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Australian Government  
Department of Finance

Emerging Leaders Program  
Magdeline, Ruth & Stanis

February  
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### SECRETARY'S KONA



**SAMUEL PENIAS**  
SECRETARY

*Dear Reader*

The first quarter has shown what this Department can achieve when we work as one. I commend you all for the continued progression of the EFT rollout – a major reform that strengthens transparency and timely payments across government. In March, we acknowledge the International Women's Day, recognising the leadership and contribution of women across Public Service and especially our Department. I also congratulate few of our staff who were the recent graduands of DWU & SILAG and warmly welcome the 2026 staff inductees, welcome to the public service. These milestones reflect our shared commitment to a modern, accountable public service. Let us carry this momentum forward as we serve the people of Papua New Guinea.

Happy reading.

## All Agencies to use EFT by 2027



Secretary Samuel Penias addressing the participants during the 2026 Electronic Funds Transfer Forum, hosted at the Hilton Hotel in March.

The Department of Finance has formally called on all government agencies and statutory authorities across Papua New Guinea to transition to electronic payment system by 2027, marking a significant step toward modernising the country's public financial management framework through digitalisation.

The announcement was made by Finance Secretary Penias during an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) awareness forum held in Port Moresby on March 27 at the Hilton hotel. The forum brought together key stakeholders to discuss the nationwide rollout of the EFT system and its role in strengthening accountability

and efficiency in government financial operations.

Secretary Penias stated, the transition to EFT is aligned with the Government's broader digitalisation reform agenda under the Medium Term Development Plan IV. He explained that the move is necessary to replace outdated manual and cheques-based payment methods, which are increasingly inefficient, costly, and vulnerable to risk.

"Under the new system, all government payments will be made directly into bank accounts through secure electronic transfers. This shift is expected to significantly improve financial control,

reduce operational delays, and enhance transparency through better audit trails. It will also ensure stronger compliance across agencies, supporting more reliable and consistent financial practices.”

Finance Deputy Secretary (Operations), Stephen Nukuitu, confirmed that several key institutions including the National Procurement Commission, PMNEC, the Auditor-General’s Office, and the National Parliament have already adopted the EFT system, demonstrating early progress in the transition process.

He emphasised that the reform is part of a wider digital transformation agenda aimed at bringing government systems in line with modern expectations. “In today’s environment, payment systems must be secure, timely, traceable, and efficient,” Mr. Nukuitu stated.

“One of the most notable improvements under the EFT system is the drastic reduction in processing time. Payments that previously took several working days to complete can now be processed within three to five minutes, significantly improving service delivery across government agencies”.

The Department of Finance is now working to ensure all national agencies are fully on boarded before the 2027 deadline. Once fully implemented, the EFT system is expected to play a critical role in establishing a modern, efficient, and transparent public financial management system in Papua New Guinea.

The reform not only addresses current inefficiencies but also positions the government to better manage public funds in a secure and accountable manner, ultimately improving service delivery for citizens.

## EFT Forum Highlights



**Deputy Secretary Operations & EFT Project Team Chair, Stephen Nukuitu presented on the EFT roadmap strategy.**

**Key presenters: Secretary Mr. Penias, a/FAS Ms Philip, BPNG Assistant Governor Alfred Napun, Deputy Secretary Mr. Nukuitu & DICT rep**



**Acting FAS FCD presenting on the overview of the Government’s EFT Payments.**



**The crowd at the Hilton hotel where government agencies, stakeholders as well as few of the private sector keen on understanding the roll of the new government EFT payment system.**



# More government agencies onboard EFT rollout

The Finance Department has successfully continued its roll-out of the Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) system, marking a significant milestone with the completion of its first transaction at the National Parliament on Friday.

Deputy Secretary for Operations, Stephen Nukuitu, confirmed that the EFT system initially launched last year is designed to transition government payments from cash and cheques-based methods to direct bank transfers. This shift is part of a broader strategy to modernize public financial management across government institutions.

“The onboarding of National Parliament accounts onto the EFT platform is expected to streamline payment processes for Members of Parliament and staff. As a result, users can now experience faster, more secure, and transparent transactions, including payments for personal emoluments such as salaries, pensions, and service related expenses.”

“The system significantly reduces processing time, with transactions taking less than five minutes to

complete at the click of a button. He emphasized that the adoption of EFT will improve efficiency, accountability, and transparency in handling public funds.”

Clerk of Parliament Kala Aufa welcomed the initiative, noting that integrating EFT with the Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS) strengthens financial controls and enhances reporting mechanisms. Every transaction processed through the system is now recorded, traceable, and auditable.

