuring more opportunities for its employees to further their education and professional development.

The 2026 AAS intake will focus on seven priority sectors, aligning with the PNG-Australia Partnership. These sectors include climate change, economic growth, governance, education, gender and disability and social inclusion.

The Australian Awards Scholarship is a highly competitive and prestigious program that provides fully funded opportunities for students worldwide. It aims to develop skilled professionals who can contribute to their home countries' growth and development.

For further information visit the Australian Awards in PNG website: www.australiaawardspng.org or you can contact them on scholarships@australianawardspng.org.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT & INTERNAL NEWS

Training empowers senior DJAG officer

Ms. Fidelma Kara, Executive Manager at the Department's Policy Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation Branch (PME), is among the growing number of women in senior roles within DJAG. With over a decade of experience in public service, she has contributed significantly to strategic program management and monitoring.

As part of efforts to promote gender equity and inclusive governance, Fidelma serves as one of DJAG's 29 Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) Focal Points. In September 2024, she attended Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) and Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (PSEAH) training, facilitated by UNFPA and supported by the EU-PNG Partnership for Good Governance (P4GG).

The training deepened her understanding of leadership power dynamics, gender-based violence (GBV) support, and Psychological First Aid (PFA). She recognizes challenges in leadership, such as cultural resistance to change and the reluctance of junior staff to report discrimination. Fidelma is committed to applying her knowledge to create an inclusive workplace and support colleagues in need.

She recognizes the significance of fostering an inclusive environment where all voices are heard, and where junior employees feel safe to report incidents. She explained that as a leader it was important to understand power dynamics well and the impact it has on your team.

"For instance, junior employees might hesitate to report incidents of discrimination due to concerns about possible repercussions. Another obstacle is the resistance to change, particularly when established practices are altered. For example, a younger leader may find it difficult to earn the acceptance of older colleagues, as cultural norms often associate leadership with age. Furthermore, managing the diverse viewpoints of individuals from different cultural backgrounds poses yet another challenge," she said.



Speaking during the closing of the training last year. Below: Getting ready to start another busy day.



DJAG congratulates AusAID scholarship awardees for 2025



Scholarship Awardees (L-R): Mr. John Laule, Legal Policy & Governance Branch; Ms. Carolyn Miana, Office of the State Solicitor; Mr. Desmond Mwayawa, Office of the State Solicitor; Ms. Giwai Danagi, Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation Branch; Mr. Ephraim Bua, Office of the Solicitor General; and Ms. Arieta Dagi, Office of the State Solicitor.

Six officers from the Department (DJAG) have been honored and congratulated by the department's management and staff for being awarded the prestigious Australian Government Scholarship for 2025.

This year's cohort, the largest in recent years, comprises five legal officers and one planning officer selected from the department through a highly competitive process. Their selection is a testament to their dedication, expertise, and commitment to contributing to the justice sector.

In recognition of Papua New Guinea's 50th Independence Anniversary, the group has been designated the '**Somare-Whitlam**' cohort, symbolizing the enduring bilateral relationship between Papua New Guinea and Australia. The name pays tribute to PNG's founding Prime Minister, Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare, and former Australian Prime Minister Gough Whitlam, both instrumental in shaping PNG's independence.

Speaking on behalf of the awardees, Executive Manager of the Human Resource Management Branch, Mr. Willie Kiba, expressed deep gratitude to Department Secretary Dr. Eric Kwa for his unwavering support and confidence in these DJAG ambassadors and future leaders.

"I commend you for approving their training bids, including those who, despite their efforts, could not make it through the stringent selection process," Mr. Kiba stated. He emphasized that the department's continued investment in human resource development will strengthen the legal and governance systems in Papua New Guinea.

The recipients will pursue studies in their respective fields at various Australian universities, with some have departed in early January 2025. Their training will enhance their professional skills and expertise, ultimately contributing to improved service delivery and legal governance in the country upon their return.



My name is **Kore Kaiore**, and I am a Security Officer attached to the Executive Management Branch. I joined the department in 2015 and have been serving as a security and front desk reception assistant.

