



ISSUE NO. 2

NUIS BULLETIN

Published by Office of the Secretary
Department of Justice and Attorney General

A Safe, Secure and Peaceful Society for All



MAR - JUNE | 2025

PM launches National Law & Justice Policy



Prime Minister Hon. James Marape (centre), Minister for Justice Hon. Pila Niningi (right) and Secretary for Justice Dr. Eric Kwa, officially launch the National Law & Justice Policy 2025-2035.

Prime Minister Hon. James Marape has recently launched the National Law and Justice Sector Policy 2025–2035, marking a major milestone in Papua New Guinea's commitment to strengthening the rule of law and justice services.

The official launch, held in Port Moresby, was attended by members of the judiciary, government ministers, development partners, the legal fraternity and members of the diplomatic corps.

The Prime Minister described the policy as a timely and symbolic initiative, coming as the country celebrates 50 years of independence. He said the policy would guide PNG's justice sector through the next decade, ensuring that the *Constitution*, the rule of law and the justice system continue to uphold the rights of all citizens.

"We must build a Papua New Guinea where justice is not a privilege for the few, but a right for all," Prime Minister Marape said.

Key reforms highlighted in the Policy include:

- Judicial reforms to address growing caseloads.
- Strengthening district and village courts, with Village Court magistrates now placed on the government payroll.
- Operationalization of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC).
- Expansion of the police force, with a target of 10,000 new officers by 2030.
- Improved conditions for judges, including an increased retirement age
- Support for alternative dispute resolution mechanisms such as arbitration and mediation.
- Correctional service reforms focusing on rehabilitation, especially for young offenders.

The Prime Minister thanked the Minister for Justice Hon. Pila Niningi, Secretary for Justice Dr Eric Kwa, and Chief Justice Sir Gibbs Salika for their leadership in driving these reforms.

"This policy is a national call to action. It speaks to justice accessibility, institutional strengthening, good governance, community engagement and restorative justice," the Prime Minister said.

He urged all stakeholders—government agencies, judiciary, police, correctional services, civil society, churches and development partners—to work together to build a just, peaceful and prosperous Papua New Guinea.



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Dear Readers,

It gives me great pleasure to present the second edition of our Department of Justice and Attorney General (DJAG) newsletter. This newsletter continues to be an important platform for sharing progress, achievements, and key activities of our department. I hope you find this edition both informative and inspiring.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the leadership of our Prime Minister, Hon. James Marape. His vision and dedication continues to drive the development of our nation. Under his leadership, Papua New Guinea has strengthened its presence on the international stage, ensuring that our country's voice is heard on important global matters.

I also wish to sincerely thank our Minister for Justice and Attorney General, Hon. Pila Niningi, for his ongoing leadership and commitment to the Law and Justice Sector. His guidance and support to our department and the Judicial and Legal Services Commission (JLSC) have been instrumental, especially in ensuring the timely appointments of Judges and State Law Officers. These appointments are critical in upholding justice and strengthening the rule of law in our country.

I further acknowledge the National Coordinating Mechanism (NCM) for its important role in coordinating and driving reforms within the Law and Justice Sector. The NCM continues to provide strong leadership in improving coordination among the law and justice sector agencies and helping the government strengthen our justice system.

I am also proud of the significant milestones and international engagements that DJAG has contributed to in recent months.

In June 2025, Papua New Guinea took part in two important events: the 16th Session of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption Implementation Review Group and the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption. This shows the country's commitment to fight corruption and promote good governance.

Additionally, at the United Nations Ocean Conference in Nice, the Prime Minister led the Papua New Guinea delegation, highlighting the nation's commitment to protecting the ocean and promoting sustainable development. A key result of this event was Papua New Guinea signing an agreement to protect marine life in international waters.

Finally, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to all DJAG staff, both legal and support teams. Your dedication, professionalism and hard work continue to deliver essential justice programs, crime prevention initiatives, and legal services to the State and the people of Papua New Guinea. Your efforts help to strengthen public trust in our justice system.

Thank you for your continued support, and I encourage you to read through this edition to learn more about the work we do together for our country.

May God Bless Papua New Guinea.

