



Ministry of Information and Communications Technology

Office of the Minister

PO Box 784, Vision-City Waigani, NCD, Port Moresby Telephone: (+675) 325 0415 Email: ictminister@ict.gov.pg

MINISTER MASIU MEETS AUSTRALIAN COUNTERPART FOR REGIONAL ALIGNMENT AND DIALOGUE

Media Release – 27th October 2022

Minister for Information and Communications Technology Hon. Timothy Masiu, MP met with his Australian counterpart Minister for Communications, Hon. Michelle Rowland, MP at her Parliamentary office in Canberra on Tuesday October 18, 2022 to share PNG and Australia’s mutual interest and seek re-alignment for a better, deeper and effective renewed relationship in the Pacific.

Minister Masiu congratulated Minister Rowland on her maiden appointment as Federal Communications Minister and highlighted PNG and Australia’s fruitful engagement at the recent International Telecommunications Union Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-22) in Burcharest, Romania from 25-28 September 2022. Amongst other outcomes, both Ministers agreed that there is need to localise the ITU operations in the Pacific and will be proposing a Pacific liaison office during the next regional dialogues.

Minister Rowland mentioned that Australia has in recent past seen to be ‘withdrawn from the Pacific’ however under Prime Minister Albanese and Foreign Minister Wong are re-engaging and working closely with Pacific Island nations, having targeted approach to each economy.

Minister Rowland stressed that these engagements are defining moments to “learn from each other” and should result in clear reforms as Australia and other Pacific Island nations grapple with the common challenges of digital literacy, misinformation, cyber-safety and critical digital infrastructure shortage.

Such reforms include the Pacific Media Strategy for the Indo-Pacific region geared towards supporting public broadcasters to co-produce local content in various genres. Existing MoUs between PNG’s National Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) include further support towards capacity building for the Pacific Island production and coverage.

Additional key reforms include support towards having similar setups of electronic Safety (eSafety) legislations and entities setup in Pacific Island nations to combat exploitations on the Internet.

Minister Rowland accepted Minister Masiu’s invitation to attend the proposed Pacific Island Ministers Forum and Roundtable Dialogue in February 2023 in PNG. Both Ministers agreed that there is need for a “one voice” in the Pacific and immediately work on building consensus and goals for this regional meeting.

Minister Masiu is currently advocating on behalf of the Government of PNG and other Pacific Island nations to collaborate with Australia to address the common technologies challenges faced and opportunities for greater economic participation in the Pacific region.

Approved for Release

HON. TIMOTHY MASIU, MP
Minister for Information & Communications Technology
And Member for South Bougainville