Since joining the department, I have attended only one security training. I strongly encourage management to consider providing relevant training opportunities to enhance our skills and improve job performance.



UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENT

Papua New Guinea to Participate in UN Ocean Conference 2025.

The Department of Justice and Attorney General's (DJAG) Office of Oceans Affairs Secretariat and other relevant stakeholder government agencies, will represent Papua New Guinea (PNG) at the **Third United Nations Oceans Conference (UNOC3)** in June 2025. As a UN member state, PNG will engage in global discussions on ocean conservation and sustainability.

Mr. Clément Brousse, the Counsellor for Global Issues at the French Embassy in Papua New Guinea, visited DJAG to discuss the upcoming UNOC3 in France. The meeting was attended by the Secretary for Justice Dr. Eric Kwa, officials from the Office of Oceans Affairs Secretariat along with other stakeholder agency members.

UNOC3 is scheduled for June 9-13, 2025, in Nice, France. France and Costa Rica are co-organizing the conference. UNOC3 will bring together UN member states, specialized agencies, civil society, private sector representatives, and international donors to advance global ocean governance.

The event aligns closely with PNG's recent ocean policy initiatives. The Office of Oceans Affairs recently launched the National Oceans Policy Implementation Plan, 2024-2030 and the Revised Marine Scientific Research Guidelines. These frameworks aim to enhance marine resource management, scientific research, and sustainable ocean use, making PNG's participation in UNOC3 particularly timely.

PNG's involvement in the conference is crucial as the nation faces pressing climate challenges and growing geopolitical concerns. Given PNG's strategic location in the Pacific, its representation at UNOC3 reinforces its commitment to regional and global ocean governance while safeguarding national interests.

By participating in high-level discussions, PNG will strengthen international cooperation, advocate for sustainable ocean policies, and ensure its voice is heard on a global platform.



Mr. Clement Brousse, the Counsellor for Global Issues, France Embassy, Papua New Guinea, addressing DJAG and Oceans Affairs staff, and staff from the stakeholder agencies in conference for the upcoming UNOC3 in France.

PNG to Host PILON - Count Down

Papua New Guinea (PNG) will host the 44th Pacific Islands Law Officers' Network (PILON) Annual Meeting this October at the prestigious APEC Haus in Port Moresby.

PILON stands for the Pacific Islands Law Officers' Network. It is a regional network that brings together senior legal officers from Pacific Island countries to collaborate on legal issues of mutual interest.

Key Functions of PILON:

- Strengthening legal frameworks across the Pacific.
- Facilitating cooperation on legal and justice sector issues.
- Addressing transnational crimes, human rights, and environmental law.
- Providing capacity-building opportunities for legal officers.

Picture on the left shows PNG's participation in the 43rd PILON annual meeting in Fiji.

Secretary for Justice, Dr. Eric Kwa, in his address to PILON members, expressed enthusiasm as PNG prepares to host the 44th PILON meeting. This marks the third time PNG will host the event, a highly anticipated occasion. He stated, "This is not our first time, and we warmly welcome you all to Papua New Guinea."

PILON includes representatives from Pacific Island countries, as well as observer organizations such as Australia, New Zealand, and international legal bodies. It plays a vital role in enhancing legal cooperation and governance in the Pacific region.



Above: PILON Members at the 43rd Meeting in Fiji, Nadi. Secretary for Justice Dr. Eric Kwa, receive a guest appreciation gift at the close of the Meeting from the host, Fiji.



VOX - POP - IMPROVING CLIENTS SERVICES



**Mr. Peter Hairoi, Office Manager,
Executive Management Branch (EMB)**

"We must provide effective client services, particularly at the Office of the Secretary. To enhance service delivery, firstly, a structured client feedback process must be implemented and analyzed for continuous improvement."