Dr. Eric Kwa, PhD
Secretary

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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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 services, 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

- State Legal Advice
- State Representation in Legal Matters
- Deceased Estate Administration
- Legal Policy Advice and Legislative Drafting
- Ocean Affairs Secretariat
- Human Rights Secretariat
- Judicial and Legal Services Commission (JLSC) Secretariat

2. JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION SERVICES

- Village Courts and Land Mediation Secretariat
- Parole Services
- Probation Services
- Juvenile Justice Services
- Restorative Justice and Victims Support Services

3. NATIONAL, PROVINCIAL COORDINATION & CRIME PREVENTION

- Sector Coordination at National & Sub-National levels
- Crime Prevention Coordination

4. CORPORATE AFFAIRS

- Library & Records Management
- Information & Communication Technology
- Assets & Facilities
- Human Resources
- Executive Management
- Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation
- Financial Management
- Internal Audits
- Ethics, Leadership, and Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

MISSION

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

VISION



A Safe, Secure and Peaceful Society for all

CORE VALUES



1. Discipline
2. Justice
3. Equality

4. Ethics
5. Honesty
6. Rule of Law

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

Commission Appoints New Judges and State Law Officers



Minister for Justice and Attorney General, Hon. Pila Niningi, congratulates Ms. Helen Vagivaro Roalakona with a handshake following her appointment as Acting Public Prosecutor during the press conference held on 27 May 2025 in Port Moresby.

The Judicial and Legal Services Commission (JLSC) has confirmed the appointment and re-appointment of several key State Law Officers and Judicial Officers during its Second Regular Meeting held on 22 May 2025 in Tari, Hela Province.

The announcement was made by the Chairman of the Commission and Minister for Justice & Attorney General, Hon. Pila Niningi, during a press conference held on 27 May 2025.

Minister Niningi thanked the Commission members for their support and acknowledged the Hela Provincial Government and Governor Hon. Philip Undialu for hosting the Commission meeting and related programs in Tari.

The Commission made the following key appointments:

State Law Officers

- Ms. Helen Vagivaro Roalakona – Appointed Acting Public Prosecutor for one year.
- Mr. George Akia – Appointed Solicitor General for five years.

Judicial Officers

- Three foreign judges appointed for three years:
 - Justice Rangajeeva Wimalasena (Sri Lanka).
 - Justice Mohammed Khan (Fiji).
 - Justice Graham Ellis (Australia).
- Justice Pauline Bre – Appointed as national judge for 10 years.

- Justice Hitelai Polume Kiele and Justice Kenneth Frank – Reappointed.
- Principal Magistrate Billy Pidū – Retirement age extended to continue serving as Senior Provincial Magistrate for NCD.

These appointments, known as the Hela Declarations, reflects the Commission's ongoing commitment to a transparent, merit-based selection process.

Minister Niningi also acknowledged the Marape-Rosso Government for its continued support in funding and resourcing the judiciary and legal services, ensuring access to justice for all Papua New Guineans.

JLSC meets in Tari to announce new appointments



The Judicial & Legal Services Commission (JLSC) was in Tari, Hela Province, to hold its recent meeting to confirm and announce a series of significant appointments to key Constitutional and Legal offices.

The appointments were made and formally announced by the Attorney General and JLSC Chairman, Hon. Pila Niningi.

(L-R) Chief Ombudsman, Mr. Richard Pagen; Hela Governor Mr. Phillip Undialu; Justice Minister & Attorney General, Hon. Pila Niningi (Chair JLSC); Hon. Chief Justice, Sir Gibbs Salika; and Hon. Deputy Chief Justice, Ambeng Kandakasi.



Dr. Kwa: “Accurate Data Collection is Vital”



Deputy Secretary – Corporate, Ms. Michelle Taumpson (second from right), going through the day's agenda at the Review while branch heads and unit managers follow through.

Dr. Eric Kwa, PhD

Secretary Dr. Eric Kwa has strongly emphasized the need for proper reporting and statistics/data compilation from the department's management team.

This concern was raised during his opening remarks at the Department's First Quarter Review for this year at the WNB Haus, Waigani.

“You all will not do your presentations today, as in previous Reviews, I have heard enough stories. I now want to see these stories in proper written reports, including data and statistics. This will clearly show me and the management the real progress that each Branch has achieved in this first Quarter,” he said.

Dr. Kwa stressed that he has not received reports on a timely basis, resulting in the delay of presenting certain statutory reports to the Government and Parliament.

