



# Department of Finance NEWSLETTER



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Issue 3, 2026

## What's inside:



**PM& NEC  
EFT Go-Live**

... Page 2



**Audit Committee  
Launching**  
--Page 05



**SPECIAL EDITION !  
Emerging leaders  
Program...**

Pages 6-7

## Secretary's Kona



**SAMUEL PENIAS  
SECRETARY**

### Dear Reader

I want to take a moment to acknowledge the real progress that continues to show across our work and in the media. The work progress we see on TV, radio and the newspaper reflect what you're delivering every day. Here are few highlights;

The recent launch of the FMM is more than just a new document, it's a practical upgrade so we manage public money with confidence. FIF supports this course and remains a core engagement mechanism to align State agencies on PFMA compliance. The continuation of EFT roll-outs has seen payments moving faster with clearer tracking, e-Pay is making government payment easier for citizens and businesses. We persist for accountability at the subnational level and the statutory bodies through audit committee set ups with more to join.

Thank you for the effort and integrity you bring to your roles. When we deliver well, the good news tells itself.

Happy reading

## PM launches Finance manual



(l-R) Deputy Speaker Koni Iguan, Minister for Rural and Economic Development Joseph Lelang, Department of Finance Secretary Mr Samuel Penias, Minister for Finance Thomas Opa, Prime Minister James Marape speaking during the official launch of the Financial Management Manual at the State Function Room, and Ian Ling-Stuckey Minister for Treasury (Treasurer).

The Government of Papua New Guinea has launched the complete Financial Management Manual series at a national ceremony held at the State Function Room, Parliament House, Waigani.

Prime Minister Hon. James Marape who officiated the launching said, the Financial Management Manual is part of the Government agenda to improve prudence and good governance ensuring that every kina budgeted is spent accordingly.

The launch marks a significant milestone in Papua New Guinea's public financial management reform agenda, releasing for the first time a comprehensive, seven-volume guide to how public money is managed across all government entities. The Financial Management Manual

is issued under the authority of the Secretary for Finance under Section 117 of the Public Finances (Management) Act 1995. It sets out the practical standards, procedures, and accountability frameworks that apply to all national departments, provincial governments, local-level governments, statutory bodies, and government-controlled entities throughout Papua New Guinea.

The volumes cover the full spectrum of public financial management: PFM Foundations; Accountability and Governance; Public Accounts; Financial Reporting; Internal Audit and Controls; an Elected Members Guide; and the Department of Treasury Budget Manual. >>> page 3

# PM's Dept on Electronic payments

The Department of Finance marked another significant milestone in the Government's Public Financial Management Reform Agenda with the official launch of the Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) system at the Department of the Prime Minister and National Executive Council (PM&NEC) on 12th June, 2026.

The launch represents a major step towards modernising government payment systems by transitioning from traditional cheque-based payments to secure, efficient, and transparent electronic transactions. The initiative forms part of the Government's broader strategy to establish a digital and cheque-less public finance environment across all government agencies.

Speaking at the launch, Secretary for Finance Mr. Samuel Penias said the rollout of EFT demonstrates the Government's commitment to strengthening accountability, improving service delivery, and embracing digital transformation across the public sector.

"The implementation of EFT at the Department of Prime Minister and NEC is another important milestone in our journey towards modernising public financial management. Through electronic payments, we are improving efficiency, enhancing transparency, reducing processing times, and ensuring greater accountability in the management of public funds."

Mr. Penias stated that EFT eliminates many of the challenges associated with manual cheque processing, including delays, administrative costs, and operational inefficiencies. The system provides real-time transaction records, improves auditability, and strengthens



*(Department of Finance Secretary Mr Samuel Penias and Chief Secretary to Government Mr Ivan Pamaleu together with other officers during the EFT launching.*

internal financial controls.

Chief Secretary to Government Mr. Ivan Pomaleu welcomed the rollout, noting that the adoption of EFT aligns with the Government's digital transformation agenda and commitment to improving public sector performance.

"This reform will significantly improve the way government conducts its financial transactions. By embracing digital payment solutions, we are enhancing efficiency, reducing turnaround times, and delivering better services to our stakeholders and citizens."

The Department of Finance has been progressively rolling out EFT across government agencies as part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen public financial management systems and support the Government's vision for a modern, transparent, and accountable public service. The EFT platform

complements existing reforms, including the Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS), ensuring that government financial transactions are recorded, traceable, and auditable. The successful implementation at PM&NEC will pave the way for further expansion of EFT services across national departments, provincial administrations, and other government entities.

The Department of Finance acknowledges the support and collaboration of the Department of Prime Minister & National Executive Council, the Bank of Papua New Guinea, the National Payments Council, BSP Financial Group, and all stakeholders involved in delivering this important reform initiative.

