

Department of Finance Newsletter



Issue No.#4 July, 2021



ESP Provincial Government handing over of Integrated Development Plan 2018-2028 and more

See Page 03



DPM's directive under GO to Public Officers intend for 2022 National General Election

See Page 05

Secretary's Kona



DR. Ken Ngangan OBE PhD CMA CPA Secretary

Hello everyone, we are half way through the year and in this month's edition, we look at the current compulsory retirement exercise for 2020 plus implementation of reforms the Department is undertaking and others.

The compulsory retirement exercise is running smoothly with 36 DoF retirees listed for the year. It is in our best interest to ensure future retirees are budgeted for and details properly captured through the new approach in the Government's payroll system.

We thank the East Sepik Provincial Government for a smooth transition of appointment of their new provincial administrator and a success story in the implementation of IFMS.

The configuration of GST withholding Tax on IFMS has resulted in millions of Kina collected due to remittance to IRC, and the IFMS rollout for sub national level reaching 10PHAs online and 15 provinces completed thus far.

A great deal has been achieved over the past months in terms of operations, reforms and governance so let's continue to accord our usual support in this time of pandemic. Together we can deliver the Government's development agendas.

DoF 2020 retirees all set



DPM representative (second from left) with DoF Retirement team witnessing Ms Gabutu signing her Deed of Release.

“ My heart felt thank you to the Retirement team for making it possible for the smooth transition and payout of our final entitlements- Retiree Lohia Gabutu. ”



DPM estimates K80mil for 2020 & 2021 compulsory retirement exercise



DoF officers attending the workshop hosted by Department of Personnel Management at Crown Plaza, Port Moresby.

Department of Personnel Management has hosted a three-day workshop themed “Correct Process and Procedures for Retirement” which was attended by all Government Departments and State Agencies on the 22-24 June 2021 at the Crown Plaza, Port Moresby.

Department of Finance Human Resources officers were also part of the meeting to learn about the correct procedures for 2021 retirement exercise for DoF officers. DPM stated those officers who missed out on the 2020 retirement exercise will

all be included in 2021 compulsory age retirement.

DPM Secretary Taies Sansan who was there to officiate the workshop said this year we are looking at 404 public servants for compulsory age retirement with an estimated budget of K80 million inclusive of Nambawan Super costs.

She said DPM is taking a new approach to implement the retirement exercise through the Government payroll system that includes the officer's repatriations to their respective provinces.

“The onus now is on each Government agencies to take responsibilities of your officers for the 2021 exercise.

She further said all Government agencies are urged to deal with their officers and see who have reached the compulsory age and get them prepared for the retirement exercise.

“We access the Government payroll system and sometimes at the end of pay 26, some Government agencies should have some money in their accounts. I want to urge agencies to use this money to retire officers under compulsory age for retirement,” she said.

“I hope that at the end of this workshop you will learn as much as you can, the procedures, and the correct processes to carry out retirement exercise in your respective agencies.”

Secretary Sansan said the information provided to us by HR officers from the respective Government agencies is vital for the budget of this exercise, therefore it is important that you provide the correct information for your officers

Meanwhile, at the workshop DPM highlighted new initiatives the Department is embarking on including Housing for public servants, public service clinic and media and Life Insurance Policy.

Dept retirees to sign ‘Deed of Release’

Continue from page 1

The 2020 retirees’ awareness session was a success and thanks to Department of Personal Management officers who was there to facilitate the session yesterday (13 July 2021) for the National Capital District retirees.

The Awareness Session was led by Department of Personnel Management, which DOF retirement team and 2020 retirees were also part of the session.

During the session, they inform the retirees of their final entitlements and also go through with them to make sure they agree with it before signing the Deed of Release.

All retirees were given a week to



NCD Retiree Lohia Gabutu.

confirm their entitlements and revert back to responsible officers to proceed on for payment which is set for pay 17 of 2021.

One of our DoF retiree Ms Lohia Gabutu who was very excited and agreed to sign her Deed of Release after going through her final entitlements.

Ms Gabutu started working with the Department at the age of 16 in 1976 as a typist until 1978 she was promoted to work as a machinist.

When asked how she feels leaving after years of serving in the public service, a joyful Ms Gabutu said it's about time to leave and give space for the young ones.

