



Ministry of Information & Communications Technology

Office of the Minister

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PRESS STATEMENT

Thursday 11th December 2025

The Acting Minister for Information and Communications Technology, Hon. Peter Tsiamalili Jr., today formally announced the USD \$120 million Pukpuk Connectivity Initiative, a major bilateral infrastructure program under the Pukpuk Treaty that will deliver three new submarine cables to Papua New Guinea.

The new subsea systems will provide high-capacity connectivity to:

1. The Northern part of Papua New Guinea
2. The Southern part of Papua New Guinea
3. The Autonomous Region of Bougainville

Together, these routes will create a more resilient, multi-path digital backbone for the nation.

Importantly, the Minister highlighted that the initiative carries **no cost implications to the State**, with the full investment delivered through Australia's commitments under the Pukpuk Treaty. This ensures Papua New Guinea receives world-class connectivity infrastructure without drawing on the national budget.

Minister Tsiamalili Jr. emphasised that the initiative is a direct implementation of the Pukpuk Treaty, reflecting the shared commitment of Papua New Guinea and Australia to strengthen digital security, regional stability, and national development.

As part of progressing the initiative, Minister Tsiamalili Jr.—together with the Australian High Commissioner to PNG, HE Ewen McDonald, and the United States Ambassador to Papua New Guinea, Ann Marie Yastishock—held a high-level engagement earlier this morning with Google Sydney.

The discussions focused on Google's role as a partner for the submarine cable rollout. Google, a global leader in subsea cable development, will be laying cable systems throughout the Indo-Pacific.

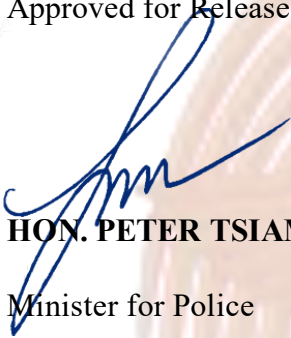
The **Pukpuk Connectivity Initiative** will:

- Establish three new international-grade subsea routes, reducing reliance on single points of failure
- Expand access to underserved regions, including Bougainville
- Improve the stability and quality of national telecommunications
- Attract investment for hyper-scalers to deploy in PNG

Minister Tsiamalili Jr. stated that the initiative is a defining moment in PNG's digital development:

“This investment is a major step forward for Papua New Guinea. The Pukpuk Connectivity Initiative lays the foundation for our country's long-term digital growth and positions PNG to be a regional digital anchor.”

Approved for Release



HON. PETER TSIAMALILI JR., MP

Minister for Police

Acting Minister for Information and Communications Technology