“This can be an indictment of our leadership and the department. Proper reporting with well-presented data and statistics speaks volumes about government operations, and if we are not providing this vital information, then we have failed miserably,” he told the management team.

On a positive note, Dr Kwa announced that the PM, Hon. James Marape, had recently rated DJAG as a very high-performing Department in the whole of government.

“Yes, the PM has rated us highly, you all have done well as he has seen the many success stories and the tireless work, we all have been doing; but I want it captured in proper reports with data and statistics to show everyone what we have done for the government and people,” Dr. Kwa said.

The Quarterly Review is a meeting held at the end of every quarter where the Management Team, which includes Branch Heads and Unit Managers within the Department, meets to report on their activities as per their workplans, identify challenges and the way forward within the framework of the Corporate Plan 2024-2028.

New templates introduced to raise reporting standards

The Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (PM&E) Branch, the Branch mandated for all the department's strategic and operational planning and program budget, monitoring & evaluation and compliance reporting has taken steps to improving the reporting culture within the department responding to concerns raised by the management.

A new and revised Fortnightly, Monthly and Quarterly Reporting templates have been workshopped to nearly all branches of the department by officers of the PM&E Branch, facilitated by the Executive Manager, Ms. Fidelma Kara.

Ms. Kara said timely reporting by various Branches and Deemed Offices has been a

concern as the PM&E Branch was not capturing sufficient information and data/statistics to reflect the significant work being done by the department in terms of provision of quality, reliable accessible and quality legal and justice services to the State and our people.

“These new and updated templates will now differentiate the three reporting terms to ensure consistency in data collection that captures everything (data type) the branch needs to collect in more detail. With this new template, we can now capture information from workplan activities to finances and other important details that we (PM&E Branch) need to consolidate into the department's statutory

Annual Management Reports and the Annual Plans,” she said.

Ms. Kara said once officers both at the HQ and Provincial Offices fully understand how to fill out the new templates accordingly, the department's impact stories of our services will be reflected more realistically and accurately (data-driven) when presenting our statutory reports to the Parliament.

It is compulsory that officers must use the new reporting template. It is urged for Branch heads, managers and supervisors to make sure these templates are filled and submitted constantly to PM&E on a Fortnightly, Monthly and Quarterly basis.



LEGAL SECTOR HIGHLIGHTS

Maritime law enforcement officers get specialized training



Participants of the training posing with their certificates with the facilitators and DJAG Secretary Dr. Kwa, who is sitting in the front row (centre). UNODC Country Rep Dr.... sitting next to Dr. Kwa.

A total of 29 participants from various maritime law enforcement and government agencies in Papua New Guinea have successfully completed a specialized one-week training at Lamana Hotel, Port Moresby.

The Maritime Domain Awareness Foundation training was conducted from the 12th to the 16th of May 2025.

The Training was jointly facilitated by the UNODC, through its GMC Program, and the Office of Ocean Affairs, with assistance from the Department of Transport.

Speaking during the certificate presentation, DJAG Secretary Dr. Eric Kwa, emphasized that the training is the beginning of more to come in terms of our ocean security.

“For so long, we have neglected our oceans; we are now stepping up our game to protect our vast mass of waters.

This training paves the way for more to come, to build capacity and empower maritime enforcement personnel in the country with the analytical and operational capacity to detect, monitor and respond effectively to maritime threats,” he said.

DJAG Participates in Regional Fusion Centre Visits on Maritime Security



Secretary for Justice Dr. Eric Kwa with the PNG National Ocean Committee team during their visit tour at the regional maritime security centres in Singapore and Manila.

A delegation from Papua New Guinea's National Ocean Committee (NOC), led by Secretary for Justice and Attorney General Dr. Eric Kwa in his capacity as NOC Chairman, recently undertook a visit to two key regional maritime security centres.

The team visited the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) Information Sharing Centre in Singapore and the Philippine Coast Guard Fusion Centre in Manila. The visits were conducted at the invitation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The visit to these Fusion Centres is based on the Government's decision in December 2024 to establish a Fusion Centre in the Country.

The NOC team included Colonel Grag Solomon from the PNG Defence Force, Mr. Sylvester Adema, First Assistant Secretary for Maritime Transport at the Department of Transport and Ms. Fiona Pagla from the National Ocean Office at DJAG.

