

Ministry of Information and Communications Technology

Office of the Minister

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PNG SIGNS INTERNET DEVELOPMENT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH REGIONAL INTERNET REGISTRY APNIC

Media Release – 21st October 2022

Ministry and Department for Information and Communications Technology team led by Hon. Timothy Masiu, MP signed a triparted Memorandum of Understanding for Internet Development between the PNG Government and the regional Internet registry, the Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC) and the APNIC Foundation on Monday, October 17.

Minister Masiu expressed satisfaction at the progress of signing the MoU since the APNIC Conference and regional Internet Governance Forum (IGF) held earlier in September in Singapore.

APNIC Foundation CEO Duncan Macintosh welcomed the Minister and his delegation on behalf of APNIC and APNIC Foundation, highlighting the partnership with PNG and the government in recent support through its members, universities and other stakeholders.

The project scope in the MoU include assistance to the PNG Department of ICT in implementing the draft Digital Government Plan 2023-2027 through independent advisory support in the development of PNG's Critical Digital Infrastructure Master Plan, the Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT), the Research and Education network, championing the network operators' group (NOG) and consolidating efforts in skills development for Girls and Women in ICT, as already spearheaded by the Ministry through the regulator National ICT Authority (NICTA).

In an executive briefing prior to the signing, Minister Masiu and Mr Macintosh shared key transformational development projects in the region such as EDU-ROAM, a system that allows university students to have Wi-Fi Internet roaming between university campuses, airports and on public transport systems. Further discussion includes collaboration for backup satellite for university campuses which has been affected during the recent earthquake in PNG.

According to Minister Masiu, section 22 of the Digital Government Act 2022 provides for the Government to establish a government private network to optimally deliver digital services for citizens, businesses and government. The MoU between PNG Department of ICT, APNIC and APNIC Foundation brings more focus to PNG as a nation undergoing digital transformation.

In addition to the MOU, the Department of ICT is now a member of APNIC and has Internet resources allocated through the registry and has commenced designing and building the Government Private Network.

According to Secretary Matainaho, the Department of ICT is determined to streamline government processes and build capacity of ICT Managers and officers, named as “digital transformation officers” under the Digital Government Act, to deliver on government agenda.


“The signing of this MOU is a step in the right direction for Internet development and DICT values partners like APNIC and the APNIC Foundation.”

The Ministry of ICT therefore under the MoU will now coordinate on behalf of government, Internet resourcing, training and design and implementation of the government private network across agencies at the national and subnational level.

The MOU signing between the Department of ICT, APNIC and APNIC Foundation was part of the overall realignment agenda Minister Masiu is advocating with the Australian Ministers for Communication and Foreign Affairs respectively.

Approved for Release

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

Note:

As the regional Internet registry for Asia and the Pacific, APNIC distributes Internet resources such as public internet protocol (IP) addresses and autonomous system numbers (ASN) which fundamentally identify Internet traffic and transport such traffic such as videos, emails and web around world. Telecom and Internet service providers, banks, research institutions and even governments apply for resources to enable them to connect to the Internet and carry out their implementation. APNIC further offers robust, vendor neutral, high-quality training for its members on building Internet infrastructure, routing, security and domain name services and other related areas of Internet operations.