



# DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION



## ICT POLICIES AND REFORMS

3<sup>rd</sup> May 2017

# CONSULTATIVE IMPLEMENTATION & MONITORING COUNCIL (CIMC)

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## □ **Southern Regional Development Forum**

Date : 3- 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2017

Venue: Catholic Church Hall, Alotau-Milne Bay Province

**THEME: Quality Leadership & Community Oversight  
for Improved Governance**

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# Overview

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# MTDS & LTDP Goals & Deliverables

Long Term Development Plan (LTDP) 2010 - 2030 set Deliverables				
<b>Goal: A modern and affordable communication technology that reaches all parts of the country</b>				
Indicators	2015	2020	2025	2030
Percentage of population with access to radio coverage	65%	75%	85%	100%
Percentage of population with access to television coverage	45%	65%	85%	100%
Percentage of population with access to internet	20%	50%	60%	70%
Access to telephone (mobile subscribers per 1000 people)	700+	750+	780+	800+
Integration of Government Information Systems (IGIS) & e-government		Full integration of management information system at national level	Management information system fully integrated at provincial and district level	

# Department's Link towards achieving Development Targets

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- - a. Set appropriate policies to drive the expansion of ICT services to all parts of the country;
  - b. A neutral and effective Regulator that ensures sustainable competition and fair playing field for ICT stakeholders;
  - c. Promote and coordinate external assistance in the development and roll out of ICT services in PNG;
  - d. Facilitate phase 1, 2 and 3 of IGIS project roll out;
  - e. Promote public-private partnership in achieving Universal Access.

# Introduction

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- ICT is key enablers of the economic and social developments.
- Our policy priority is on developing and making ICT infrastructure and services available, accessible and affordable to all.
- Among others, and apart from Government's overarching policy direction aimed at ***stimulating competition and expansion of infrastructure and services roll out***, we are also embarking on a ***rural communication program*** in partnership with the private sector to bridge the digital divide and ensuring ICT infrastructure and services reach bulk of our population in rural areas.
- This initiative is backed by Government policy on universal access and service (UAS), consistent with our Long Term Development Plans (2010-2030) on ensuring modern and affordable ICT infrastructure and services that reaches all part of PNG.

# National Policy on Information and Communication(NPIC)

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- In October of 1978, a communication policy seminar in Port Moresby eventually became the genesis of the process leading to a coherent national policy on information and communication technologies (“ICT”).
- The culmination of the work performed by the then Department of Information and Communication was the National Policy on Information Communication of Papua New Guinea 1992. This document was tabled in Parliament by the then Minister for Information and Communication Services, the Hon. Martin P. Thompson LLB M.P. Content of the Policy focuses more on media and broadcasting and is outdated by technology advancement.

# 2005 Mobile Competition Policy

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- In December 2005, a draft National Information Communication Technology Policy Framework (the draft Framework) was endorsed by NEC. In response to the draft Framework, an Inter-agency ICT Taskforce was established under National Executive Council Decision No. 280/2005, to take steps to formulate a National ICT Policy (the ICT Taskforce).
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- In November 2005, prior to endorsing the ICT Policy framework, the Government approved a policy to introduce competition in the mobile telephone sector (the **2005 mobile competition policy**).
- Under this policy, 2 new mobile licences were to be issued with a view to introducing network based mobile competition by March 2007. The Independent Consumer and Competition Commission (**ICCC**), as economic regulator with responsibilities in the ICT sector, was principally charged to implement the 2005 mobile competition policy.
- In March 2007, ICCC issued licences to Digicel (PNG) Limited (**Digicel**) and Green Communications Limited (**Greencom**). Whilst GreenCom withdrew later on, Digicel commence its roll out and today it is the lead mobile communication company in the country. There were legal disputes between Telikom PNG and the ICCC and uncertainty as to the legal scope of the mobile carrier operations but this was resolved.



# National ICT Policy Phase 2 Reform 2009

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- In 2009, under NEC Decision No 51/2009, Cabinet endorsed the National ICT Policy Phase 2 Reforms which sets out the **regulatory** and **institutional structure reform** in the ICT sector to effect government policy on competition.
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- A National ICT Act was passed on November 2009, giving effect to the National ICT Policy. The Law was made effective as per National Gazette No. G46 of Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2010, and a new technical regulator called National Information and Communication Technology Authority(NICTA) succeeded Pangtel on the **Succession Date** of 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2010.
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# Integrated Government Information Systems

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- The Government made a decision in 2006 (NEC Decision No 124/2006) to develop a dedicated network infrastructure to integrate all government systems. Phase 1 of the system has been completed and delivered in December 2014.
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- In recent decision, Government has decided to transfer all IGIS asset to DataCo and so the Department and DataCo have entered into an MoA to work together to transfer the assets and the operational aspects of IGIS to DataCo while the Department will manage the policy aspect of IGIS. This exercise is ongoing

# Universal Access Scheme/RCP

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- Rural Communication, including roll out of ICT infrastructures and services to unserved and underserved areas of PNG, remains a major challenge. To address this challenge, Government has approved a UAS Policy where UAS Fund will be disbursed to assist operators extend ICT infrastructure and services to these areas.
- A Rural Communication Demonstration Project under World Bank's US\$15 loan program started in 2010 and it will end in August this year.
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- The Financing Agreement and Project Agreement were **SIGNED** on 09<sup>th</sup> August 2010. Subsidiary Agreement was signed on 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2010.

# Analogue to Digital Switch-over

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- Under ITU Agreement, all television broadcasters are required to migrate their systems from analogue to digital by end of 2017. The analogue systems will become obsolete by then
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- For PNG, Cabinet has endorsed a National Roadmap for transition from analogue to digital terrestrial television broadcasting system in PNG. All broadcasters in PNG are required to migrated from analogue to digital systems by end of this year.
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- This exercise is coordinated by NICTA through the National Roadmap Team which the Department is part of.

# Cybercrime

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- Whilst we focus on harnessing the benefits of ICT, we should also be mindful of the risks and threats that are associated with use of ICT. Cybercrime is a major concern worldwide and PNG is beginning to feel the effects of it.
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- To address this, a National Cybercrime Policy was developed and endorsed in 2014 by the Government. This was followed by the enactment of National Cybercrime Code Act 2016, which has come into effect as of 13 December 2016.
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- The challenge remains in training and equipping our law enforcement agencies and the Courts with necessary skills to investigate and prosecute the offenders of cybercrime.

# Priorities

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- PNG's priorities, continuing from ongoing programs into future, will be in line with the regional priorities which include:
  - **Cybersecurity/Cybercrime,**
  - **Rural communications,**
  - **Increasing access to broadband services,**
  - **Enhancing emergency communications for disaster relief,**
  - **Standards, Conformance and interoperability, and**
  - **Regulatory and Policy Reforms**
  - **E-government and e-applications**

□ THANK YOU