>>> *From Page 1*

Minister for Finance, Hon. Thomas Opa MP, said the launch of the complete series represented a turning point for how Papua New Guinea manages its public finances and introducing a modernised system.

“The Financial Management Manual is not a document that sits on a shelf. It is a practical tool for every public servant who handles government money, at every level of government, in every province of this country. When we strengthen financial management, we strengthen service delivery. This is what accountability looks like in practice.”

Secretary for Finance, Mr Samuel Penias, said the completion of all seven volumes was the result of sustained collaboration across government and with development partners.

“The completion of the full series, including the Treasury Budget Manual by the Department of Treasury, gives Papua New Guinea a genuinely comprehensive public financial management framework. Every stage of the budget and financial management cycle is now covered. The Department of Finance is committed to supporting its implementation across all levels of government.”

The launch was attended by senior government officials, members of parliament, development partners, statutory body heads, civil society representatives, and media.

The Financial Management Manual has been developed with the support of the Australian Government through the Australia–Papua New Guinea Economic Partnership.



# Graduate officers undergo training

The Department of Finance is equipping its Graduate Development Program officers with practical training on respectful workplaces and anti-corruption, partnering with Business Coalition for Women and the Independent Commission Against Corruption.

According to acting HR Skills Enhancement (HRSE) Assistant Secretary Letty Difilapnok, the sessions were designed to address a key gap: ensuring new public servants enter the workforce with clear understanding of GESI principles and governance standards.

“We chose BCFW and ICAC because they offer information and training relevant to our GDPs. GESI must be inclusive in the workplace. These young ones must be instilled with information so they can respect and contribute to a safe work environment, free from sexual harassment, intimidation, fear or favour.”

As a registered member of BCFW, the Department of Finance receives 7 additional free sessions on respectful workplace practices through annual support from the Canberra Department of Finance. The ICAC session was also provided free and focused on instilling good governance and accountability in graduates just entering the public service.

Ms Difilapnok said the training directly ties to the department’s broader goal of promoting good governance and transparency across the public sector.

“Attendance for the sessions was exceptional, though the department noted room for improvement as these provides opportunities to learn and grow professionally are given on a



*Graduates listening to the presentation during the workshop*



golden plate.”

“Some topics were not discussed openly, but thanks to the courageous facilitator, who did well by presenting on topics that we should know and avoid. These discussions gave confidence to all, both male and female GDPs, to report any issues or speak out should they encounter any sexual harassment of any forms,” she added.

The department confirmed the training is not a one-off. While the ICAC session was a single event, the BCFW

partnership will continue with 7 more sessions scheduled this year, depending on room availability and workload.

The final training for current GDPs will be the 1-week Public Service Induction scheduled for August 2026.

The Department of Finance remains committed to building a public service culture grounded in respect, accountability and zero tolerance for corruption.

# AIC launches Audit committee

The Department of Finance has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening governance, transparency, and accountability across Papua New Guinea's public sector through supporting the establishment of the Audit Committee for the Accident Investigations Commission (AIC).

The launch marks another important milestone in the Government's ongoing efforts to improve financial oversight, compliance, and institutional accountability across State agencies and statutory organizations.

The Accident Investigations Commission now becomes the 69th active Audit Committee established within PNG's public sector, joining organizations such as the Civil Aviation Safety Authority and the Department of Finance in implementing structured systems for governance monitoring, risk management, and organizational assessment.

Chief Executive Officer of the Accident Investigations Commission, Mr. Raymond Vai, addressed attendees during the launch and outlined the core functions and responsibilities of the Commission. Mr. Vai welcomed the initiative by the Department of Finance and expressed appreciation for the support provided towards strengthening governance within the organization. He emphasized that the Commission highly values compliance, accountability, and sound institutional practices.

Speaking during the launch, Deputy Secretary Dominic Ira and chairman of the Audit Committee reassured the Accident Investigations Commission that the Audit Committee will provide stronger oversight mechanisms, improve risk management practices,

and enhance accountability systems within the organisation.

Acting First Assistant Auditor General, Mr. Ekip Kop, also reaffirmed the importance of the committee, stating that it would serve as a key support mechanism for management in maintaining proper governance, compliance, and financial management standards.

Independent Member, Mr. Jerry Wemin, acknowledged the Commission for maintaining compliance standards despite previously operating without an established Audit Committee. He noted that the Commission had successfully undergone external auditing processes over the past year, demonstrating its commitment to sound governance and transparency.

Mr. Wemin emphasized the importance of maintaining strong governance and compliance mechanisms within the Commission, stating that the establishment of the Audit Committee will strengthen oversight of financial expenditure, compliance monitoring,

and institutional accountability.

He also highlighted that members of the Audit Committee will be assessed against internationally recognized audit and governance measurement standards aimed at promoting best practices, accountability, and continuous improvement throughout the public sector.