I have given my best to serve the people of this country and now is time to be with my family.

And yes I have decided to use my final entitlement to venture into SMEs.

My heart felt thank you to the Retirement team for making it possible for the smooth transition and payout of our final entitlements.



East Sepik Governor Hon. Allan Bird handing over the electronic copies of East Sepik Integrated Development Plan 2018-2028 and the East Sepik Corporate Strategic Plan 2020-2023 to Secretary Dr Ken Ngangan at the Vulupindi Haus, Port Moresby.

East Sepik Provincial Government presents implemenation strategies

The East Sepik Governor Hon. Allan Bird has handed in electronic copies of the East Sepik Integrated Development Plan 2018-2028 and the East Sepik Corporate Strategic Plan 2020-2023 to Secretary Dr Ken Ngangan on 18 June 2021 at Vulupindi Haus, Port Moresby.

On behalf of the Department, Secretary Ngangan was also honored to witness the handover and takeover ceremony of the acting appointment of the Provincial Administrator.

Secretary Ngangan acknowledged East Sepik Governor Allan Bird's leadership and the relationship that enable implementation of reforms the Department is undertaking.

"We have given our support to the out-going Provincial Administrator Dr Clement Malau and we will continue to support the new Provincial Administrator," Secretary Ngangan said.

Dr Ngangan further commended the work in the province in providing services to the people noting is exemplary including the implementation of the Integrated Financial Management System.

"East Sepik is one of the province to successfully rollout the IFMS and an

example we use in the rollout to other provinces in the country," he said.

Meanwhile, out-going Provincial Administrator Dr Clement Malau also handed over the provincial administration to newly appointed acting Provincial Administrator Samson Torovi.

This was followed by a symbolic handover of assets to Mr Torovi by the out-going PA Dr Clement Malau.

East Sepik Governor Hon. Allan Bird who was part of the witnesses commended both the incoming and out-going provincial administrators for a smooth transition of the administration.

Governor Bird said this is a good example to show to the rest of the people of this country how we manage public offices.

There to witness the occasion were, Secretary Department of Finance, East Sepik Governor Hon. Allan Bird, newly appointed Acting Provincial Administrator, out-coming PA Dr Clement Malau, Department of National Planning and Monitoring representative, ESP Provincial Government representatives and DoF officers.

(L-R) A symbolic handover of assets to New Acting Mr Torovi by the out-going PA Dr. Clement Malau.





IFMS Sub-National ROLLOUT UPDATE

IFMS Roll out resumed mid July 2021 with the first roll out of the year in progress at the Milne Bay Provincial Government. Milne Bay PFO & DFO are now using IFMS for Non-Tax Revenue Collections and also have printed their first cheque on Friday 16th July. The roll out in the province is continuing with more hands on experience in using the system.

Roll out to Gulf Province has also been scheduled. Our IFMS Team will be leaving for Gulf on the 1st of August to do roll out in Gulf Province.

The completion of these two provinces will bring to total number of 15 Provinces now on IFMS.

Planned roll outs to Western and West Sepik Provinces are suspended due to the COVID-19 situation across the border.

PHAS

The completion of the roll out to the Morobe and NCD PHAs brings to 10 the total number of PHAs online on IFMS.

Roll out to Central Province PHA is in progress with the Pre-requisite work being undertaken.

Other Milestones Achieved

- GST Withholding Tax

The configuration of GST Withholding Tax on IFMS has resulted in:

- 7 Million Kina collected in May 2021 via IFMS and remitted to IRC in June 2021
- 11 Million Kina collected in June 2021 due for remittance to IRC
- Configuration for the Sub National is in progress and should be completed and implemented in the next 2 – 3 months. This will see more GST collected from the Sub National Level.

PEFA assessment reports to be finalised



The Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA) National Repeat Assessment and the Sub-National Assessment have been completed in 2020 in an extensive consultation led by PFTAC with key development partners from the World Bank, European Union, ADB, DFAT-Australia and the PNG Government.

According to James Kanalnaga (insert), PEFA Consultant, since July 2019, 11 Government agencies and two non-government organisations are involved in the assessments; Department of Treasury, Department of Finance, NEFC, Department of Personnel Management, Auditor General's Office, Department of National Planning and Monitoring, National Procurement Commission, Internal Revenue Commission, PNG Customs Service, Department of Health and Department of Education, PNG Chamber of Commerce and Industry and PNG Transparency International.

