



## INDEPENDENT STATE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

### MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**  
*FOR MEDIA RELEASE*  
Port Moresby, 07<sup>th</sup> May 2026

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA ACCEDES TO  
THE BUDAPEST CONVENTION ON  
CYBERCRIME**

I am pleased to announce that Papua New Guinea has formally acceded to the Convention on Cybercrime, commonly known as the Budapest Convention.

Papua New Guinea deposited its instrument of accession on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026, with the Convention to enter into force for Papua New Guinea on 1 September 2026. This now places Papua New Guinea within the principal global legal framework for international cooperation on cybercrime and electronic evidence.

This is a major milestone for our country. Cybercrime is no longer a distant issue. It affects our people through online scams, identity theft, financial fraud, child exploitation, cyberbullying, ransomware, data breaches, and attacks on critical digital infrastructure. As Papua New Guinea accelerates digital transformation through digital identity, digital government services, online payments, cloud adoption, and broader digital public infrastructure, our legal and institutional capacity to prevent, investigate, prosecute, and cooperate internationally on cybercrime must also be strengthened.

The Budapest Convention provides a practical framework for countries to harmonise cybercrime laws, strengthen investigative powers, preserve and access electronic evidence, and cooperate quickly across borders. It also enables Papua New Guinea to work more effectively with other State Parties on cybercrime investigations and digital evidence requests.

I acknowledge the important work undertaken over many years by national agencies, legal experts, regulators, law enforcement partners, and international partners who supported Papua New Guinea's accession process. In particular, I acknowledge the support of the Council of Europe, the Cybercrime Programme Office of the Council of Europe, Cyber Law International, NICTA, the Department of Justice and Attorney General, the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary, and all officials who contributed to bringing this process to completion.

Note that accession is only the beginning. The immediate priority now is implementation.

I have directed the Department of Information and Communications Technology to work with NICTA, the Department of Justice and Attorney General, the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary, the Office of the Public Prosecutor, the courts, FASU, and other relevant agencies to prepare an urgent national implementation and capacity-building program.

This program must focus on:

1. strengthening PNG's cybercrime legal and regulatory framework;
2. establishing and operationalising the required international cooperation mechanisms;
3. strengthening the 24/7 cybercrime contact point and electronic evidence response capability;
4. training police investigators, prosecutors, magistrates, judges, regulators, and policy officers;
5. improving digital forensics and evidence preservation capacity; and
6. aligning PNG's implementation with the broader national cybersecurity, digital government, digital ID, and digital public infrastructure agenda.

Most importantly, Papua New Guinea must now move quickly to draw down available international technical assistance and capacity-building support. The Council of Europe previously noted that PNG's invitation to accede would permit further support under the GLACY-e and Octopus Project frameworks.

We must not allow this opportunity to sit idle. Now that accession has been completed, PNG must immediately engage the Council of Europe, C-PROC, and trusted development partners to mobilise funding, technical expertise, training, and institutional support.

Cybercrime is borderless. Our response must therefore be legally grounded, internationally connected, and institutionally capable.

Papua New Guinea's accession to the Budapest Convention sends a clear message: we are serious about protecting our people, our economy, our institutions, and our digital future.

Approved for Release



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ACTING MINISTER