The Finance Department aims to expand the EFT system to all national agencies by the end of the year, with full implementation at the sub-national level targeted for 2028. This initiative reflects the government’s ongoing commitment to strengthening public financial management and delivering efficient, accountable services to the people of Papua New Guinea.

The successful rollout at Parliament represents a critical step toward achieving a fully digitised and transparent government payment system.



Clerk Of Parliament Kala Aufa





# Emerging Leaders Program 2026 Magdeline, Ruth & Stanis Monthly Newsletter

Friday, 13 March 2026

February

NL#1/26

## Welcome

**Welcome to the first edition of our monthly newsletter, coinciding with the celebration of Lunar New Year 2026.**

We are pleased to share the beginning of our professional journey in Canberra, marked by both career development and meaningful personal experiences. As we settle into Australia's capital, we have embraced the city's culture, community, and way of life, from local cafés to navigating the public transport network. These early experiences have supported our transition and helped us quickly feel connected and engaged.

This newsletter provides an overview of our arrival in Canberra, our induction into the Australian Public Service (APS) within the Department of Finance, and our respective work placements.

We arrived in Canberra late on 28 January 2026 after transiting through Brisbane. Shortly thereafter, we were introduced to the city through an orientation tour, which included key landmarks such as Parliament House, as well as local amenities and transport routes.

From 4–6 February 2026, we participated in a three-day APS induction program alongside new starters, graduates, and cadets. Following our formal induction, we were issued with essential work resources, including security access passes, official laptops, system access, and office facilities.

We commenced our respective placements on 9 February 2026:

1. **Mr. Stanis Hirie** was placed under Commercial Wing, Procurement Division and Strategic Contracting Branch. Basically, this branch handles People Panel procurement Arrangements for whole of Australian Government (WoAG).

2. **Ms. Magdeline Igo** is placed in Central Budget Management System (CBMS) Platform enablement unit under CBMS division. CBMS like IFMS are ERP applications, CBMS manages the flow of financial information between Aust Finance and other government entities, preparation of budget documentations and financial reporting. CBMS platform enablement manages the CBMS PaaS ICT Infrastructure.
3. **Ms. Ruth Doth** is Placed in Official Public Account Administration and Banking unit under Financial Management Branch, Financial Analysis, Reporting and Management Division (FARM). Financial Management Branch is responsible for appropriation management and establishment of legislative authority for commonwealth spending. The OPA team is responsible for overseeing and managing the cash management process.

### "Tour of the Australian Parliament Haus"



Picture Above: Magdeline, Ruth and Stanis with International officer Iain Slater at the Australian Parliament Haus.



## international women's day

March 8, 2026

I would like to acknowledge the PNG National Women's Day as the national observance of the International Women's Day celebrated globally in March every year.

I would like to recognise the contribution of women across the public service and the country as a whole.

This year's theme: "Give to Gain", highlights the value of investing in others through leadership, mentorship, and service, with benefits that strengthen institutions, families and communities.

Women across the Department continue to demonstrate professionalism, resilience, and commitment in delivering core financial management functions and supporting national development priorities.

The Department reaffirms its commitment to creating an inclusive and supportive workplace that enables women to progress, lead, and contribute meaningfully at all levels alongside male colleagues.

I would like to encourage all staff to reflect on the theme and consider practical actions that support and uplift colleagues, recognizing shared efforts that delivers stronger outcomes for the Department and for Papua New Guinea.

#give to gain



# Congratulations



The Department through HRSE Branch of OSD congratulate these graduands of the Department and those graduating later this year. The knowledge and experiences you've gained will serve as the foundation for your aspirations and dreams. Embrace the challenges ahead with courage, and never stop learning.

1. *MBA, Accounting, DWU - Benjamin Kerua*
2. *Diploma of Government Public Administration, SILAG - Ralai Benedict*
3. *Advance Diploma of Government Leadership & Management, SILAG- Ruth Gorua*



4. *Diploma in Accounting, SILAG*
  - Nazaliyah Kirina
  - Greg Kwabuna
  - Irene Wingu
5. *Certificate in Accounting, SILAG*
  - Serah Kairi
  - William Bina
  - Michael Kula
  - Evelyn Mone
  - Ruth Kulu



# Inductees receive National Certificate 2 as public servants



*Department's 11 inductees are now certified as Public Servants in compliance under the General Orders 4 with National Certificate 2. Most of these certified officers are from GOAC, IFMS & Legal Unit.*

Eleven officers from the Department of Finance, along with two officers from the Department of Personnel Management, have successfully completed the National Certificate 2 in Government (NC2G) Public Service Induction (PSI) training at the Somare Institute of Leadership and Governance (SILAG).