The visit provided the PNG delegation with firsthand insights into international best practices in maritime domain awareness and information sharing to support regional maritime security efforts.



PNG signs UNCAC Transparency Pledge in Vienna



DJAG Secretary Dr. Eric Kwa (Second from right), Deputy Secretary Mrs. Josephine Pitmur and government officials posing after the signing in Vienna, Austria.

Papua New Guinea on 18th June 2025 signed the **United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) Coalition's Transparency Pledge** in Vienna, becoming the 41st country to do so.

Department Secretary, Dr. Eric Kwa was accompanied by a government delegation from PNG to participate in this momentous event in Vienna, Austria. The signing of the Transparency Pledge is a significant commitment the PNG Government is making to UNCAC.

The commitment made during the first resumed 16th Session of the Implementation Review Group (IRG) meeting at UNODC, signifies PNG's dedication to transparency and civil

society inclusion in the UNCAC implementation review process.

The pledge outlines six specific principles of UNCAC Transparency to which PNG is now committed to support;

- Publishing updated review schedules.
- Sharing information about the review institution or focal point.
- Announcing the completion of the review and where to find the report.
- Promptly posting the self-assessment and country report online.
- Organizing civil society briefings and public debates about the findings.
- Publicly supporting civil society participation in UNCAC subsidiary bodies.

This milestone is part of the ongoing Government efforts to addressing corruption in the country and building a fully functioning anti-corruption system in the country.

Congratulation to Secretary Kwa for the excellent delivery of PNG's Country Statement in the 16th Session of UNCAC Implementation Review Mechanism. Dr. Kwa was the Head of the Delegation to this UN meeting.

PNG now becomes the 41st country to sign UNCAC Coalition's Transparency Pledge committing UNCAC. UNCAC is United Nations Conventions against Corruption; and PNG ratified UNCAC in 2007.



Secretary for Justice Dr. Eric Kwa and Deputy Secretary Mrs. Josephine Pitmur representing PNG at the UN Anti-Corruption Meetings in Vienna, Austria.

Papua New Guinea Participates in UN Anti-Corruption Meetings in Vienna

Papua New Guinea (PNG) has once again demonstrated its ongoing commitment to fighting corruption by participating in two important United Nations anti-corruption meetings held at the United Nations Office in Vienna, Austria from 16 to 20 June 2025.

The PNG delegation, led by senior

officials from the Department of Justice and Attorney General (DJAG), took part in the Resumed 16th Session of the Implementation Review Group (IRG) of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), as well as the 16th Session of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & AWARENESS

Government Takes Action to Address PTSD in 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.

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 recognizes that such conditions can seriously impact the performance and well-being of soldiers, police officers and correctional officers.

The National Coordination Mechanism of the Law and Justice Sector through 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 1 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 2) and institutionalise pathways (Phase 3) 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.



DJAG women and some male officers posing with the National Women's day theme.

DJAG commemorates National Women's Day

In commemoration of National Women's Day, the Human Rights Secretariat within the Department, in partnership with the PNG Tribal Foundation, organized a program for the staff of DJAG to honour the special day.

DJAG staff who participated in the event, mostly women, watched the 'Senisim Pasin' film and later had a dialogue session. The event provided the opportunity to engage in meaningful

discussions on the theme "Embracing 50 years, take actions for an empowered future," which aligned with Papua New Guinea's journey and ongoing commitment to gender equality.

The "Senisim Pasin" campaign employs a positive and innovative approach to addressing gender-based violence. It is founded on the belief that PNG can and will improve the societal value placed on women.



Public Servants trained to address corrupt practices in office



Participants from Kokopo and Lae who attended the CRA Workshop posing for a group picture.

A total of 109 government officers have recently completed a two-day workshop organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in partnership with the Department of Justice & Attorney General (DJAG), Department of Prime Minister & National Executive Council (PM&NEC) and the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC).

The Corruption Risk Assessment (CRA) and Management Methodology workshop ran sequentially in Kokopo, East New Britain Province, with 47 participants and then in Lae, Morobe Province, with 62 participants; all from their respective provincial administration and government offices/agencies.

The highlight of the two workshops was the closing speech from the local member for Wau-Waria, Hon. Marsh Narewec, who sturdily challenged participants from his electorate to implement what they learnt in the workshop.

