



## MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

# MEDIA STATEMENT

### Confirmation of NICTA Chief Executive Officer and Appointment of Board Director

The Acting Minister for Information and Communications Technology, Hon. Peter Tsiamalili Jr., has formally confirmed the appointment of **Mr. Lume Polume** as Chief Executive Officer of the National Information and Communications Technology Authority (NICTA) for a period of four (4) years, effective from 28 January 2026.



Mr. Polume now assumes the substantive role of Chief Executive Officer following his service in an acting capacity over the past three (3) months, during which he demonstrated strong leadership and commitment to institutional reform and sector stability. He succeeds **Mr. Kila Gulo Vui**, who has completed his term as Chief Executive Officer of NICTA.

Mr. Polume holds a Master's Degree in Economics from the University of Queensland under the prestigious Australia Awards program. He also graduated with First Class Honours in Economics from the University of Papua New Guinea and holds a Diploma in Economic Policy.

With over twenty (20) years of professional experience, Mr. Polume has served in senior management roles across key institutions, including the Independent Consumer and Competition Commission and Telikom PNG. His expertise spans regulatory economics, telecommunications policy, and institutional leadership.

In a separate appointment, the Minister has also confirmed **Mr. Charlie Gilichibi** as a Non-Executive Director of the NICTA Board for a period of four (4) years, effective from the date of gazettal. Mr. Gilichibi replaces **Mr. John Cholai**, who has also served the full term of his appointment as a Non-Executive Director of the NICTA Board. His appointment is expected to further strengthen governance, strategic oversight, and accountability within NICTA.

The Chairman of the NICTA Board, **Mr. Brian Riches**, has welcomed both appointments, expressing confidence in their leadership and experience. The Chairman noted that the Board looks forward to working closely with Mr. Polume and Mr. Gilichibi to guide NICTA through a critical phase of institutional reform, improved regulatory performance, and the advancement of Papua New Guinea's connectivity and digital transformation agenda.

These appointments reaffirm the Government's commitment to strengthening leadership, governance, and performance within NICTA as it continues to play a central role in delivering accessible, affordable, and reliable ICT services across Papua New Guinea.

Approved for release

**Peter Tsiamalili Jr.**  
Acting Minister for ICT