

MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Have your say on PNG's Universal Access and Service Policy (UAS Policy)**

The Government of Papua New Guinea (GoPNG) is working to transform the nation to become a fully modern, prosperous, and integrated digital society in the coming years.

To ensure this, the Department of Information Communication and Technology (DICT) has worked with National ICT Authority (NICTA) to draft the Universal Service & Access Policy, a significant step in connecting PNG to the world.

The Universal Service & Access Policy will act as catalyst to decrease the price of PNG's Internet in the future, ultimately creating access opportunities for the millions of families that remain unconnected and create an inclusive foundation for a robust digital economy.

DICT and NICTA are now calling on all stakeholders to provide feedback on the Policy to ensure it is inclusive, all-encompassing, and will ensure a prosperous, safe, and connected digital PNG long into the future.

DICT Deputy Secretary, Flierl Shongol, emphasised the inclusive nature of the Policy, *"This Policy is centred around five key objectives that will ensure our remote communities will enjoy abundant internet access into the future. These include accessibility; availability; affordability; utilisation; and meaningful connectivity."*

Stakeholders are encouraged to provide feedback on all five Policy objectives, ensuring all sectors of PNG's economy are included, as well as the focus areas of the policy, including network and service coverage access; affordable devices; ICT business development, application, content, and utilisation; public institutions and government services; and gender and social inclusion.

The Policy includes specific provision to ensure that not only households and business will benefit from greater access, but all public services and facilities will also include connections, including libraries, post offices, bus stops etc.

Importantly, schools and health facilities are a key priority of the Policy, which will create greater access for remote learning and for provision of remote health services.

The draft policy is now available for feedback until close of business on **19th August, 2022**

To have your say on the Universal Access and Service Policy visit <https://www.ict.gov.pg/policy/>

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