Department of Finance

# NEWSLETTER

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## What's inside:



### SECRETARY'S KONA

**SAMUEL PENIAS**
**SECRETARY**

*Dear Reader*

*Firstly, I'd like to say thank you to all the staff and management of the Department in the HQ as well as our subnational offices for the spectacular 50th Independence Anniversary celebrations. The representation of our cultures through artifact displays, traditional attires, face painting, both traditional and contemporary dances and mostly honoring our forefather's legacy showed the true spirit of unity. Thank you all again.*
*In this issue, I'm thrilled to announced the signing of the MoU between the Department and BSP to see the traditional government cheque payments be replaced with EFT transactions, successful contract signing for our subnational officers and share updates on both internal and external trainings.*
*Having said that, the Department also joins the rest of the government agencies and private business community in the fight against all forms of cancer. Pinktober raises awareness on Breast Cancer and it's everyone's choice to seek early screening for self-awareness and early detection.*

*Happy reading.*

# Gov't cheques to be replaced by EFT


**The Department of Finance in partnership with BSP Financial Group has recently signed a memorandum of understanding for the implementation of Electronic Fund Transfer. This agreement will see efficiency of paying of governments goods and services. Pictured is DoF Secretary Samuel Penias and BSP Chief Operating Officer Nuni Kuku with the signed MoU.**

Department of Finance is continuing to promote the government's commitment to digitalizing all government payments and will soon replace cheque payments with Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT).
In a small yet important Memorandum of Understanding signing between the Department and Bank of South Pacific, Secretary Samuel Penias highlighted the department's journey from manual systems riddled with fraud and inefficiencies to embracing technology that delivers speed and security.
Secretary Penias said that this EFT is an additional milestone achievement, moving away from cash and cheque transactions and bring in new digital transformation to the Department essentially providing improved digital financial options to businesses and citizens.
The Australian High Commission, a partner in the reform, hailed the move as a milestone in building transparency and accountability in public expenditure. BSP Chief Operating Officer Nuni Kulu praised the initiative, calling EFT "a service that benefits consumers, businesses, and communities." She stated that real-time visibility will strengthen trust and improve certainty for those engaging in

>>> page 2

# Electronic Funds Transfer: e-Smart, e-Safe, e-Secure

<<<page 1

business with government.
With backing from international partners, local banks, and state agencies, the reform promises to cut costs, boost efficiency, and set the stage for the Department of Finance to bring in a more modern, transparent financial system in the government.
Using EFT will mean that the traditional way of doing business through cheque payments will be replaced by EFT where funds will be remitted directly into respective supplier bank accounts. This change is part of the Government's ongoing efforts under the Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP IV) to support digital transformation, improve service delivery, and promote a more efficient, secure, and sustainable public financial management system.

# Successful contract signing for subnational officers

**Officers from Sub-Nationals were urged to provide timely financial reports. Secretary Samuel Penias stressed that during the contract signing of the officers. Pictured is Provincial Finance Manager Walis Imbal signing his contract with the assistance of HR Officer Carlbo Saiyomina.**

The Department hosted a significant contract signing event for its Provincial Finance Managers (PFMs) and District Finance Managers (DFMs) last month. This move aims to ensure that overdue contracts are addressed and that provincial officers remain committed to upholding the department's principles of transparency, efficiency, and accountability.
The signing ceremony, which took place at Gateway Hotel, was a key moment to reinforce the importance of consistent monthly and annual reports from all provinces. It was a reminder that the commitment to the Department's core processes must remain unyielding, despite the pressures from political influences or external distractions.
Secretary Penias firmly stated that no political pressure from Members of Parliament or Provincial Governments will influence the dismissal and appointment of his officers. Such decisions will be done according to performance through his management.
In a pointed remark, Secretary Penias also challenged the officers about the issue of bank balances sitting idle in provinces and districts.
"I am calling on provincial and district officers including PCaB staff to take swift action in ensuring daily tasks more so funds are allocated and spent quickly, without unnecessary delays. Provinces must stop holding onto funds for too long and should aim to accelerate the flow of financial resources for development purposes."
"There must be no room for complacency. All officers are expected to adhere to deadlines, act swiftly on financial matters, and provide accurate reports to ensure the smooth functioning of the department's operations," Secretary Penias said.
In closing, he reminded the team that their work affects the country's overall financial health, and it's crucial they stay focused, diligent, and committed to delivering their best performance.

***"Your continuous adherence to DoF processes is paramount for national development."***

Secretary Samuel Penias

# Monetary and Fiscal Forecasting

**1st ROW (L-R)** Brent Jamma, Richard Yakam, Ruthie Synell, Vavine Nouairi, Ruth Dot, Richard Napam. **2nd ROW (L-R)** Leonie Sape, Collin Nixon, Iris Claus, Meson Tumsok, Diana Tuam, **3rd ROW (L-R)** Siwi Yoka, Kelly Dama, Carson Gire, Susan Sapa, Rayleen Genomalu, Natasha Onesimo **4th ROW (L-R)** Jonathan Wak, Waila Gima, Barry Lei, Matthew Pikuel, Isabella Yakali, **5th ROW (L-R)** Kamae Gerual, Jamie Sali, Gail Sabok and Ridlah Tomedem

A high-level training workshop was successfully conducted at the Hilton Hotel, Port Moresby, led by the Bank of Papua New Guinea (BPNG) in collaboration with PFTAC (IMF).

