



MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

MEDIA STATEMENT



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Government Advances Universal Connectivity with Licensing of Starlink Services in Papua New Guinea

The Minister for Information and Communications Technology today announced a major step forward in Papua New Guinea's digital transformation agenda, following the approval of operating and spectrum licences for Starlink Internet Services (PNG) Limited.

This decision, endorsed by the National Information and Communications Technology Authority (NICTA), represents a deliberate public policy intervention aimed at expanding access to fast, reliable, and affordable internet services across the country—particularly in rural and underserved communities.

The Minister stated that improving nationwide connectivity remains a central pillar of the Government's development strategy.

"Access to the internet is no longer a luxury—it is a necessity for economic participation, education, healthcare, and national development. This licensing decision is about ensuring that no Papua New Guinean is left behind in the digital age."

The introduction of Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite technology is expected to complement existing mobile and fixed broadband infrastructure, increasing service availability while promoting greater competition in the ICT sector. This, in turn, is anticipated to drive improved service quality and more competitive pricing for consumers and businesses.

According to NICTA's formal approval, the licensing process involved a comprehensive assessment of Starlink's technical capability, financial capacity, and alignment with Papua New Guinea's regulatory and policy frameworks.

The Minister emphasised that the decision aligns with the Government's **PNG Reset@50 Roadmap**, which prioritises digital infrastructure expansion and nationwide connectivity through innovative technologies, including satellite-based solutions.

"This is not simply about introducing a new provider—it is about creating a more inclusive and competitive digital ecosystem that supports innovation, investment, and long-term national development."

The NICTA Board today granted Network, Gateway, Applications, and Spectrum authorisations, enabling Starlink to deliver broadband services across Papua New Guinea using satellite technology. These licences, as detailed in the signed instruments, cover both KA and KU band spectrum for satellite connectivity.

Importantly, the Minister underscored that all operations will be subject to strict regulatory oversight and conditions, including:

- Consumer protection and service standards
- Compliance with national security requirements
- Lawful use of ICT services
- Ongoing monitoring and reporting obligations
- Support for emergency services

These safeguards ensure that the entry of new technologies into the market delivers benefits while maintaining national interests and regulatory integrity.

The Minister concluded that the licensing of Starlink marks a significant milestone in bridging Papua New Guinea's digital divide.

"This initiative will unlock new opportunities for our people, empower businesses, and connect communities that have long been beyond the reach of traditional networks. It is a critical step toward a digitally inclusive Papua New Guinea."



Hon. Peter Tsiamalili Jr.

Acting Minister for Information and Communications Technology