



**"RISE UP, STEP UP, SPEAK"**

# OUR VOICE

OUR VOICE is a monthly newsletter of the Department of Personnel Management

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#### VISION

DPM to evolve into a new department in order to meet its role over the five year period of the DPM Corporate Plan.

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#### MISSION

DPM's mission is to lead and support reform efforts in enhancing the performance of PNG public servants and streamlining of agencies to improve service delivery.

Compiled by DPM Media  
— PSIC Branch

**DICT showcases  
importance of  
digital ID**

**Page 2**

**Students on job  
training**

**Page 3**

**Voxpop**

**Page 4**

**DPM in pictures  
this month**

**Page 6**

## AGENCIES CELEBRATE 50YRS



Secretary Taies Sansan marks the day with the cutting of a cake.

The Department of Personnel Management (DPM) took centre stage as the agencies housed Central Government Building to celebrate Papua New Guinea's 50th Independence Anniversary — a golden jubilee milestone marking half a century of nationhood.

As the lead agency, DPM brought together fellow departments and agencies, including 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, to reflect on the nation's achievements since 1975 and reaffirm the public service's responsibility in shaping the next 50 years. Department of Personnel Management Secretary, Taies Sansan in her address to the whole of government highlighted importance of a strong and empowered public service moving forward. "Our future rests in the hands of the public service," Ms Sansan said. "We must empower ourselves to rise above challenges, strengthen our institutions, and ensure that our people benefit from an honest, effective, and accountable public sector. This year is not only 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 veteran in the public servant whose remarkable career spans over 45 years

highlighted that as the country has progressed in the last 50 years so have the man power in our public service today.

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

"While the public service has gone through a lot of trials and tribulations, we can only move forward, with better reforms to ensure that the public service benefits citizens and exist to improve the quality of life for everyone. Also present, Chief Secretary to Government, Isaac Pomeleu, 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. By doing so, we honour both the sacrifices of our founding leaders and the aspirations of our people." 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. 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."

## DICT SHOWCASES IMPORTANCE OF DIGITAL ID



**DICT Secretary Steven Matainaho (far right) and team explaining the importance of a Digital ID, how to register and its purpose.**

The Department of Personnel Management (DPM) recently played host to the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), which conducted a demonstration on the importance of introducing a Digital ID system in Papua New Guinea.

During the session, DICT outlined how the Digital ID — an electronic representation of an individual's identity — will transform the way citizens access both public and private sector services. By enabling secure verification through mobile devices or cloud platforms, the system aims to streamline access to banking, SIM registration, government services, and even support biometric identity verification for the 2027 National General Elections.

DPM welcomed the initiative, recognizing its role in modernizing service delivery and enhancing security. The integration will involve partnerships with key agencies including the Civil Registry Office, banks, telecommunications, and superannuation funds.

Guided by the Digital Transformation Policy 2020, Data Governance and Protection Policy 2024, and the upcoming Digital ID Policy 2025, the SevisPass Digital ID promises to make government services safe, simple, and efficient.

What is the difference between the National Identification (NID) and the new Digital ID called SevisPass? Is it a duplication of Government Service?

Even though they are closely related, they are not the same thing—and understanding how they work together is important, and can ensure our government significantly improve service delivery through SevisPass, by making it faster, more secure, and more convenient for citizens to access government and private sector services online.

Mr. Josuah Pomaloh, Executive Manager for DevOps, Department of ICT, explains in a LinkedIn publication that the National ID is a government-

issued physical identification card that serves as proof of a person's identity within a specific country. It proves who a person is and is used mostly in face-to-face situations—like when you vote, open a bank account, or apply for government services.

"It is your official, legal identity in the country."

SevisPass, on the other hand, is a Digital ID. This means it's not a physical card but a digital version of your identity. You can use it on your phone, computer, or other digital devices. It helps you access services online—like banking, mobile SIM registration, or applying for government help through apps or websites. It also includes strong security features like facial recognition or QR codes to protect your identity.

So, while the NID currently is used in-person and exists as a card, the Digital ID is used online and exists digitally. But the two are closely connected.



