

## **MESSAGE BY THE PRIME MINISTER**

On the Occasion of the  
Launch of the Medium-Term Development Plan IV (2023-2027)  
APEC Haus, Port Moresby  
Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023

I am pleased to introduce the National Government's Medium Term Development Plan IV 2023 – 2027 (MTDP IV) as my Government's first full five-year development plan for our country.

The MTDP IV has been framed to incorporate our Government's development agenda to grow the economy to a K200 billion economy in the next 10 years and increase the country's internal revenue to K30 billion, thus creating 1 million new jobs, 100,000 new SMEs and doubling national exports. We will continue to pursue our aspiration to become a "Richest Black Christian Nation and Middle-Income country" by 2030.

Our Government is opening up the country through Connect PNG transport infrastructure program where we connect the Highlands and Momase Regions to the Southern Region through the transnational highway development. For the first time after almost 50 years since independence, our people can drive from the north to the south through the Owen Stanley range and through another missing link connection from Southern Highlands to Kikori and into Port Moresby.

From Port Moresby, the Southern Corridor highway will pass through Central Province into Alotau. We will complete the East-West New Britain Highway including other national highways, provincial roads and district commodity roads, jetties and wharves. Air and sea transport is also given equal attention to ensure we improve mobility through effective transport connectivity.

Under this MTDP IV, my Government will continue to progress work to open up Lae, Kokopo, Mt Hagen and Wewak airports to receive international flights which will help increase tourism but equally important, these airports will be used for transportation of agriculture and fresh produce directly to overseas markets.

My Government anticipates unlocking many of our country's untapped economic potentials in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, tourism, energy development and many other economic opportunities that lies along these road corridors.

The Government is concerned on the Law and Order issues in the country and is addressing holistically. One of the smart intervention programs under this MTDP IV is mobilizing our youths to actively participate in developing this beautiful country.

As such, my Government will mobilise the active youth population as a catalyst to move this nation forward. Mobilisation of youths for development will be a strategic

approach to dealing with increasing law and order problem in the country. We will engage youths for nation building through skilled training for labour mobility, SME and national civic service programs. The Special Economic Zones developments in the country will require massive labour force for large scale agriculture commercialization projects.

Our youths will be empowered with specialized trades skills through Technical and Vocational Training (TVET) to be used for these critical development programs and advancing into SME activities.

As we reach our 50th year as an independent nation, there are critical minimum services that our people need to have at ease within an hour's reach. Basic health and education services must be readily available for everyone regardless of where they live.

This Government is planning under MTDP IV to build district hospitals for all districts in the country. All provinces must have a provincial referral hospital with specialised equipment and qualified personnel. All districts must have a high school and secondary schools with quality infrastructure and teaching materials. All families must have access to clean and safe drinking water.

This Government through the provincial and district administrations will build at least two TVET centers in every district for technical skills development for all our youths. Under this program, we anticipate training 200,000 young men and women with technical skills for development. These are critical minimum service standards that our Government will deliver for our people under this MTDP IV.

As a country, we will continue to experience development challenges. However, we must not shy away but use these as opportunities to chart our way forward. The theme of MTDP IV reads "Economic Independence through Innovation and Structural Transformation".

We must be innovative and strategic and mobilise our efforts and resources to make us become economically independent. This means reforming and restructuring how we conduct business so that together we move this country forward and on the path of economic development and transformation.

This MTDP IV outlines specific deliverables that we must deliberately do in our respective sectors and areas of responsibilities to get deliberate results.

This plan outlines the Strategic Priority Areas of this Government to bring everyone together including our Development Partners, private sector, civil societies and churches to work together to support and complement the efforts of your Government

to deliver this country into a “middle Income and richest black Christian nation” that we have declared to be by 2030. These are all possible.

Our country is blessed with an abundance of natural resources, in minerals, oil and gas, in fisheries and forestry, flora and fauna and in agriculture. These natural endowments are natural assets which are to be sustainably developed and monetized in order to finance development costs, build technical capabilities and provide wealth to our people for our country’s transformation.

This Government in this medium term will bring into operation several of our mining and petroleum pipeline projects.

We will restore Porgera into full operation and bring Wafi Golpu on stream. The Papua LNG, Pynyang LNG and Pasca are all projects in the pipeline and we will progress them into their development stage in terms of delivering the different milestones that they have in their plans.

These projects, once into the construction phase and finally into operation will help achieve our 2030 development targets. We must however, through this MTDP IV, mobilise and prepare our country men and women with technical and trade skills to carry these projects through.

Whilst we appreciate the support received from the non-renewable extractive sector, the comparative advantage the country has lies in the renewable green fields.

This Government is keen under the MTDP IV implementation to pursue large scale agriculture development and downstream processing in our agriculture, forestry and fisheries including large scale livestock developments.

These are strategic priorities of this government in this medium term leading up to the year 2030.

We know how far we have come. We know where we are now and know where we want to go. As your government, we are committed to driving this country forward through deliberate strategic interventions in the sectors, at the provincial levels and right down to the districts.

For the first time the provinces and districts are getting the biggest budget ever. This shows this Government’s commitment to ensuring the minimum services are provided at the district levels so that no one or no-child is left behind.

This MTDP IV will be just another paper in Waigani unless we translate this into tangible and real impact for our people and country.

I as your Prime Minister and on behalf of our Government commit ourselves to ensuring this MTDP IV is seriously implemented with greater alignment and commitment to make it happen for our country and people. I expect the same from all our government agencies, provinces and districts; and partners to make it happen for our country and people.

***“Take Back PNG” – Em Kantri Blong Yumi (KBY)***

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***Hon. James Marape, MP***

***Prime Minister***