



Department of Justice & Attorney General
Data For Justice Branch

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PRESS RELEASE

Government Takes Action to Address PTSD in Disciplinary Forces

The Papua New Guinea Government is taking steps to address Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) among the country's disciplinary forces.

A PTSD survey was conducted with 150 members of the PNG Defence Force at Murray Barracks in Port Moresby on Wednesday, 18th June 2025. This initiative is part of the government's broader effort to better understand the mental health challenges faced by security personnel.

PTSD is a mental health condition that can affect how a person thinks, makes decisions, and behaves, especially after experiencing stressful or traumatic events. The government recognises that such conditions can seriously impact the performance and well-being of soldiers, police officers, and correctional officers.

The Department of Justice and Attorney General (DJAG), in collaboration with researchers from the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG), led by Professor Leo Marai, is spearheading this initiative. The current survey marks phase one of the initiative, aimed at establishing a baseline study with credible data to understand the depth of the issue (PTSD).

Director of Research, Dr. Peter Maima, stated that PNG currently lacks sufficient data on PTSD.

"This survey will help the government formulate better policies (Phase two) and institutionalise pathways (Phase three) to support the mental health and well-being of our disciplinary forces," Dr. Maima said.

This is the first time such a survey has been conducted in PNG, making it a significant step toward improving mental health support systems for the country's disciplinary forces.



Dr. Peter Maima and the DJAG team (left), alongside UPNG Professor Leo Marai (right) and personnel from the PNGDF, participated in the first-ever PTSD survey at Murray Barrack in Port Moresby.

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