



INDEPENDENT STATE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

FOR MEDIA RELEASE

Port Moresby, 03rd July 2026

INTRODUCTION OF LEGAL FRAMEWORK TO PROTECT PAPUA NEW GUINEANS FROM AI DEEPFAKES, VOICE CLONING AND DIGITAL IMPERSONATION

I wish to advise the public that we have effectively commenced policy and legislative work to protect Papua New Guineans from the harmful and non-consensual misuse of their image, voice, likeness and identity through artificial intelligence, deepfake technology, digital manipulation and voice cloning.

We are receiving growing concerns from local music artists, content creators, parents, community leaders and members of the public. These include the unauthorised use of artists' voices and images, fabricated content involving children, manipulated intimate images, online impersonation, scams, extortion and serious reputational harm.

No Papua New Guinean should have their face, voice or identity stolen and weaponised for profit, humiliation, fraud, sexual exploitation, intimidation or deception.

We are therefore exploring reforms to criminalise the harmful non-consensual creation, manipulation, publication, sharing, commercial use or threatened publication of a person's image, voice, likeness or identity.

The proposed reforms will address conduct including:

- AI-generated or digitally manipulated sexual and intimate material;
 - content involving children or child sexual exploitation;
 - fraudulent voice cloning and impersonation;
 - scams, extortion, blackmail and identity theft;
 - unauthorised use of the image or voice of artists, creators and other individuals;
- and
- deceptive content intended to cause financial, reputational or other serious harm.

Accountability must extend beyond the person who creates harmful content. Those who knowingly upload, publish, share, distribute, promote, monetise or threaten to release such material must also face consequences.

Social media platforms, AI service providers, hosting providers and other relevant online services must also play their part. We will consider clear legal obligations requiring these services to provide effective reporting mechanisms, respond promptly to lawful removal and evidence-preservation notices, remove clearly unlawful content, and take reasonable steps to prevent repeated distribution of prohibited material.

Platforms or service providers that knowingly facilitate, profit from, ignore, or repeatedly fail to act on clearly unlawful content should not be able to avoid accountability and will not be permitted to operate.

Through the Department of Information and Communications Technology, working with the National Information and Communications Technology Authority, we are advancing this work under the broader legal and legislative oversight of the Department of Justice and Attorney General.

As part of this process, we are reviewing the Cybercrime Code Act to ensure PNG's laws can respond effectively to modern cybercrime, online harms and emerging technologies. The review will also support PNG's alignment with the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime and the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime.

I intend to introduce amendments to the Cyber Crime Code Act in the November parliament seating.

Artificial intelligence has significant potential to support education, innovation, business, creative industries and public service delivery. This initiative is not about criminalising legitimate AI use, creativity, journalism, satire, research or responsible innovation.

Our focus is clear: technology must not be used to exploit children, steal a person's identity, deceive families, damage reputations or profit from another person's voice, image or likeness without consent.

We will engage artists, creators, parents, churches, civil society, internet service providers, telecommunications operators, online platforms, law enforcement agencies and the wider public as these reforms are developed.

Approved for Release



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