## BANKS TALK TO STAFF ABOUT HOME LOANS

The Department of Personnel Management (DPM) recently facilitated an important step in its Public Service Homeownership Program, as staff took the opportunity to enquire about their eligibility for home loans with visiting commercial banks.

On the 25th to 29th August 2025, leading financial institutions such as Bank South Pacific (BSP), Kina Bank, Westpac, and the National Development Bank — set up booths at the DPM Central Government Office here in Waigani.

This initiative allowed public servants to undergo financial pre-assessments directly with the banks, enabling them to determine whether they were eligible for a home loan.

Staff also received guidance on their borrowing capacity and were able to better understand the requirements for transitioning into homeownership.

The program was co-funded under a Public-Private Partnership be-



Kina Bank assists DPM staff with enquires about home loans.

tween the Marape-Rosso government and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) which played an advisory role.

Prior to the bank visits, DPM and IFC had conducted market sounding exercises with potential developers to explore housing options for public servants.

Secretary Taies Sansan noted that the enthusiastic response from staff

reflected the importance of affordable housing and financial literacy for public service.

She stressed that the program was a government commitment towards improving the welfare of public servants by not only creating access to housing but also empowering them with the financial knowledge to make informed choices.



Caritas Technical Secondary School grade 11 students who are currently doing their on-the-job training with the department.

## STUDENTS ON JOB TRAINING WITH DPM

The Department of Personnel Management has welcomed six students from the Caritas Technical Secondary School, acknowledging the importance of nurturing future talent.

The six Grade 11 students have commenced their on-the-job training with the Department of Personnel Management (DPM), each required to complete 400 hours as part of their academic requirements.

The training, which runs over several weeks, provides the students with practical exposure to a real workplace setting, enabling them to apply classroom knowledge to actual work scenarios.

For the students, this is not just

about fulfilling a requirement but an opportunity to gain valuable insight into the world of public service.

On-the-job training is considered a crucial step in preparing students for the workforce.

It bridges the gap between theory and practice, instills confidence, and equips young people with skills they can use in their future careers.

The students expressed excitement at being attached with DPM, noting that the department's central role in coordinating and managing public service matters makes it an ideal learning environment.

By choosing DPM, the students believe they have made the

best choice, as the exposure will allow them to understand the inner workings of government, human resource management, and service delivery to the people of Papua New Guinea.

"We are happy to be here and to learn new things. This experience will give us the courage to move forward when we eventually start work," the students shared.

Their participation reflects the department's commitment to supporting education and providing young Papua New Guineans with the opportunities and experiences they need to thrive in the workforce now and in the future.

### OUR VALUES

#### HONESTY

Behaviour that is consistent with Christian principles, social norms, family, expectations and policies, procedures of contemporary organizations.

#### INTEGRITY

Steadfast adherence to moral and ethical principles in private and public life in a manner that attracts respect, trust and a sense of dependability.

#### ACCOUNTABILITY

Taking ownership of one's own actions and accepting responsibility for the actions of individuals, groups and organizations in one's purview and ensuring records especially in relation to incentives and rewards are current and transparent.

#### RESPECT

An intrinsic human trait that promotes a positive relationship with individuals, community and organizations; and emphasizes a positive regard for the rule of law and the environment.

#### WISDOM

A capacity for deeper level of understanding of issues involving discernment, intuition, experience and maturity and the ability to inspire and encourage actions to overcome challenges for the achievement of all people.

#### RESPONSIBILITY

Accepting stewardship for people and country.





### Hengene KENOWA

"Fifty years of independence makes me proud, because it shows how far we've come as a people. But I also feel the public service needs to work harder. Many ordinary citizens don't see real benefits in their daily lives, so the system must start delivering stronger and fairer services." As public servants it is our duty to provide such services. By working together to acknowledge our faults and changing from that, can we provide better services for our people.



### Ila KAPUEINA

Papua New Guinea's independence represents resilience, unity, and cultural richness. As the nation transitions, it faces challenges of governance, economic growth, and service delivery. Yet, this period also offers opportunities for innovation, empowerment, and sustainable development, strengthening national identity while building a future grounded in inclusivity and shared prosperity.