The week-long training, held from 23rd to 27th March 2026, was coordinated by HRSE (OSD) under the leadership of acting FAS OSD Ms. Geraldine Kaupa. The program was designed to strengthen participants' understanding of the General Orders, the Public Service Management Act, and the core responsibilities expected of public servants.

Speaking on behalf of the inductees, representative Legal Officer Sheila Gongilo expressed appreciation for the opportunity and acknowledged the leadership and support provided throughout the training.

"After working for some time, not all of us fully understood or had taken

the time to read the General Orders, which give effect to the Public Service Management Act. This induction has helped us understand the basics of public service and what is expected of us as public servants," she said.

Participants from various divisions within the Department of Finance brought diverse experiences, but the training reinforced a shared purpose, to serve the people of Papua New Guinea with professionalism, honesty, and integrity.

The closing ceremony was officiated by SILAG Executive Director Mr. Allan Kamale, who emphasized the importance of understanding roles and responsibilities in public service.

"Every public servant must understand the public service and be aware of their roles and responsibilities to better serve our people," Mr. Kamale said.

He further highlighted that public service is both a national and moral obligation, encouraging officers to uphold key principles such as loyalty to their organisation, obedience to their duties, and integrity in all aspects

of their work.

He concluded with a reminder: "Being at the right place, at the right time, with the right people, doing the right thing when no one is looking."

The training aligned with the Department of Finance's mission statement, "Providing prudent and accountable service delivery to our people," reinforcing the importance of accountability and ethical conduct in service delivery.

At the conclusion of the program, all thirteen participants were awarded National Certificate 2 and formally sworn into public service, marking a significant milestone in their professional journey.

The inductees reaffirmed their commitment to applying the knowledge gained and to serving their respective organizations and the nation with diligence, integrity, and excellence. Photos were also taken during the induction and certificate presentation to commemorate the occasion.

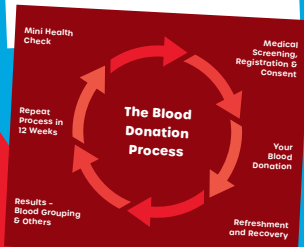
# Health Talk

## Blood Donation

Every day, public servants keep PNG running – processing payroll, funding schools, hospitals, and serving our people. The Sir Brian Bell Centre for Transfusion Medicine (SBBCFTM) does the same for our health system. Like the work we do, blood donation is a service that others depend on. A bag of blood donation from a healthy officer can save up to three lives in PMGH and provincial hospitals. SBBCFTM team works to keep blood donations safer for mothers, accident victims, and surgical patients nationwide. As working professionals, we have the health and stability to give – and that gift keeps other families together.

### Did you know that Blood Donation benefits the donor too?

- You get a FREE mini health check (check your weight, pulse, haemoglobin level, blood pressure).
- Your blood is also screened for your blood group and tested for HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C & Syphilis.
- Enhances the production of new blood cells.
- Reduces clotting in blood which can lead to heart attack or stroke.
- This free mini-physical can offer excellent insight into your health. It can effectively detect problems that could indicate an underlying medical condition or risk factors for certain diseases however this should not be used as a replacement for medical care.



### How often can a person donate blood?

You must wait at least 12 weeks (3 months) before next blood donation. Donating whole blood before 3 months from previous donation can have negative health impact on you and the recipient.

You can collect your blood grouping and other test results every Monday at Port Moresby General Hospital, Sir Brian Bell Centre for Transfusion Medicine.

### Donating Blood at PMGH

The Sir Brian Bell Centre for Transfusion Medicine is open daily from 9am to 3.30pm. Nervous about donating? Don't be. The staff at the blood bank will be there to help you feel relaxed and at ease. You can bring a friend or family member and donate together.

1 Donation Can Save 3 Lives

Don't Wait Donate

Be responsible, donate blood, save lives and stay healthy.



Don't live in Port Moresby and still want to donate blood? Contact your nearest hospital or provincial health authority and ask about blood donation.



## We need your blood!

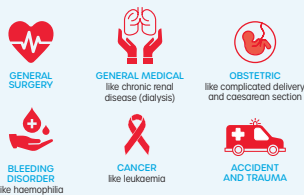
### What Is Blood Donation?

Blood donation is a process by which someone voluntarily gives his/her blood to be screened and used for patient transfusion.