This repeated assessment aims to strengthen Public Financial Management reforms under the Public Finance Management Act to give Government agencies and statutory bodies greater access to enhance the quality of assessments at

the sub-national level.

Few of the assessment frameworks in PFM involve accountability, budget preparations, budget execution, accounting and reporting.

This is to familiarise officers on the national standards of the public expenditure management and criteria for good public financial management.

The Sub-national provincial assessments for 2019-2020 have been completed and only awaiting the final two assessments of East Sepik and Central provinces which was delayed to this year. The delay was due to COVID-19. The overall report of all assessments is anticipated to be ready by end of this year.

The assessment report produced by assessors are reviewed by PEFA Secretariat and the Technical Expert to ensure that reports appropriately reflect the situation and concerns of the provincial administration and that ratings given for Performance Indicators and dimensions meet the set criteria.

Meanwhile, the PEFA Road Map will require substantial involvement by the National Government agencies in order to strengthen ownership of reforms outside of DoF.

The new Road Map will form the basis for the next phase of PFM Reforms for implementation commencing 2021-2024.

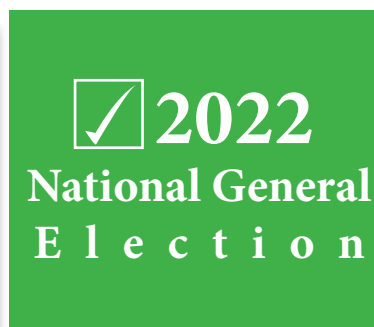


Keeping our provincial and district offices connected.

DoF ICTD team testing internet access (speedcast teleport base station) at Ravuvu in preparation for Department's cloud email rollout to PFOs and DFOs.



Procedures for Public Servants wishing to contest the 2022 National General Election



A recent Circular Instruction No. 21 of 2021 (dated 9th July, 2021) has been released by Secretary for the Department of Personnel Management Taies Sansan to all National Departmental Heads, Heads of other Public Authorities, all Constitutional Office-Holders and all Provincial Administrators outlining the procedures for public service officers who wish to contest the 2022 National General Election.

Stipulated in the circular, as per the application of the Act and the General Orders, section 55 of the Public Service (Management) Act 1995 (as amended) requires that all Public Officers, including Agency Heads and Heads of Mission wishing to contest the 2022 National General Elections (NGE) shall resign from Office at least (6)

months prior to the date of issue of Writs by the PNG Electoral Commissioner. The provisions of the Act for this purpose apply to all State Services and other Public Authorities.

Aspiring candidates are urged to study the General Order (Fourth Edition) 20.11 to 20.22 of January 2012 governing the arrangements before and after the General Election to understand the provisions of the Act and General Orders in order to understand their rights and obligations prior to resigning from their respective organisations.

Normal recruitment, selection and appointment procedures will apply to the positions vacated by aspiring candidates during the Election period. Substantive or acting appointments may be made by

each employing authority as unsuccessful candidates will have already lost their right of tenure to any substantive position as a result of their resignation.

Each Agency and employing Authority shall retain proper records of resignation documentation for the purpose of administering pay out of service related entitlements or reinstatement whichever is appropriate.

A copy of each resignation letter shall be forwarded to the Secretary for the Department of Personnel Management (DPM) for administrative and record purposes.

DPM has advised any queries regarding this matter can contact DPM-Technical Working Group (2022 National General Election) on telephone 327 6335, 327 6443 or 327 6352.

UP COMING EVENTS

■ R & R Exercise for Southern Region

■ Recruitment Exercise for Headquarter, Provincial Finance Office and District Finance Office

■ Regional Workshop for PFOs and DFOs - Momase Region

Putting together a complete newsletter is a team work. Therefore officers are urged to consider contributing an article or pictures of any of the projects launching, workshops, conference, trainings or any other useful information that is of news worthy. If you have no time to write a summary, please let the team know so that we can assist on what you want us to include on the next issue. On that note if you have upcoming events please include the team for media coverage. Please see the Communications and Reporting Team at OSD