



Department of Justice & Attorney General
Office of the Secretary

PRESS RELEASE

Monday 22/09/2025

Launch of the First-Ever Training for Village Court Officers

The Department of Justice and Attorney General (DJAG) and the Somare Institute of Leadership and Governance (SILAG) today launched the first-ever training for the Village Court officers at SILAG in Port Moresby.

This program initiative under the **Crime Prevention through a Revitalized Village Courts System Strategy 2020-2030** started in 2018 and has come to reality today as the first 20 newly recruited and appointed grade 12 Village Court Peace officers and clerks from the Central Province are ready to undertake the training, starting tomorrow, 23rd September 2025.

This Training aims to enable the Village Court Officials to enhance their knowledge and understanding of the Government and Justice system of PNG, to enable the Village Court Officials to manage their thoughts and behaviors and their engagement with the communities and to create opportunities and career pathways for the Grade 12s in the Village Courts System.

Secretary for Justice Dr. Eric Kwa, PhD, said the Village Court is the heartbeat of the rule of law in PNG.

“When you look at the Justice System, the first people to attend to when there is a legal problem is the Village Court officials. He said the Village Court is the foundation for Justice in PNG.”

“Under the new Law and Justice Sector Policy, Village Courts is one of the pillars of the Law and Justice Sector Programs,” Dr. Kwa said.

He said the Village Court System was there before the country gained independence. However, the significant problems remain, such as the lack of data collection and proper reporting.

The Village Court Revitalization Policy is the first-ever Policy since independence in 2020 that was brought forward by the government to revitalize the Village Courts System in the country.

The Village Courts Revitalization Strategy calls for the appointment of grade 12s as Peace Officers and Clerks in respective Village Court Areas. It also aims to address unemployment and create career pathways for the young men and women who have completed grade 12.

The Village Courts consist of 1,680 Village Court Areas in the country, each served by four (4) Peace Officers and one (1) Clerk, making a total of 6,720 Peace Officers and 1,680 Clerks.

The program is supported by the Australia - Papua New Guinea Law and Justice Sector Partnership to implement and roll out the Village Courts Training by SILAG throughout the country.



Secretary for DJAG Dr. Eric Kwa, Phd, Australian DFAT Councillor for Tessa Plueckhahn, , DJAG Management Team, SILAG Management Team and 20 Village Courts officials from the Central Province.

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