



Department of Justice & Attorney General

Press Statement

PNG to adopt revised Marine Scientific Research Guidelines: A win for citizens and the Ocean.



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 adopted the revised Marine Scientific Research (MSR) Guidelines, marking a significant step forward in the Country's commitment to sustainable ocean management and the well-being of our people.

The launching of the **Revised Maritime Research Guidelines 2024** was held on the 7th February, in attendance to witness was ambassadors and high commissioners from various countries, government officials and leaders for civil society and donor partners.

The Maritime Scientific Research Guidelines 2024 and the National Oceans policy Implementation Plan 2024-2030 were approved by NEC on 18th December 2024, marking a significant step in ocean governance and protection.

The Minister for Justice and Attorney General, Hon. Pila Niningi, proudly stated that there are some notable changes made to the guidelines, learning from the past 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.

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.

Dr. Kwa, further stated that “this 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.

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