Mr. Raymond Vai reiterated his support for the establishment of the committee and stated that the initiative will contribute towards improving decision making processes and organizational efficiency within the Accident Investigations Commission. He thanked the Department of Finance and the Auditor General's Office for their support in launching the committee.

The Department of Finance continues to advocate for stronger governance frameworks across government institutions as part of its broader commitment to improving public financial management, accountability, and effective service delivery throughout PNG.



*(L-R) FA Auditor General Ekip Kop, Deputy Secretary Dominic Ira, AIC CEO Raymond Vai, Independent Member Jerry Wemin, AS Audits Senda Ruga with other officers.*



# Emerging Leaders Program 2026

## Magdeline, Ruth & Stanis's Monthly Newsletter

Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026

**MAY**

**NL#4/26**

### Welcome

To the fourth edition of our monthly newsletter. The month of May depicts as the start of winter despite been the last month of autumn and temperatures can drop as low on average ranging between (6.8 – 20 degrees Celsius) as we prepare ourselves to survive the coming winter and maintaining work life. We also, look forward to a lot of training and development course coming up in the weeks ahead. This month edition is no different to our previous, as we continue to update you all on the activities and key highlights for the month of May.

### May reflections and updates

The beginning of May has brought several challenges, both personally and professionally. On a personal front, I am bracing myself for the approaching winter, as temperatures can drop to below 6 degrees. Even with the heaters on in my apartment, it often feels as though the cold cannot be kept at bay. This has required significant changes to my daily schedule and routine. Adapting to these conditions has meant a complete overhaul of how I structure my days and manage my work routine. Such adjustments can feel quite overwhelming during the winter months.

On a professional front, I had the privilege to attend the Management Advisory Services and People Panel Whole of Government arrangement Services summit in Sydney. Both Suppliers and Entities attended these events with many questions, expecting comprehensive answers, which created a tense yet engaging environment. It was enlightening to listen to discussions from both suppliers and Commonwealth entities. Notably, entities raised questions about how they could utilise the recent amendments to the Commonwealth Procurement Rules, specifically regarding the engagement of suppliers who are not on the MAS panel but still meet their requirements. Suppliers, meanwhile, sought advice on how to enhance their profiles to attract engagement from entities. Overall, the experience was deeply humbling, and I would like to acknowledge Mr Andrew Danks (FAS Procurement Division), Mr Rob Bradley (AS Strategic Contracting Branch), and Mr Josh Eveille (Director, Strategic Contracting Branch) for giving me the opportunity to participate in this event.

Thus, on a career front, looking ahead, there are additional opportunities this month, including AI Fundamentals training courses scheduled in the coming weeks. It is a privilege to have the chance to attend these courses, to learn, and to understand how artificial intelligence is transforming our world and workplaces. I am grateful to the international team for organising these wonderful opportunities for us. All in all, it looks set to be a busy and rewarding month. Thank you for reading, and God bless.

**Stanis Hirie**

### CBMS SAP Security

Over the past four months in Australia Finance, my time has been a really rewarding learning experience. Working in such a diverse and fast-paced environment has helped me build my technical skills while also being part of a supportive and professional team.

I've become more involved in the day-to-day activities of CBMS SAP Security, mainly handling service requests through the service management system. These tasks include user creation, assigning roles through daily exports, processing user cessations, and making updates when users move between divisions or departments. These activities are important in keeping user access accurate and maintaining system security and compliance.

In addition to the daily tasks, I've also had exposure to broader security activities within the team. This includes penetration testing carried out by external providers to identify potential system vulnerabilities, as well as the Information Security Registered Assessors Program (IRAP). IRAP is an independent security assessment that evaluates risks and ensures the CBMS system aligns with the Australian Government Information Security Manual (ISM).

Overall, this experience has helped me build a stronger understanding of SAP security processes and the role of security assurance. It has also highlighted the value of teamwork, continuous learning, and maintaining strong security practices when supporting critical systems.

**Magdeline Igo**

## Core Financial Operations, Daily Routines and Highlights

May has been a rewarding month of professional development and operational engagement while gaining a broader perspective on government accountability.

My daily responsibilities for May focus on maintaining the integrity of the core financial systems. Each morning begins with updating the daily bank reconciliations to ensure precise, real-time account balances. Following this, I assist the OPA team to post Official Public Account (OPA) journals, which provides a practical understanding of how public funds are tracked and reported across the Commonwealth.

In addition, I have been processing appropriation adjustments for Commonwealth entities to align entities funding with current requirements. I have also had the opportunity to collaborate closely with the team by assisting with the June cash forecast. Analysing these trends to project next month's cash flow has been a valuable exercise in forward planning, ensuring the government remains well-prepared for upcoming fiscal demands.

Beyond day-to-day operations, below are two highlights that stood out for me for the month of May.

