



MEDIA STATEMENT

Monday 30th September 2024

SECRETARY'S STATEMENT ON DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION SUMMIT 2024

It is with great pleasure, I announce the **Digital Transformation Summit (DTS) 2024**, set to take place from **October 1st to 3rd** at the **Stanley Hotel, NCD, Port Moresby**.

The theme, "**Navigating Digital Transformation Towards 50 years & beyond: Collaborative Governance and Innovation**," reflects our commitment to fostering collaboration and innovation in the digital landscape.

This summit will focus on several priority areas, including the impact of digital government projects, establishing and strengthening policy frameworks for digital transformation, sectoral coordination and decentralized through **Digital Transformation Officers (DTOs)**, cybersecurity, data governance and protection, and envisioning the future of digital government and towards a **digitally inclusive economy**.

As we embark on this transformative journey, it's essential to reflect on the remarkable progress our nation has made in the digital sector.

Just a decade ago, the concept of digital connectivity seemed like a distant dream. Today, we stand at the forefront of a digital revolution, marked by expanding internet access, flourishing e-commerce platforms, and innovative digital services including artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML) towards reshaping how we live, work, and interact. This progress is a testament to the resilience and skills of our people and the government's vision in recognizing the potential of digital technologies.

The **Papua New Guinea Government Technology Stack** has seen significant strides this year. We've fast-tracked the onboarding of various cloud services, including IP address assignment, DNS, websites, and email, for over 140 agencies. Under our MOU with the PNG Digital ICT Cluster Inc., they're overseeing the deployment of websites for all DDAs and PHAs before the end of 2024. Additionally, PNG DATACO LIMITED is transitioning to manage our cloud infrastructure services, including the Government Private Network (GPN).

Our **National Cyber Security Centre (CSOC)** now monitors threats 24/7 across more than 75 agencies and over 1,000 endpoint devices, reinforcing our commitment to safeguarding our digital assets and services. The **Citizens' e-Government Portal**, launching during the Summit, promises to streamline various basic transactional services and will feature a Digital Wallet App to hold digital certificates and permits.

Moreover, the **PNG Customs Service** is leading the G2B Single Window Platform Project, aimed at streamlining business processes across all regulatory agencies to enhance ease of monitoring and tracking business indicators. **Datec PNG Limited** is commencing a scoping exercise for the e-Cabinet Project, while the National Procurement Commission, supported by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), is working on the e-Procurement Project.

We're also in the test phase, finalizing arrangements with **Telikom PNG** to deploy the Central User Group (CUG) Mobile Plan across the public service, which will standardize endpoint devices and improve communications efficiency.





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However, our work is far from complete. The rapid pace of technological change demands that we embrace digital transformation wholeheartedly, lest we risk being left behind in an increasingly digitized global landscape. This summit serves as a cornerstone for accelerating our nation's digital transformation agenda, bringing together industry leaders, policymakers, and stakeholders from various sectors to collaborate, share insights, and develop strategies that will propel Papua New Guinea into the digital age.

We will address several critical areas that will shape our digital future:

1. **Bridging the Digital Divide:** Ensuring equitable access to digital technologies, particularly in remote and underserved communities, is not just a matter of economic development; it is a matter of empowerment and social inclusion. We must work tirelessly to provide infrastructure, resources, and training to empower every Papua New Guinean to thrive in the digital age.
2. **Digital Government Services:** By utilizing technology to enhance public service delivery, improve transparency, and promote citizen engagement, we aim to streamline processes, reduce administrative burdens, and ensure seamless access to services for our citizens. This will also lead to create new revenue streams for government, private sector and citizens.
3. **Digital Skills Development:** Nurturing a digitally literate workforce is crucial for navigating the challenges of the digital world. This requires integrating digital literacy into our education systems, from primary schools to tertiary institutions, and providing ongoing training and upskilling opportunities for professionals across all sectors. Citizens will be upskilled in the process.
4. **Cybersecurity and Data Protection:** With an ever-increasing digital footprint, implementing effective measures to safeguard our citizens, businesses, and critical infrastructure from cyber threats is paramount. We will establish comprehensive legal and regulatory frameworks that balance enabling innovation with ensuring privacy and security.
5. **Digital Entrepreneurship and Innovation:** Papua New Guinea is brimming with untapped potential. We must nurture this potential by supporting homegrown digital solutions, fostering startup ecosystems, and creating an enabling environment for digital businesses to flourish.

The digital age presents unique opportunities for economic growth, social development, and national prosperity. To seize these opportunities, we must be bold, innovative, and steadfast in our commitment to digital transformation. As we embark on this journey, let us be inspired by the progress we have made thus far and embrace the countless possibilities that lie ahead. Together, we will shape a digitally empowered Papua New Guinea capable of thriving in the ever-evolving digital landscape.

The outcomes we expect from this summit include stronger collaborations among academia, industry, and government, fostering a holistic approach to digital transformation in PNG.

Digital Transformation Officers will be better equipped to lead digital initiatives, fostering innovation and seamless integration of technology within their organizations.

Government organizations will implement improved digital strategies and practices, resulting in more efficient and effective public services.





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Industry professionals will gain actionable insights into emerging technologies, leading to increased adoption and innovation within their organizations. Academic institutions will develop and update curricula that closely align with industry needs and future technological trends.

It is my sincere hope that this summit will serve as a foundation for collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and the development of actionable strategies that will guide our nation toward a digitally transformed future. Let us seize this moment and collectively chart a course toward a prosperous and digitally enabled Papua New Guinea.

For more information on the summit, please feel free to visit the DICT website; www.ict.gov.pg or call on Telephone; 325 0171.

Thank you, and I wish you all a productive and insightful workshop and summit.

Sincerely,

Steven Matainaho

Secretary-Department of ICT

