

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

Office of the Minister

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MEDIA STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PUBLIC CONSULTATION OPENS ON PRIORITY DIGITAL LEGISLATION

6th August 2026

Today I announce the commencement of nationwide public consultation on three priority Bills, forming part of a package of five priority digital legislative reforms:

- Data Governance and Protection Bill;
- Cybersecurity and Critical Infrastructure Bill; and
- Verifiable Credentials Bill.

In line with the Prime Minister's directives of 14 July 2026, I have instructed the Department of Information and Communications Technology and the National Information and Communications Technology Authority to expedite these Bills for introduction during the September 2026 sitting of Parliament.

These Drafting Instructions and Bills have not been developed overnight. They are informed from Cabinet endorsed policies that were formulated over the last six years under the Government's Digital Transformation Agenda.

These Policies include the Digital Transformation Policy 2020, National Cyber Security Policy 2021, Data Governance and Protection Policy 2024 and Digital ID Policy 2025. This current consultation is the next formal stage in converting those approved policy directions into law.

The cybercrime and electronic evidence components are further informed by Papua New Guinea's accession to the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime on 6 May 2026, which provides an international framework for cybercrime offences, procedural powers, electronic evidence and international cooperation.

I also confirm that the remaining two reforms—draft amendments to the Cybercrime Code Act 2016 and the National Information and Communication Technology Act 2009—will soon be released for public consultation as part of the same legislative package.

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Parallel to this, the ministry will also expedite the formulation of Social Media legislation, informed by the Cabinet endorsed Social Media Policy.

The amendments will align national law with the Budapest Convention and address emerging harms involving the non-consensual use of artificial intelligence and digitally manipulated images, voices, likenesses and identities.

Together, these reforms will establish the legal framework to protect personal and government data, strengthen national cybersecurity and critical infrastructure protection, recognise trusted digital identities and verifiable credentials, and support secure digital services and consent-based data exchange.

The legislation will also support Papua New Guinea's Digital Public Infrastructure, including SevisPass, SevisWallet and SevisDEx.

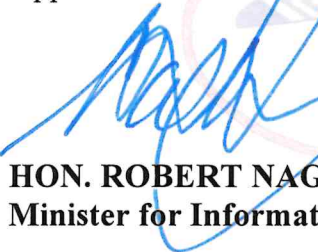
The drafting instructions, draft Bills and public consultation guidelines will be available on the Department's website at www.ict.gov.pg from 6 August 2026.

I encourage government agencies, provincial administrations, industry, financial institutions, telecommunications operators, academia, civil society, legal practitioners and the public to review the documents and provide feedback within the published deadlines.

Submissions will be considered before the Bills are finalised and progressed through the Government's legislative process.

I reaffirm the Government's commitment to implementing the Prime Minister's directives and establishing a secure, trusted and resilient digital environment for Papua New Guinea.

Approved for Release


HON. ROBERT NAGURI, MP
Minister for Information and Communications Technology

