



**DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT**  
*Office of the Secretary*

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**DPM Leads Golden Jubilee Celebration for PNG's 50th Independence**

**Port Moresby, September 12, 2025** — The Department of Personnel Management (DPM) took the lead in the nation's 50th Independence Anniversary celebrations, bringing together government departments and agencies at the Central Government Building to mark this historic golden jubilee.

As the lead coordinating agency, DPM gathered with the other 5 agencies housed at the Central Government Office. This includes the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), Department of Agriculture and Livestock (DAL), Immigration and Citizenship Services Authority (ICA), Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), and the Office of Censorship. The event served as a moment to reflect on the nation's progress since 1975 and to reaffirm the public service's crucial role in shaping the next 50 years.

Department of Personnel Management Secretary, Taies Sansan, addressed the gathering, highlighting the importance of a strong and empowered public service moving forward.

"Our future rests in the hands of the public service," Ms. Sansan stated. "We must empower ourselves to rise above challenges, strengthen our institutions, and ensure our people benefit from an honest, effective, and accountable public sector. The golden jubilee is not just about celebrating how far we have come, but about committing to the next 50 years with discipline, courage, and integrity."

In his keynote address, Mr. Wep Kanawi, a highly esteemed public service veteran with a career spanning over 45 years, drew a comparison between the past and present. He noted that while the public service workforce has grown significantly, the increase in public expenditure has not always translated into more efficient and effective service delivery.

"Back then, there were fewer public servants and a much lower annual budget, but there was a lot of pride in service to the country," he said. "Today, there are more public servants who account for billions of Kina in public expenditure, but that unfortunately does not always translate into efficient and effective delivery of services."

He urged the public service to move forward with better reforms to ensure it truly benefits citizens and improves the quality of life for everyone. Mr. Kanawi's own

distinguished career began in the late 1960s as a tea boy, and he went on to lead 15 different government agencies.

Also present was Chief Secretary to Government, Isaac Pomeleu, who emphasized the enduring role of the public service. "Our work is therefore clear: to carry forward the reforms, to work harder and smarter, and to deliver on the government's priorities with discipline and integrity," he stated. "By doing so, we honor both the sacrifices of our founding leaders and the aspirations of our people today."

ICAC Commissioner, Thomas Eluh, urged public servants to act with courage and integrity. "We must not be afraid to speak up and do the right thing even when no one is watching," he said. "Corruption must be reported and rooted out at every level. The next 50 years of public service must be one full of courage, discipline, and unwavering service to the country and her people."

In a gesture of unity, Chief Censor Jim Abani presented each department with gifts of food, reminding everyone that "no matter where we come from, we are all Papua New Guineans—we are a united people."

The celebration was brought to life with entertainment from the legendary 70's band DeJays, from Tubuseria village in Central Province. Cultural performances from Manus, Southern Highlands, Central, and Morobe singing groups also showcased the nation's rich diversity.

The event concluded with a collective pledge by all government agencies, led by DPM, to build a smarter, fairer, safer, and more prosperous Papua New Guinea for generations to come.

**APPROVED FOR RELEASE.**



Caption: Morobe dancers welcome Departmental Heads to the whole of government celebrations held at the Central Government Office on September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025.



Caption: DPM Secretary Taies Sansan addresses the whole of government during the Independence Celebrations held at the Central Government Office on September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025.