**Mrs. Wilma Marakan, Acting Director, Assets,
Logistics & Securities**

Train and Empower Your Team
"Provide regular training to equip your team with essential skills in communication, problem-solving, and conflict resolution. Empower your employees by allowing them to make decisions and resolve client issues without excessive bureaucracy. Foster a client-centric culture where client satisfaction is always the top priority."



**Ms. Linda Wonuhali, Manager,
Logistics & Procurement Unit**

In my view, there is a need for an improvement with our client/customer service in DJAG. Starting with identifying a suitable person(s) with the front office experience, preferably a woman to play a role of a front desk receptionist, which includes the ground floor Reception Area.

Good customer service skills for a receptionist includes:

- Active listening
- Positive First Impression
- Clear Communication
- Empathy
- Problem Solving
- Professionalism
- Adaptability
- Be Knowledgeable of the functions of the Department of Justice & Attorney General
- Multitasking
- Training



**Mr. Willie Kiba, Executive
Manager, HRM**

To enhance client service within the Department of Justice and Attorney General, we are implementing customized support strategies tailored to the specific needs of our constituents. This initiative includes the establishment of efficient and transparent communication channels, alongside the cultivation of a client-centric approach that prioritises the identification and resolution of diverse individual

needs. We aim to foster a supportive environment that meets and exceeds client expectations, ensuring that all individuals feel acknowledged, valued, and understood during their interactions with our department.

Furthermore, our front counter team on the ground floor must enhance its communication skills and professionalism. Additionally, the Office of Public Trustee should establish a 24/7 client service team to ensure continuous support and accessibility for our clients.

I've observed that our front counter team on the ground floor has, on multiple occasions, interacted with village court officials, clerks, and magistrates in a manner that lacks professionalism and proper client service etiquette.

I wonder if it would be possible to issue ID cards for our village court officials, clerks, and magistrates. This could help them identify themselves more clearly and ensure they receive the same level of service as other DJAG officers, fostering a sense of belonging within our larger workforce.



**Ms. Fidelma Kara, Executive
Director, PME**

Improving Client Service within:
My thoughts.

At the Department of Justice & Attorney General, our Corporate Plan 2024-2028 drives us to focus on four strategic domains of the balanced scorecard model approach: Client, Financial, Business Process, and Organizational Capabilities. These pillars are crucial for our growth as

we work diligently to achieve our objectives and fulfill our mission—for a safe, secure, and peaceful society.

As in a supply chain production context, think of Legal and Justice Services as the "product" that we deliver to our clients. Just as manufacturers strive for excellence in every step of the production process, our success hinges on the quality and reliability of the services we provide.

Are our services timely, accessible and of quality? How do we determine

our success in delivering excellent Legal and Justice Services to our clients (the state instrumentalities and our people?).

In this Corporate year we are working towards improving our client focus by measuring our performance through client feedback and reviews(customer satisfaction surveys), and building learning from that to ensuring our services a continuously improved to be efficient and accessible.

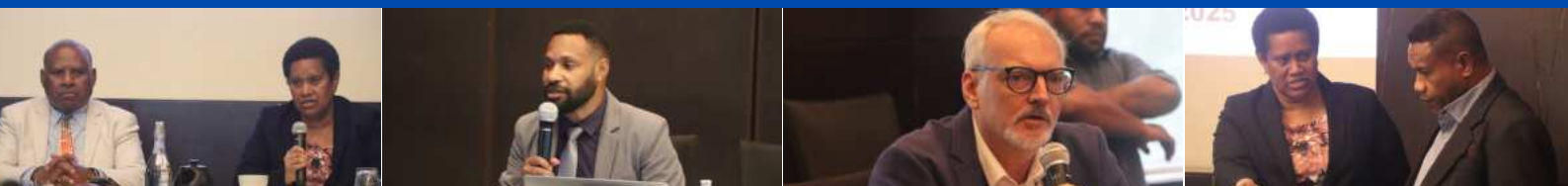


FLASHBACK: THE BEST EVENT MOMENTS

LAUNCH OF MSR GUIDELINES, AIRWAYS, 06/02/2025



SLOS HEAD MEETING NO. 1, LAMANA, 07/02/2025



MHPSS TRAINING, LAMANA, 10/02/2025



EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT SIGNING - 40 SENIOR OFFICERS 11/02/2025





