

**LAUNCHING OF THE MEDIUM TERM DEVELOPMENT  
PLAN IV 2023 - 2027  
FRIDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2023, APEC HAUS**

**Speech by Mr. Koney Samuel Acting Secretary for Department of National  
Planning and Monitoring**

**Salutations**

Thank you, Master of Ceremonies, Good afternoon to you all!

Before I proceed to deliver my opening remarks on this occasion, let me firstly acknowledge the presence of our distinguished guests:

- The Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea. Honourable James Marape;
- The Deputy Prime Minister, Honourable John Rosso;
- The Minister for Finance and Planning, Honourable Rainbo Paita;
- The Vice Ministers for Planning: Hon. James Nomane and Hon. Kinoka Feo;
- The Cabinet Ministers, Honourable Governors and Members of Parliament;
- Colleague Secretaries, Heads of Agencies, CEOs and Managing Directors.
- Heads of Diplomatic Corps;
- Private Sector Representatives;
- Civil Society Organisations;
- The Media; and
- Our Viewers all across the country and abroad who are tuning in to witness this momentous occasion.

I officially welcome and thank you all for coming today to witness the launch of the 4th Medium Term Development Plan (2023-2027) for Papua New Guinea. This occasion reminds us of the greater challenges ahead and the need for a collective resolve to build this nation. This is the overarching development plan for our country, fully endorsed by the Marape-Rosso Government and for all Papua New Guineans to take full ownership and commit to deliver the Plan successfully in the next five years.

I think of the PNG Vision 2050 as our future destination, in which Papua New Guineans can live in a smart, wise, fair, healthy and happy society by 2050. To achieve this Vision 2050, we need the effort of every Papua New Guinean to secure this future. The Medium-Term Development Plan IV provides the framework and the launching pad to aggressively pursue our development priorities. We are at the most critical juncture in our country's history where we seriously need to rethink the way we have been doing business for the last 47 years. Our major development indicators obviously remain low. In terms of the Human Development Index, our target is to be in the top 50 countries in the HDI by 2050. However, according to the 2020/2021 United Nation's Human Development Report, we are ranked 156/191 countries. This means that we are still a low middle-income country compared to many other countries in the region and globally.

I see the urgency of our time to work harder than ever. We must not falter along the way. Papua New Guineans out there need better from us particularly those who live in the most remotest and rural areas of our country. Through the Medium-Term Development Plan 4, we have clearly defined the key interventions in critical enabling sectors to address their development constraints. I have always said this time and again to my colleagues and friends that we have to look after our people well so that they will look after this country for us all.

This Plan captures the aspirations of all Papua New Guineans. We have undertaken comprehensive consultations with the Provincial and District Administrations, the government stakeholders, the private sector and development partners, to solicit their views and ideas as to what we can make of our future. Our consensus on the most critical development priorities for our people have been fully captured and well reflected in this plan, as well as the means on how we will grow the economy, create jobs and increase our revenue. We have clearly outlined the measurable indicators and targets for each of the sectors including the sub-national governments, which will guide the sector agencies, the Provincial Governments, District Development Authorities, our development partners, and the private sector to align to the Medium-Term Development Plan IV priorities.

For the first time, we have included social and economic indicators on our 22 Provinces as well as specific and unique development opportunities available for each of them. We have also included the national minimum service delivery standards for our 96 Districts that we will seek to deliver to ensure that our development is equal and equitable for every Papua New Guinean.

We expect full cooperation from all our stakeholders to stay on course, and commit every resource, time and effort to deliver the plan successfully. Our lessons from the performance of Medium-Term Development Plan 3 (2018-2022), clearly demonstrate a too degree of misalignment, lack of coordination and monitoring, insufficient resourcing and ownership. We have addressed these issues in this new Plan.

I am confident that with the full support of the Government, we can and will deliver for the people of Papua New Guinea. I am optimistic of the future ahead of us. Let us together on this occasion recommit with greater resolve and determination to take back this country and make it better for our children.

I thank the Hon. Prime Minister and the Cabinet for your support and endorsement of the 4th Medium Term Development Plan for Papua New Guinea. I would like to also take this opportunity to thank our Minister Hon. Rainbo Paita for his constant oversight, guidance and directions assisted by our two Vice Ministers, the Hon. James Nomane and Hon. Kinoka Feo throughout the course of the formulation of the Medium-Term Development Plan IV. Furthermore, I acknowledge and thank all the stakeholders who have worked closely with our team to contribute to the formulation of this Plan. Finally, I thank our National Planning team led by our two Deputy Secretaries Mr. Michael Kumung and Mr. Roger Kara, the senior management, our team of consultants and the staff for your tireless efforts, commitment and sometimes sleepless nights to complete this Plan. You all have done exceptionally well, congratulations!

Lest we forget, this is our country (Kantri Bio Yumi), the land of our forefathers. We will live in this country; we will die in this country and we will be buried in this country. We must all be inspired today to better the course of our nation for the sake of our children, our grandchildren and the generations that will follow.

All in all thank the good Lord for his wisdom, grace, love and constant guidance. I am very confident that with the divine help from God, we can scale the heights of the land in the next five years.

Thank You all

God bless Papua New Guinea