



## **INDEPENDENT STATE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

### **MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY**

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#### **MEDIA STATEMENT**

Port Moresby, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026

#### **CONCLUSION OF CONSULTATION ON SIM CARD REGISTRATION REGULATION AND PREPARATION FOR ADOPTION OF SEVISPASS**

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I wish to inform the public that the National Information and Communications Technology Authority (NICTA) has now concluded the national consultation process on the Draft SIM Card Registration (Amendment and Consolidation) Regulation 2026.

The consultation process was announced by the Ministry on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025 and officially commenced by NICTA on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025 with a duration to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026. Consultation was further extended by one month to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2026. In addition, a consultation workshop was held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> at the Gateway Hotel Conference Room and involved telecommunications operators, government agencies, industry stakeholders, and members of the public.

The draft regulation is issued under the National Information and Communications Technology Act 2009 and proposes to update the existing SIM Card Registration Regulation 2016 to align with Papua New Guinea's National Digital Identity Policy 2025 and the rollout of the SevisPass Digital Identity and Trust Framework.

The objective of the updated regulation is to ensure that all SIM card users in Papua New Guinea are uniquely and reliably identifiable, while strengthening national security, consumer protection, and compliance with national data governance and cybersecurity policies.

Importantly, the regulation proposes that SIM card registration and identity verification will be seamlessly undertaken using the SevisPass Digital ID, which will significantly improve the ease and efficiency for both citizens and telecommunications operators in onboarding customers.

Under the proposed framework:

- All adult subscribers (18 years and above) will be required to hold a valid SevisPass Digital ID.
- Subscribers aged 13–17 years will use SevisPass-Minor, which is linked to a parent or guardian.
- Children aged 12 years and below will use Dependent SIM arrangements, linked to the SevisPass of a parent or legal guardian.

Identity verification for SIM registration will be conducted through electronic Know-Your-Customer (eKYC) services using SevisPass via the SevisWallet App and the SevisDEx interoperability platform.

In compliance with the draft regulation, the linking of SIM cards to SevisPass will be undertaken through the SevisWallet App, where citizens will be able to register and manage their SIM cards directly as part of their digital identity profile.

With the consultation process now concluded, NICTA will proceed with finalising the regulation for the formal regulatory approval and gazettal process.

In anticipation of the regulation being gazetted, I am calling on all licensed telecommunications operators to immediately engage with the SevisPass team at the Department of ICT to facilitate the necessary technical integration with the SevisPass ecosystem.

To ensure a smooth transition across the telecommunications sector and to avoid disruption to consumers, I anticipate that NICTA will implement the regulation through a phased enforcement approach. This will allow citizens sufficient time to obtain their SevisPass Digital ID and link their SIM cards, while ensuring that telecommunications operators are technically prepared to support the new regulatory framework.

This reform forms part of the Government's broader effort to strengthen digital trust, reduce the misuse of anonymous SIM cards, combat cybercrime and scams, and support the development of a secure and inclusive digital economy in Papua New Guinea.

The rollout of SevisPass and SevisWallet represents an important milestone in Papua New Guinea’s digital transformation journey. The platform has already been made available to the public and will progressively enable citizens to access digital government services, securely verify their identity online, and manage trusted digital credentials through a single national platform.

As part of this process, I encourage all Papua New Guineans to download the SevisWallet App and begin enrolling for their SevisPass Digital ID. Early enrolment will ensure that citizens are ready to comply with the upcoming SIM card registration requirements and will allow them to begin accessing the growing range of digital services that will be delivered through the Sevis ecosystem.

The Government will continue working with telecommunications operators and stakeholders to ensure that this transition is implemented smoothly and in a manner that benefits all citizens.

As Acting Minister responsible for Information and Communications Technology, I remain committed to ensuring that Papua New Guinea’s telecommunications regulatory framework continues to evolve in step with the Government’s national digital transformation agenda.

Further announcements will be made once the regulation progresses through the formal gazettal process.

Approved for Release



**HON. PETER L. TSIAMALILI, JR., OBE, MP**  
Acting Minister