



## DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

### *Office of the Secretary*

---

24 June 2020

#### PRESS RELEASE

#### **DPM THANK UNITECH STUDENTS FOR CRITICAL WORK**

The Department of Personnel Management today (24 June) farewelled students from the Papua New Guinea University of Technology after 5 months' attachment with the Department.

Department's Acting Deputy Secretary Policy & Reforms Mr. William Hapipai who stood in for Secretary Ms Taies Sansan said the students have contributed significantly to the work of the department contributing to drafting some key policy documents which is critical for reforms in the public sector one of which is the Policy on Housing for the Public Service Institutional Housing Project.

"The Housing project is a key policy agenda for the Marape Steven Government. It is a legacy matter that has been outstanding for so long and under my guard, I wish to see this through. I commend you the students for assisting in the policy document which we will finalise and bring forward for government attention to address this issue once and for all to look after our public servants in terms of their housing needs. It is my view that once we cater for our public servants housing needs we will lift the morale of our workforce thus work output will improve and therefore our services to our people will increase".

Mr. Hapipai also commended the students in showing dedication and a fresh approach to work and hopes that this will rub off to others in the department in terms of work attitude and dedication and that the students will be advocates for more tertiary education students to enter the public service workforce.

Mr. Hapipai said, it is a great partnership achievement between the department and respective tertiary institutions and we look forward to continuing and strengthening this partnership".

Since the inception of the trainee program in 2016 there has been 16 students from who undergone training with the department.

Mr. Hapipai acknowledged the students for their input into the Public Service Institutional Housing project which was one of the departments major projects.

Mr. Hapipai said, the department is taking the lead in reforms in the public service especially now amid the COVID 19 pandemic where departments are required to come up with new workplace practices in the new normal which the government will soon release details.

Mr. Hapipai said, while there is a current freeze on recruitment in the Public Service - the need for a proper and clear guideline in the recruitment and absorption of new graduates into the Public Service is critical and her department will look into enhancing and continuing the training program for tertiary students.

“With the development of a whole of government retirement policy and strategy the need for absorption of graduates into the public service is equally important and a public service career path with an Entry and Exit strategy is being developed by the department”.

Ends//...