**With the Country celebrating its 50th year of Independence, What does "public service at 50" mean to you on a personal level, and how do you see your role in shaping PNG's next chapter?**



### Lucy KASU

"Public service at 50 means accountability. After half a century, it's no longer enough to make promises. People want to see results. We want better schools, functioning hospitals, and stronger support for rural communities. It's time to put citizens first and stop with excuses that have held us back."

### Bernadette MAINO

"Independence at 50 shows our resilience as a nation. We have survived challenges and still stand proud. But for us to move forward, the public service must keep pace. It should be the engine that drives progress by being efficient, transparent, and responsive to the needs of our people."



### Renagi TIOTI

"Fifty years is a long journey, but we still face many challenges. Public service at 50 must modernize and adapt to changing times. Technology, innovation, and stronger governance should be embraced to ensure our people benefit. If we can adapt, PNG can move forward with real confidence into the future."





## FANI KONA

Your workplace can be a stressful environment but whipping out a few jokes can lighten the tension and help people better connect. Here are one-liners that will be a hit.

1. A lawyer said to a judge, "My client is trapped inside a penny." The judge said, "What?" and the lawyer said, "He's in a cent."
2. What did the fried rice say to the shrimp? Don't wok away from me!
3. Boss told me that as a security guard, it's my job to watch the office. I'm on season 6 but I'm not really sure what it's got to do with security.
4. The CEO of Ikea was appointed Prime Minister of Sweden. He's currently assembling his cabinet.
5. There were two muffins in an oven and one said, "It's getting kind of hot in here isn't it?". The other muffin gasps, "Ahh! A talking muffin!"
6. Two men are on opposite sides of the river. The first man shouts, "How do I get to the other side of the river?" The other man shouts back, "You ARE on the other side of the river."
7. I will now be signing all emails with this disclaimer: On average it takes me two days to overthink the best response to your email. You can be assured that I will reply to you in my head and forget to send you an actual reply. In the future, please save us both the stress on our mental health and avoid sending me any emails.
8. I feel bad for lions at zoos. How would you feel if a bunch of pizzas came to your house, took your picture, and you couldn't even eat them?
9. A guy walks into a lumberyard and asks for some two-by-fours. The clerk asks, "How long do you need them?" The guy answers, "A long time. We're gonna build a house."
10. When I was at the gym yesterday, everyone kept asking me why I'm always sitting still on the stationary bike. I'm going downhill dude, mind your business.
11. Knock, knock. Who's there? Nobel. Nobel who? You got no bell, so I figured I'd knock.
12. Why did the tomato turn red? Because it saw the salad dressing!
13. Employee: "I've found a new way to do this task." Manager: "As long as it doesn't involve starting late tomorrow."
14. How do you make holy water? Boil the hell out of it.
15. What do you call fake spaghetti? An impasta.
16. Why was the math book happy? Because it had a lot of "problems" solved.
17. Why was the HR director so calm? She knew how to manage expectations.



The new payroll office located on the ground floor of the Central Government Office.

## PAYROLL OFFICERS RELOCATED

PAYROLL under the MIS Division is now moved to the newly created payroll office under the new Department of Personnel Management Structure.

The modern facility will now house payroll officers from both the Department of Finance and DPM, a move aimed at strengthening collaboration to ensure the smooth running of payroll services for public servants across the country.

Department of Personnel Management Payroll Direc-

tor Ms Ila Kapueina said the relocation was a timely step to improve efficiency and enhance coordination in the management of the national payroll system.

"Payroll is one of the most important functions of government, and it is vital that the systems supporting it are efficient and effective. By bringing officers from DPM and Finance together under one roof, we are ensuring better service delivery for our public servants," Ms Kapueina said.

The new office space pro-

vides a conducive and modern working environment designed to support the joint efforts of both agencies in managing the salaries of thousands of public servants nationwide.

The government remains committed to improving payroll processes, addressing ongoing challenges, and ensuring public servants are paid accurately and on time.

While officers are slowly settling in to their new environment, an official launch of the new office will lately be held in October.



HRMIS officers in MIS move out to new payroll office.



# DPM IN PICTURES THIS MONTH