"I want to see the results of what you have learnt here. Don't go back and be the same people. You have learnt a great deal over the past two days, so I expect you all to put it into practice now," he said.

Today, the public perception of the government system is labelled as this, 'Members are corrupt, politicians are corrupt, and public servants are corrupt too;' and I, as a leader, I feel the challenge when I hear such comments.

Hon. Narewec said throughout the generations, people have been facing the same development issues and problems their grandparents had faced at their time, and it is most likely these problems will be passed on to our children. This is because no one wants to change and do things differently.

"We have to do things differently, no more hide and seek games, instead let's start doing the right thing so we can see good development in our communities and create a better future for our children," he said.

He challenged the public servants who worked with him as a MP to stand with him in making the change.

"Without corruption, we will see new roads, bridges, hospitals and many other developments if we all stand together to make that change.

I urge you all to do at least one thing

from what you have learnt from the workshop, when you go back, start with one thing, then you can move to the next, and gradually we shall see the change," he said.

The Preventing and Countering Corruption in Papua New Guinea Project' (PNG Anti-Corruption Project), funded by the European Union and implemented by UNDP Papua New Guinea and UNODC, aims to strengthen the Government's commitment and capacities to address corruption to effectively progress the Sustainable Development Goals for the benefit of all Papua New Guineans and to support the network of non-state actors in their anti-corruption efforts. The Project is part of the EU-PNG 'Partnership for Good Governance' Program.

Under the PNG Anti-Corruption Project, UNDP, in consultation with national stakeholders, has supported the drafting of a Corruption Risk Assessment and Management Methodology for government departments and is currently supporting pilot risk assessments and development of mitigation strategies in public sector departments in Port Moresby and in selected provinces.



INTERNAL NEWS

Former Acting Solicitor General Farewelled



Former Acting Solicitor General Mr. E'ava Geita (left) receiving a special gift from the new Solicitor General Mr. George Akia (right).

The Office of the Solicitor General has farewelled former Acting Solicitor General, **Mr. E'ava Geita**, in recognition of his service and leadership.

Mr. Geita was appointed Acting Solicitor General by the Judicial and Legal Services Commission (JLSC) in 2024.

The newly appointed Solicitor General, **Mr. George Akia**, acknowledged Mr. Geita's contributions and praised his leadership during his time in office.

"Mr. Geita made many positive changes in a short time. I commend his leadership and vision," Mr. Akia said.

Some of the key achievements under Mr. Geita's leadership included the recruitment of 26 new officers—13 legal officers and 13 support staff, the improvement of the Case Management System, and the update of the OSG Handbook.

"Importantly, he also created a more open and positive work culture in the office," Mr. Akia said.

Mr. Akia also congratulated Mr. Geita on his recent appointment as Deputy Secretary for the Legal and Policy Division at the Department of Justice & Attorney General (DJAG).

I commend Mr. Geita and look forward to working with him in his new role," he said.

In response, Mr. Geita said he was humbled by the recognition and grateful for the opportunity to serve as Acting Solicitor General.

"I thank you all from the bottom of my heart. The changes we achieved during my time were made possible through the support of the DJAG Secretary, Dr. Eric Kwa," Mr. Geita said.

He encouraged the Office of the Solicitor General to continue supporting the department and working together to serve the State and the people of Papua New Guinea.

George Akia Officially Sworn in as New Solicitor General



New Solicitor General Mr. George Akia shook hands with Governor General, Sir Bob Dadae, at Government Haus.

The Judicial and Legal Service Commission (JLSC) has appointed Mr. George Akia as the Solicitor General of Papua New Guinea for a five-year term. He was recently sworn in by the Governor General, Sir Bob Dadae at the Government Haus in Konedobu.

Leadership Back in Place: Geita, Woruba & Marat Resume Roles



Ms. Marat (left), Mr. Geita, Mrs. Josephine Pitmur (Acting Secretary), and Mrs. Woruba during the handover -takeover.

Mr. Geita has resumed his position as the Deputy Secretary for Legal and Policy. Mrs. Lillian Woruba has returned to her role as Director of the Legal Policy and Governance Branch, and Ms. Utul Marat has also returned to her substantive position.

