



Ministry of Information and Communications Technology

Office of the Minister

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**INCREASE OF FUNDING TO AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION BY
THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND ENHANCEMENT OF
PARTNERSHIP COOPERATION**

Media Release – 26th October 2022

Today's announcement by the Australian Federal Government to increase funding by 85 percent to AUD\$87.7 million for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation to revitalize its television and radio programs and capacity building initiatives in the Indo-Pacific Region, is welcomed by the Papua New Guinea Ministry of Information and Communications Technology.

During my time as Minister of Information and Communication Technology since 2019, I have diligently brought this matter up with my various counterparts in Canberra, Australia particularly the proposed partnership with ABC and the Papua New Guinea National Broadcasting Corporation's (PNG NBC) in technical assistance and capacity for improved Pacific Islands local content.

I would like to convey my appreciation and thank you to the Australian Federal Government for recognising the importance of ABCs advocating development agenda in the Indo-Pacific. I thank my colleague Minister Hon. Michelle Rowland for our recent meeting on this same matter and for her leadership in enabling budget appropriation for the ABC to continue to service Indo-Pacific.

Papua New Guinea has been a longtime beneficiary of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's television and radio services pre-independence. PNG and ABC have a rich and great history as ABC's services were relayed through Papua New Guinea local government development communications network National Broadcasting Corporation since it was established under the Broadcasting Commission Act on 1st of December 1973 and was known as National Broadcasting Commission, until 1994 when it took the present name.

I am looking forward to my Ministry and particularly the PNG NBC working closely with ABC toward building a resilient region through a clear and harmonious cooperation in regional content and broadcasting.

Approved for Release



HON. TIMOTHY MASU, MP
Minister for Information and Communications Technology
and Member for South Bougainville