FLASHBACK: THE BEST EVENT MOMENTS

CNSP Steering Committing Meeting # 1, Lamana, 11/02/2025



PMs Briefings, Hilton, 16/02/2025



NOP Consultation Workshop at Dixies, 12/02/2025



Launching of Revised MSR Guidelines, Airways, 06/02/2025



PILON Annual Meeting, Fiji, 29/10/2024



BRINGING THE FUN: SOCIAL CLUB & ENTERTAINMENT HIGHLIGHTS

“Promoting Health, Fitness and Friendship through Sports - DJAG Women’s Netball”

GAME DAY



"Another day of fun as Team DJAG gains momentum with strong support from sponsors."



Gima showcasing her skills with the support of her team, going head-to-head against the opponent team players.

DJAG Netball Club Gears Up for Grand Final in PSNA's 35th Anniversary Season

The Public Service Netball Association (PSNA) will be celebrating its 35th anniversary this year. The Association comprises various organizations that form teams to compete in netball, promoting health, fitness, and friendship through the sport.

The Department of Justice and Attorney General (DJAG) has been an active participant in PSNA netball competitions since the early 2000s with the formation of the DJAG Netball Club. The club consists of two teams: DJAG 1 (Division 4) and DJAG 2 (Division 7), made up primarily of DJAG female staff, along with a few spouses and dependents who assist the club.

For the 2024-2025 season—which commenced in October 2024 and continues into the new year—both DJAG teams started strong on the points ladder. However, Team 2 bowed out in the knockouts, while Team 1 surged ahead, ultimately securing the title of Minor Premiers in their division after an outstanding performance against PNG Sports Foundation 1. Unfortunately, they fell short in the preliminary finals, losing to the National Judicial Staff Services (NJSS) by just three points.

Undeterred, the team regrouped and refocused with a week-long mental and physical preparation. Their determination paid off as they dominated the semi-finals with a resounding 14-0 victory over the National Maritime Safety Authority (NMSA). Now, they are set to face NJSS once again in the much-anticipated grand showdown this Saturday, March 1st, at the Sir John Guise Indoor Complex.

The club has received tremendous support from DJAG this season, particularly in club and player registrations, training uniforms, and other merchandise. Special recognition goes to the National Provincial Coordination and Crime Prevention (NPSSP) Division, especially the Law and Justice Secretariat (LJSS) through its Child Nutrition and Social Protection (CNSP) Program and the Human Rights Branch, which provided training T-shirts and merchandise. Additionally, the Executive Management Branch (EMB), Assets & Facilities, Juvenile Justice, Village Courts Secretariat, and the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) have all stepped forward in support of the club.

The DJAG Netball Club extends its heartfelt gratitude to all branches for their generosity and encouragement. As the team prepares for the grand final, they remain hopeful for victory and look forward to continued support from the department in the future.





DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE & ATTORNEY GENERAL

Core values and principles

RULE OF LAW:

We strive to instill public confidence by respecting, promoting and ensuring that the Rule of Law is maintained at all times.

EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS:

All persons and corporate bodies are equal before the law and must be accorded every opportunity to contribute to nation building. We exercise our duties and responsibilities without fear or favor.

CUSTOM FOUNDED JUSTICE SYSTEM:

We acknowledge the worthy outcome and traditional wisdom of our people as the underlying consideration of our justice system.

TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY:

We promise transparency, accountability and good governance where all decisions are made in the national interest. We are accountable for our decisions and actions.

CORPORATE INTEGRITY:

We uphold the core values and principles of our organization and contribute to national and community endeavors

EXCELLENCE:

Each employee is respected as having worth to the organisation with aspiration that the Department endeavours to match in its policies and opportunities. Employees strive for excellence and demonstrate a high level of professionalism.



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