Mrs. Woruba has been acting as Deputy Secretary for three years and six months.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT & INTERNAL NEWS

Senior officers graduated with Masters



Mr. Robert Tarube
Manager Leadership Integrity & Equity

The Department is proud to recognise the achievements of three senior officers who have recently completed their studies at Divine Word University (DWU).

1. **Mr. Robert Tarube** graduated with a Master of Public Administration
2. **Mr. Terry Lui** graduated with a Master of Leadership in Development
3. **Mr. Jackson Yuave** graduated with a Bachelor of Management

Department Secretary, Dr. Eric Kwa, PhD, and the department's management team have congratulated the three senior officers who recently completed their master's and bachelor's programs at the DWU.

Mr. Tarube, Mr. Lui, and Mr. Yuave were amongst hundreds of graduands this year at the Divine Word University's 43rd Graduation on March 7th, 2025, in Madang Province.



Mr. Terry Lui
Director Crime Prevention

While congratulating the officers for their achievement, Dr. Kwa said it is overwhelming for him to see more senior officers advancing another step higher in their qualifications.

"Knowledge is evolving in this fast-changing world; equipping yourselves with all the knowledge you can and moving to another level is one of the greatest achievements and prepares you for the next higher role," he said.

Dr. Kwa said it was his dream for more senior officers in the department to gain not only their Master's Degree but also the highest postgraduate achievement, that is, the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD).

Meanwhile, on behalf of the training committee, Executive Manager - Human Resource Management Branch, Mr. Willie Kiba, extended his heartfelt congratulatory message to Mr. Tarube, Mr. Lui, and Mr. Yuave on achieving this remarkable accomplishment.

"Your achievement is a testament to your perseverance and commitment and to the collective progress of our department under the exceptional leadership of Dr. Kwa. His unwavering support and vision have fostered an environment where growth and development thrive," he said.

Mr. Kiba said Dr. Kwa's encouragement and guidance have resulted in an impressive 90% of our Branch heads where most of them have pursued and attained advanced qualifications, such as Master's Degrees and beyond.

"This commitment to continuous learning not only enhances your professional capabilities but also elevates our department's overall standard and effectiveness," he said.

Mr. Tarube is currently holding the position of Acting Manager, Leadership Integrity & Equity Branch, Mr. Lui is Executive Director, Crime Prevention & Restorative Justice Branch within the department, and Mr. Yuave is the A/Assistant Director, Law and Justice Sector Secretariat.



Mr. Jackson Yuave
A/Assistant Director NPC



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT & INTERNAL NEWS

Research boss, Maima, attains PhD



Recent graduated Dr. Peter Maima during his graduation at the Fiji National University.



Branch Heads Congratulates Dr. Maima for his PhD achievement.

The Executive Director of the newly formed Data for Justice (J4D) Branch has set a mark within the department in achieving his Doctor of Philosophy (PhD).

It was a proud moment for Dr. Peter Maima when he was announced as the first male to graduate with a Doctor of Philosophy from the College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies at Fiji National University.

Dr. Maima, who hails from Jiwaka Province, graduated on April 16, 2025, a journey that took him nearly seven years.

"I was awarded a scholarship to pursue the PhD program at Fiji National University – College of Business, Hospitality & Tourism Studies in 2018 under the EU's Education for Climate Change, Adaptation, and Mitigation (ECCAM) project."

"I then left study after 2 years due to the Covid-19 outbreak, and I was unsure whether to continue until 2022 when the university urged me to resume at my own cost, which I did," he said.

Dr. Maima said that with the current role, the Study Program will add value to

research programs and initiatives, support research capacity and support development agendas related to his area of expertise – workforce, leadership, standards, service quality data analytics, etc.

"I dedicate my achievements to my family (wife & children) for believing in me and providing strong support. I also acknowledge DJAG Secretary, Dr. Eric Kwa, and the Executive Management Team (EMT) for the opportunity to have the flexibility to balance work and study since my recruitment in July 2023. And lastly, I acknowledge the Lord for the strong inner motivation to move forward despite limitations. Thank you all," he said.

Dr. Maima urged young people never to give up on their dreams, as they may not come true immediately, but they will bear fruit if they hold on to them.

Meanwhile, Secretary Kwa and the management officially congratulated Dr. Maima during a Branch Heads meeting at the WNB Haus.