### Why is Blood Donation Important?

It is important because blood cannot be manufactured or produced like other medications. It can only be taken from another human being. Blood donations save lives. Donors like you play an important role in helping make sure that blood is available when and where it is needed most.

### Who does donated blood help?



### How do you ensure or determine that the donated blood is safe to use?

All blood is screened for infectious disease such as HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and syphilis at the Sir Brian Bell Centre for Transfusion Medicine prior to being used. All testing, cross matching and grouping of blood is performed on site before being provided for patient use at PMGH.

### Eligibility Criteria for Suitable Blood Donors

To ensure the safety of blood donation for both donors and recipients, all volunteer blood donors must be evaluated to determine their eligibility to give blood. The final determination will be made on the day of donation.

Age between 18 - 65 years old (16 and 17 year olds with parental consent)

Weigh at least 50kg

You cannot donate if you have a cold, flu, sore throat, cold sore, open sores, stomach bug or any other infection and are currently taking any medical treatment

You cannot donate if you have underlying medical conditions

Not undergone any surgical procedure in last 6 months

If you have recently had a tattoo you cannot donate for 6 months from the date of the procedure

You must not donate blood if you do not meet the minimum haemoglobin level for blood donation. \*A test will be administered at the donation site, a haemoglobin level of not less than 12.5 g/dl

Must be in good health at the time of donation

It is not advisable to donate blood if you are pregnant, breast-feeding, have had baby in last two years

It is not advisable to donate blood if you engaged in "at risk" sexual activity in the past 12 months

### Preparation For A Successful Blood Donation

Eat lots of iron rich foods to ensure you have sufficient iron levels (red meat, eggs, poultry, leafy greens, nuts). Increase your vitamin C consumption (orange juice, citrus fruits or Vitamin C Supplement. Vitamin C for iron absorption).

Ensure you have at least 8 hours of sleep. Ensure you eat before donation. Drink at least 3 good size glasses of water prior to donation. Do not consume alcohol at least 24 hours prior to donation. Wear a short-sleeved shirt or shirt with sleeves that are easy to roll up. Let us know if you have a preferred arm or particular vein that has been used successfully in the past to draw blood. Relax, listen to music, talk to other donors or read while you donate.

### Post Blood Donation

Ensure you lay on the bed for at least 5-10mins after blood donation. Keep the strip bandage on for the next several hours; to avoid a skin rash, clean the area around the bandage with soap and water. Don't do any heavy lifting or vigorous exercise for the rest of the day. If the needle site starts to bleed, apply pressure and raise your arm straight up for 5-10 minutes or until bleeding stops. After donating blood, you'll have a snack and something to drink in the refreshment area. You'll leave after 10-15 minutes and continue your normal routine. If you experience dizziness or light-headedness, stop what you're doing and sit down or lie down until you feel better. Keep eating iron-rich foods. Enjoy the feeling of accomplishment knowing you are helping to save lives. Take a selfie, or simply share your good deed with friends. It may inspire them to become blood donors. Fill out our donor evaluation form. If you donate frequently, be sure to eat a healthy diet with iron enriched foods to ensure you continue to replenish your iron stores before your next donation. Save the date in your calendar for your next blood donation.

### LOCATION:

Port Moresby General Hospital (enter via Gate 2), Centre for Transfusion Medicine.

### CONTACT:

+675 324 8195 or email [bloodbank@pomgen.gov.pg](mailto:bloodbank@pomgen.gov.pg).

### REQUIREMENTS:

A mini health check (haemoglobin, blood pressure, weight) is provided for all donors

### Give the Gift of Life

Are you a suitable candidate to donate blood?

- Must be 18-65 years old
- Weigh at least 50kg
- Must be in good health at the time of donation
- Must not undergone any surgical procedure in the last 6months
- You cannot donate if you have underlying medical conditions
- If you have recently had a tattoo, you cannot donate for 6months from the date of the procedure
- It is not advisable to donate blood if you are pregnant, breast-feeding, have had baby in the last 2years
- You must not donate blood if you do not meet the minimum haemoglobin level for blood donation. A test will be administered at the donation site, a haemoglobin level of not less than 12.5 g/dl
- You cannot donate if you have a cold, flu, sore throat, cold core, stomach bug or any other infection and are currently taking any medical treatment
- It is not advisable to donate blood if you engaged in "at risk" sexual activity in the past 12months.

live in Port Moresby and still want to donate blood?

Sir Brian Bell Centre for Transfusion Medicine  
Port Moresby General Hospital  
3 Mile, Taurama Road, Port Moresby  
National Capital District  
Call +675 324 8195

