



SPEECH BY MINISTER FOR FINANCE & PLANNING

HON. RAINBO PAITA MP

On the occasion of launching of the
Medium Term Development Plan IV (2023-2027)
APEC HAUS, 7TH JULY 2023

Thank you, Master of Ceremony for your warm welcome and introduction.

Prime Minister, the Hon. James Marape, MP

Deputy Prime Minister & Minister for Lands and Physical Planning, the Hon. John Rosso, MP

Ministers of State

Distinguished Governors

Members of Parliament

Members of Diplomatic Corp

Members of corporate community

Heads and CEOs of Govt Agencies

Members of Civil Society

Members of Non-Government Organizations

Acting Secretary, Deputy Secretary, and Staff of the Department of National Planning

Ladies and gentlemen

Good night, everyone.

Let me first thank each and every one of you for accepting our invitation and joining us tonight here at APEC Haus for the launching of the first Marape-Rosso Government's Medium-Term Development Plan IV 2023 - 2027 by our Prime Minister, the Hon. James Marape, MP.

It is my greatest honor to be the Minister responsible for delivering this important plan that now lays the foundation for our collective prosperity.

The MTDP-IV is a masterpiece, a work of collective aspirations, intelligence and creative imaginations. It was formed through a lengthy process of consultations with our key stakeholders. It defines this Government's rules of engagement.

It lays out the plan of our development aspirations and it charts our path into the immediate future. It paints the broader goal of our collective destination. And, it outlines the contours of our collective prosperity.

I describe this Plan as the “**strategic development road map**” for our nation.

I say this with great conviction because the MTDP IV outlines how the Marape - Rosso Government intends to stimulate and grow our economy, create an additional one million jobs and improve the quality of lives of all our people.

The programs and interventions captured in the MTDP IV seeks to achieve the development goals of the “Development Strategic Plan 2010-2030” and “Vision 2050”. **(Both the DSP and Vision 2050 were developed by our founding father, and father of Pangu, the Late Grand Chief, the Rt.Hon. Sir Michael Somare).**

We are very confident that these goals are achievable.

Many of you may be wondering why we are so confident given the poor performances or results of the past MTDPs, and current prevailing economic conditions.

Simply put, there are three reasons why:

First, we undertook a deliberate review of past MTDPs, and clearly identified the issues, which led to their poor performance. Besides funding issue being a key factor, the review also revealed a host of policy, institutional, and legislative issues as key impediments.

Second, we carried out a comprehensive nation-wide consultation. These consultations were conducted in the provinces, districts, the private sector, with development partners, civil society, NGOs, Churches as well as sectoral government agencies and other relevant stakeholders.

And third, the Government’s strong will and commitment towards re-opening the Porgera Gold Mine and progressing the start-up of nationally significant projects such as Papua LNG, the Wafi-Golpu Gold Mine, and the PASCA Oil Refinery project. These projects will provide a significant impetus for the successful delivery of our goals.

Through these consultations and reviews, we were able to identify key fundamental issues, and more importantly, learn about how we could do things differently and avoid the lessons of the past.

Some of the notable issues include:

- a) Lack of ownership;
- b) Lack of leadership at all levels;

- c) Funding and cash flow constraints;
- d) Misalignment between National, Provincial and District Plans;
- e) Poor coordination at all levels;
- f) Misalignment of Aid funding;
- g) Policy deficiencies;
- h) Lack of institutional capacities and skills;
- i) Legislative misalignment and conflicts;
- j) Lack of effective Monitoring and Evaluation; and
- k) Lack of an effective oversight process to ensure accountability and transparency.

The MTDP IV captures the views of all stakeholders and addresses many of these key issues. It also clearly identifies sectoral targets, strategic priority areas, funding modalities, alignments, partnerships, and implementation and accountability structures through a stringent monitoring and evaluation process.

The Marape-Rosso Government is introducing twelve (12) Strategic Priority Areas (SPAs) as pillars of this MTDP-IV and will mobilize its investment budget through deliberate intervention programs (DIPs) in each of these SPAs to grow our economy and transform the lives and wellbeing of our people.

The DIPs are the intervention areas where the investment programs are identified and will be funded through our Annual Budget for next five years.

The 12 key Strategic Priority Areas, (SPAs) include:

- a) Strategic Economic Investments,
- b) Connect PNG Infrastructure,
- c) Quality and Affordable Health Care,
- d) Quality Education and Skilled Human Capital,
- e) Rule of Law and Restorative Justice,
- f) National Security,
- g) National Revenue and Public Finance Management,
- h) Digital Government, National Statistic and Public Service Governance,
- i) Research, Science and Technology,
- j) Climate Change and Natural Environment Protection,
- k) Population, Youth and Gender Development, and
- l) Strategic Partnership.

