



INDEPENDENT STATE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

PRESS STATEMENT

FOR MEDIA RELEASE

Port Moresby, 22nd March 2026

RELEASE OF DRAFT NATIONAL SOVEREIGN DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE STRATEGY FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

I am pleased to announce the release of the **Draft National Sovereign Digital Transformation and Artificial Intelligence Strategy** for public consultation.

The Draft Strategy will be published on 23 March 2026 at www.ict.gov.pg.

This release follows the earlier publication of the *Draft PNG Government Artificial Intelligence Adoption Framework: $DG \times DPI \wedge AI$* and marks the Government's next step in setting out a broader national blueprint for digital government, digital public infrastructure, critical digital infrastructure, and artificial intelligence adoption across Papua New Guinea. The adoption framework established the national logic that AI must be deployed on top of strong digital public infrastructure, not as isolated tools; this Draft Strategy now extends that logic into a whole-of-nation structural reform agenda. The Draft Strategy is built on a clear national model:

Digital Government \times Digital Public Infrastructure \wedge Artificial Intelligence

Its purpose is to move Papua New Guinea away from fragmented ICT projects and toward a single sovereign architecture in which connectivity, compute, cloud, data, identity, payments, digital services, and AI operate as one coherent national system. The Strategy therefore adopts a *National Sovereign AI TechStack* as the reference model for reform and investment. This TechStack organizes the national architecture into layered components covering governance; infrastructure such as connectivity, compute, cloud and data; foundational digital public infrastructure; shared digital government services; digital workflows; and business intelligence.

Importantly, this means Papua New Guinea will treat AI not as a stand-alone procurement exercise, but as a capability to be built on trusted national rails. At the infrastructure layer, the Draft Strategy provides for AI-ready connectivity, sovereign hosting, Government Cloud, governed data environments, and reusable AI platform services. Above that, the Strategy aligns AI with national digital public infrastructure such as SevisPass, SevisPay, SevisDEx, SevisWallet, and SevisPortal, so that future AI-enabled services are interoperable, secure, and nationally governed from the outset.

The Draft Strategy also proposes major structural reforms.

First, it proposes a shift to a *Single Enterprise Architecture* for Shared Digital Government Services so that key systems such as eRecruitment, eProcurement, eBudget, eHR, eFinance, and other nationally significant platforms are developed as shared systems rather than disconnected agency-by-agency solutions.

Second, it proposes strengthened whole-of-government leadership through a *Digital Transformation and AI Board*, supported by a restructured *Department of Digital Transformation and Artificial Intelligence*, and an independent *National Digital Economy Authority* for regulatory oversight, safety, assurance, and compliance.

Third, it proposes a broader legislative and institutional reset, including a Critical Digital Infrastructure Investment Act, a National Artificial Intelligence Act, a Digital Identity and Trust Framework Act, a Data Governance and Protection Act, and amendments to existing digital legislation to align the national architecture under one coherent framework.

Fourth, the Draft Strategy proposes establishment of the *Kumul Digital Infrastructure Holding Company (KDIHC)* as the State's digital infrastructure investment and asset management vehicle. KDIHC is intended to consolidate and manage designated critical digital infrastructure assets under a commercially disciplined model, while protecting sovereignty, improving investment coordination, and supporting long-term infrastructure development.

A key feature of the Draft Strategy is its proposed sustainability model for critical digital infrastructure. The Strategy proposes that 1.5 percent of the 5.6 percent funding envelope under the Connect PNG Program be allocated to critical digital infrastructure. This recognises that digital infrastructure is now as foundational to national development as transport infrastructure. Under the Draft Strategy, these funds would be channelled through KDIHC to support predictable and sustained financing for national connectivity, sovereign hosting, shared digital platforms, and other strategic digital infrastructure investments.

This is therefore not simply a technology document. It is a national reform blueprint to build a more modern, interoperable, secure, and investment-ready digital state.

I invite government agencies, state-owned entities, private sector stakeholders, academia, civil society, development partners, and the wider public to review the Draft Strategy and provide feedback through the consultation process to be published at www.ict.gov.pg.

This consultation is an opportunity to help shape a sovereign digital future for Papua New Guinea - one that is trusted, coordinated, fiscally sustainable, and capable of supporting both better government and long-term economic transformation.

Approved for Release



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