This intensive program brought together analysts from key State Agencies, including:

- National Statistical Office (NSO)
- Bank of Papua New Guinea (BPNG)
- Internal Revenue Commission (IRC)
- Independent Consumer and Competition Commission (ICCC)
- Department of Treasury

The training focused on enhancing technical capacity in Monetary and Fiscal Forecasting Models, a critical tool for evidence-based policy formulation and macroeconomic planning.

Participants were awarded the Certificate in Monetary and Fiscal Forecasting Model, proudly presented by the Deputy Governor of BPNG and representatives from PFTAC.

This marks a significant step forward in strengthening Papua New Guinea's institutional capacity for economic analysis and forecasting.

**Emerging Leaders Program 2025**
**Melody & Kimberly's Monthly Newsletter**

**Monday, 8th September 2025**

Kurakama (Kyaka – Enga-Baiyer), Holiseh-Lamineveh (Goroka-Tokano), gudei na tenkyu tru lo ritim toksave bilong mitupla bilong dispela mun!

We have now finished our time in our first rotations and passed halfway of our secondment. Yes, it seems like only last month we came here! We have now become accustomed to life in beautiful Canberra and quite sad that we have just over two months left in our secondment.

In this edition, we share with you about the teams we are now placed in and a bit about what has been a highlight to each of us for the month.

We hope you enjoy our brief update and wish you wonderful celebrations for Papua New Guinea's 50th Anniversary as a nation!

## Update

I joined the Consolidated Financial Statements (CFS) Team in the Estimates & Reporting Branch in the beginning of this month and was able to adapt quickly into the team because of the amazing team culture and availability and range of training materials to refer to. The team is currently working alongside KPMG on what is arguably the largest consolidation in the Southern Hemisphere, to put together the Consolidated Financial Statements of the whole of Australian Government for the Financial Year 2024-25. Estimates & Reporting Branch is in the Financial Analysis, Reporting & Management (FARM) Division in the Government & Resource Management (GARM) Group. For this month, CFS focused on performing quality assurance on the financial statements that entities have been submitting. *-Kimberly-*

The Central Budget Management System Branch (CBMS) is a priority Whole of Government (WoG) application that manages the flow of financial information between Finance and Commonwealth Government entities to facilitate cash and appropriation management, preparation of budget documentation and financial reporting. Within the CBMS branch, I am attached with the CBMS Support and CBMS Application team which is responsible for providing support for CBMS users in both finance and Entities, including second and third level Service request and incident resolution, problem and change management, quality control, communication to users and managing the vendors contracts for system development and maintenance. *-Melody-*

## Highlight of the month

*Attending the Parliament Senate Session*

On the 26th of August, I joined the Graduates to do a Parliament Tour called the Yeribee Tour. In this tour we learned about the Indigenous Australian Parliamentarians and Art Collections of the Aboriginal and Tores Straight Islanders. After the tour, we attended a Parliament Senate Question Session and watched how the Opposition and other MPs asked questions to the Government for accountability purposes. – *Kimberly* –

*Social Club Happy Hour in August*

This is a corporate engagement culture where all staff are welcome to join the Social Club where officers get to have chats and good vibes, along with Ice-cold drinks, warm conversation, mini games and board games and Table Tennis challenges. – *Melody* –

October is

**Breast Cancer Awareness Month**

Prevention & Early Detection

# THINK PINK

Think Prevention

SMALL STEPS - BIG IMPACT

PAPUA NEW GUINEA CANCER FOUNDATION
AWARENESS & ADVOCACY

*"If there's one thing I am strongly advocating for, it is regular screenings because early detection saves lives."*

*- Bertha Ngahan*

***Not all breast lumps are cancer—many are benign (non-cancerous).*** *However, if any of these changes are noticed, it's important to see a doctor or visit a health facility as soon as possible for proper examination and tests.*

## Changes in the Breast

- A lump or thickened area in the breast or underarm that feels different from surrounding tissue.
- Swelling in part of the breast (even if no lump is felt).
- Change in the size or shape of the breast.
- Skin changes on the breast, such as dimpling, puckering, or appearing like an orange peel.
- Redness, rash, or scaling on the breast, nipple, or areola.


## Nipple Changes

- Nipple discharge (other than breast milk), which may be clear, yellow, brown, or bloody.
- Nipple retraction (turning inward) or change in nipple position.
- Pain or itching around the nipple.

Your **HEALTH** is your **WEALTH**

# Celebrating our nation's golden jubilee























*One nation, one country, one people*

# Celebrating our nation's golden jubilee