We know clearly that the mobilization of funds is one key factor. But our Government acknowledges that alone is not sufficient.

Effective implementation requires a host of strategic policy, institutional and legislative reforms. All of these reforms including an effective funding modality are a prerequisite for effective delivery of the MTDP IV.

Some of reforms include outsourcing of key Government functions such as payroll and Human Resource management, audit, technical and financial evaluation, project supervision and monitoring and evaluation. In addition, establishment of rigorous standards and specifications for roads, construction, technological requirements, and implementation of an automated procurement process for greater transparency and accountability, underpin the plan.

These are the actions of a responsible government.

The outsourcing of these functions, including payroll and HR functions will not only deliver cost-savings, but also significantly improve efficiency, enhance accountability, and build institutional capability and capacity.

This is not a new concept.

As we know, governments around the world have put in place similar measures and have significantly improved their efficiency and productivity at all levels as a consequence of these reforms.

Furthermore, these reforms are intended to address the high cost of doing business.

The Government will restructure our State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) under the Public Private Partnership Policy, achieve effective utilization of aid funds, including the strategic alignment of all stakeholders and our development partners. This will ensure enhanced accountability through clearly defined roles and responsibilities, and a transparent oversight process.

We live closer to where the world's fastest economic growth is taking place in Asia. Yet our economy has been growing sluggishly over the last decade or so. In order to position ourselves to attract new investments, we need to address the bottle necks and structural deficiencies that exist in our system.

The MTDP-IV advocates for institutional reforms to gain efficiency within the economy; to make our economy more resilient and competitive. The Government is promoting trade and investment on the back of a strong natural resources sector. Our minerals and petroleum resources, agricultural and natural resource commodities are to be processed onshore to international standards, adding greater value to meet global demand and maximize gains for our country.

This is part of government's bigger thinking on gaining more value for our people on the harvest of the natural endowments in this country. In addition, we will create agencies of state to partner with private sector participants and mobilize productions, access to markets, and ensure exports and imports are de-risked so our products can reach the customers we are targeting.

There are several other key policy initiatives that the Government will undertake. These includes: -

- (a) mobilization of our youth population through skill training, compulsory National Youth Service and increase participation in MSME.
- (b) introduction of compulsory Bible studies in our primary and secondary education system.
- (c) unlocking of customary land through land Mobilization programme, land Administration reform including land dispute settlement process.

This policy initiatives are necessary to unlock the huge potentials for national building and addressing social issues that impede the development of our country.

For the *“first time”*, the MTDP IV will incorporate some of the resolutions from the Governor’s Council Conference. This is a major policy proclamation by the Marape-Rosso Government that recognizes the Organic Law on Provincial and Local Level Government and demonstrates the Government’s commitment to inter-government cooperation and partnership.

Looking ahead, the key challenge for us is implementation.

That is why MTDP IV clearly defines roles and responsibilities for all stakeholders. It is incumbent upon all of us to take ownership of our roles and responsibilities. In doing so, MTDP IV will be successfully delivered.

I am tempted to share more about aspirations of the MTDP IV, and why it is so vital for our Government and the country. But given the time constraint, I simply want to say this in closing.

The Government is taking an innovative approach to planning and implementation of the MTDP IV. Be assured that the Government will actively fulfill all of its roles, responsibilities and obligations.

As Minister, I am excited about the prospects of sustainable economic growth, the creation of additional jobs, and empowering our people thru Micro and Small to Medium Enterprise (MSME) initiatives. These will improve the quality of lives of all our people.

This MTDP-IV is about us. Our Road Map and how we can do things better and smarter to build an enviable country. I am privilege to be part of its journey and I want to see some of the consequential ideas captured in the Plan to become reality and help us build a better tomorrow.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to thank the following people:

The Prime Minister for his leadership and directions

All my Colleague Ministers for their inputs and support

All the Governors and Members of Parliament

Our Development Partners

Members of corporate sector

Members of Civil Society

NGOs and Churches

All Government Agencies

Special Mention - My entire Team led by Deputy Secretary, Policy & Planning Mr. Michael Kumung, Technical Team, Launching Team, Marketing and Media Team for all your sacrifices and tireless work.

You have done a tremendous Job and deserve a round of applause. They worked tirelessly. I had to review many of the editions and team came back with a better, refined product. I pushed for the best - the superlative best. They buried their heads even deeper, burnt the mid-night oil and went sleepless nights. What you have in your hands has gone through countless iterations - both in its contents and the aesthetic - until we were all exhausted.

And lastly, my own people of Finschhafen.

God bless our MTDP IV and our beautiful country, PNG.

Good night, everyone and once again, thank you.

Hon Rainbo Paita, MP

Minister for Finance & Planning