



Summary of changes in the Media Development Policy (Versions 2.0, 3.0 & 4.0)

In response to multi stakeholder feedback received including a nationwide survey, there have been significant changes to the policy from the version produced prior to the first stakeholder consultation to the one we are issuing today. At the first consultation the version used was 2.1. Additional changes were made to the version used in the follow-up regional consultations and in the survey and this brought us to version 3. Additional comments and inputs from stakeholders and other revisions based on the consultation brought us to the version 4 that is on the DICT website. DICT is now finalising the Policy and so this new version will be version 5.

Here is a summary of some of the major changes that were made to the policy since the first consultation.

- **Concept Clarification:** Version 5.0 explicitly defines essential concepts such as media freedom, the right to information, and other fundamental rights and freedoms.
- **Expanded Background:** The policy now offers a detailed narrative on current media developments, trends, and practices in Papua New Guinea (PNG), coupled with insights into media literacy.
- **Enhanced Definitions, Objectives, and Regulatory Framework:** Additional and expanded definitions, objectives, and a regulatory framework have been incorporated in response to stakeholder comments and inputs.
- **Incorporation of Media Literacy, Training, and Education Programs:** New ideas and concepts, including media literacy, training, and education programs, have been integrated into the policy. Governance aspects and the Government Information Risk Management (GIRM) division have been revised and enhanced.
- **Revised Accreditation Process:** The policy outlines a revised accreditation process for journalists, detailing the administering bodies and agencies responsible for enforcing these policies and regulations. It introduces sections on professional ethics, guidelines, and the need for training for emerging journalists.
- **Recognition of Media Outlets and Personnel:** New requirements mandate media outlets and personnel to be recognized through accreditation, distinguishing government media from private entities.



- **Introduction of Training Programs and Partnerships:** The policy introduces various training programs, collaborative efforts with universities, and the development of a new curriculum for journalism schools. Internship and apprentice programs are designed to provide practical experience for aspiring journalists.
- **Revised Policy Focus:** A refined policy focus establishes a governance and coordination framework, incorporating recommendations from Transparency International Papua New Guinea (TIPNG) and other stakeholders. It prioritizes the welfare of media personnel and safeguards media freedom.
- **Informed by Nationwide Media Survey:** A comprehensive media survey conducted nationwide yielded primary data that significantly informed the development of this revised policy.

The overarching objective of version 5.0 is to boost local content development in PNG media, supporting SMEs in the media space. It introduces provisions and incentives to encourage local content creation, reducing the reliance on imported content and fostering a more vibrant and self-sufficient media industry.