Awareness on the new L&J Sector Policy broadcasted on air



Department Secretary Dr. Eric Kwa (right), accompanied by Deputy Secretary for National Provincial, Coordination and Crime Prevention (NPCCP), Mr. Stanley Raka, and the Director of the Law and Justice Sector Secretariat, Mr. Joe Saferius, were part of two live radio talkback shows to discuss the recently launched National Law and Justice Sector Policy.

The talkback sessions were broadcast live for one hour each on two major radio platforms; the National Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) Dabai Show and the FM100 Talkback Show. During these sessions, the three senior officials not only outlined the key components and objectives of the new policy but also took the opportunity to raise public awareness about the Department of Justice and Attorney General.



UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENT

PNG Golden Jubilee

PM Marape Appeals for Nationwide Preparation Ahead of 50th Independence Anniversary

Prime Minister Hon. James Marape has issued a national call to action for all levels of government, communities and citizens across Papua New Guinea to actively prepare for the country's historic 50th Independence Anniversary celebrations on September 16, 2025.

"With just four months remaining before our golden jubilee, I appeal to all provinces, districts, and local governments to begin organising meaningful celebrations in their communities," Prime Minister Marape said. "Fifty years only comes once in our lifetime. It is a moment of reflection, pride, and unity for all Papua New Guineans."

Prime Minister Marape emphasised that despite facing many challenges over the past five decades—social, economic, political and developmental—Papua New

Guinea has stood firm in preserving its democracy, sovereignty and identity as a free and independent nation.

"Our 50th anniversary marks the beginning of a national reset," the Prime Minister said. "It is a time to renew our commitment to building a better, safer and stronger country."

Prime Minister Marape concluded with a call for unity and purpose: "As we approach 50 years, let us rise above our differences. Let us celebrate our journey together. Let us look forward with faith and work as one nation, under God, toward the next 50 years."

Congratulation to PNG for turning 50 years old.



Prime Minister
Hon. James Marape

PNG to Host 44th PILON - Count down



The PILON Logistics team with Ms. Rebecca Vonthethoff, visited DJAG Law Library.



The PILON Logistics team with Ms. Rebecca Vonthethoff, visited the APEC Haus.

As Papua New Guinea celebrates 50 years of Independence, preparations are underway to host another major event — the **44th Pacific Islands Law Officers' Network (PILON) Annual Meeting**, set to take place from 27–31 October 2025 at APEC Haus in Port Moresby.

This will be the third time PNG is hosting the PILON Annual Meeting, having previously hosted in Madang (1997) and East New Britain (2012). The event is being coordinated by the Law and Justice Sector through the Department of Justice and Attorney General (DJAG).

PILON is a network of senior legal officials from 19 Pacific countries, including Australia and New Zealand. It was established to strengthen legal cooperation and promote regional peace and good governance.

Key Focus Areas for PILON 2025:

- Combating corruption;
- Addressing cybercrime;
- Preventing sexual and gender-based violence.

DJAG Secretary has called on all agencies within the Law and Justice Sector to collaborate and contribute towards hosting a successful and impactful meeting.

This year's PILON holds special meaning as it takes place during PNG's Golden Jubilee celebrations, reinforcing the nation's continued commitment to justice, legal reform and strong partnerships across the Pacific.

Stay tuned for updates.



FLASHBACK OF EVENTS



Attorney Generals Editorial Board Meeting - 05th March 2025.



Press Conference on the appointment of Acting Public Prosecutor, Ms. Helen Vagivaro Roalakona



Assistant Secretary Ms. Rebecca Vonhethoff from the Australian Attorney-General's Department meets with the PILON logistics team during a site visit to Adventure Park, Port Moresby.



FLASHBACK OF EVENTS



PM Hon. James Marape addressing his people of Hela Province.



Justice Minister and JLSC Chairman Hon. Pila Niningi addressing the people of Hela Province.



Also present at the event, accompanying the Prime Minister were Minister for Police Hon. Peter Tsiamalili Jr, Commissioner of Police Mr David Manning, Governor for Hela Mr. Philip Undialu, Komo-Hulia MP Hon. Daniel Tundipu and Magarima MP Hon. Manasseh Makiba.



Lae, Morobe Province - Corruption Risk Assessment (CRA) Workshop.



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**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE & ATTORNEY GENERAL***"A Safe, Secure and Peaceful Society for Papua New Guinea"***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.

**PUBLISHED BY:**

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