### Australian Reconciliation Day:

Attending the Reconciliation Day events was a deeply meaningful experience. It provided a valuable opportunity to reflect on Australia's history and the importance of fostering an inclusive, culturally aware workplace that aligns with the values of the Australian Public Service.

**Senate Estimates at Parliament House:** I was fortunate to sit in on the Senate Estimates hearings conducted at Parliament House. Witnessing the legislative scrutiny of public expenditure firsthand was an incredible professional development opportunity. It clearly demonstrated how our daily financial data supports transparent governance and public accountability.

**Ruth Dot**

## Pictures of the Sydney Suppliers Event



*Insert: Department of Finance Procurement Summit on Management Advisor Services and People Panel Services in Sydney. Photo with Andrew Danks – FAS procurement Division*

## Highlight of the Month



*Insert: A selfie taken by Simon Newham Deputy Secretary Business Enabling Services during the Senate Estimates proceedings at the Australian Parliament House with the International Team of Department of Finance.*

# Forum focuses on governance

The Department of Finance has hosted the first Financial Information Forum for 2026, bringing together finance and accounting officers to discuss key reforms and strengthen public financial management across whole of government.

In his opening remarks, Secretary Samuel Penias welcomed Deputy Secretaries, First Secretaries, Chairman, CEOs, Managing Directors and delegates from 38 State agencies and statutory bodies. Of the 120 confirmed participants, 95 are from various State agencies and 20 are from the Department of Finance.

The forum, themed Building Trust in Public Finance through Strong Governance Systems, targets officers whose day-to-day duties involve Public Finance Management.

Secretary Penias said building trust in public finance is fundamental to sustainable development, service delivery, and citizen confidence in government institutions,” the Secretary said.

“In PNG, this trust hinges on how effectively public resources are managed in line with established legal and regulatory frameworks – particularly the Public Finance (Management) Act and the Financial Management Manual,” he added.

Nine presentations were scheduled for the 2026 this first Forum, with 4 delivered by external State agencies and 5 by the Department of Finance. Key topics include:

1. New Financial Management Manual (FMM)
2. Section 32 Gazettal under PFMA 1995
3. Drawing Account – Bank



*(Department of Finance Secretary Mr Samuel Penias speaking during the forum.)*



*One of the participant asking question during the forum*

Reconciliations

4. EFT Awareness
5. NEC Act & NEC Submission revised process
6. Establishment of Internal Audit Committees
7. Non-compliance on submission of AFS by government entities
8. IRC Income & Personal Tax amendments
9. Information & Technology Reforms

Secretary Penias said he expects delegates to find the presentations very interesting and informative on the wide range of reforms being undertaken by the Government.

He concluded by thanking all attendees for their participation and wished them productive discussions on financial management issues throughout the forum.

# GoPNG Online Payment

The Department is modernising all non-tax collection points in the country in all National Government Departments & Line Agencies and in all Provincial & District Finance Cash Offices of Department of Finance through its GoPNG Non-Tax Revenue Online Payment & E-receipting Project.

This project intent to shift the current business process from a manual and semi-manual system to a full digital solution including issuance of receipts to clients, cash office business hours to be 24/7 including weekends and will broaden the efficiency front. This shift in doing government business is part of the overall reforms in the public sector specifically in the public finance management space.

1. The Department of Finance is pleased to announce the following National Government Departments' fees & charges being on boarded into the GoPNG Online Payment & E-receipting Portal and these include;

- Department of Police
- Department of Labour & Industrial Relation
- Department of Education
- National Petroleum Authority (formerly DPE)
- Department of Commerce & Industry

The Department of Police Provincial Police Centers on-boarded and Live on the portal include 14 provincial police centres.

The clients are expected to now pay for government services online using the BSP Internet Payment Gateway



*The recent rollout at the National Petroleum Authority.*



*The rollout at the Department of Labour & Industrial Relation*

(BSP IPG) and BSP Pay options. This marks another key milestone in the Department's ongoing digital transformation initiative to modernise revenue collection in collaboration with BSP Financial Group Limited.

The GoPNG Non-Tax Online Receipting System continues to provide citizens with alternative payment methods, simplify receipt validation for service-rendering agencies, and enhance the Department of Finance's oversight of all government revenue collections.

The Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary was selected as the

pilot agency and was successfully implementing in NCD, and the system has also successfully on-boarded the above National Government Departments and Provincial Police Centers and is progressively being expanded nationwide and across other government agencies.

The Customer Portal allows secure online payments for non-tax revenue fees. You can now choose between BSP Pay and the new BSP Internet Payment Gateway to pay for services online and receive instant digital receipts via email or SMS.

# HEALTH



# KONA



## Weight Management

### Weight management

"Small lifestyle changes practiced consistently are more effective than extreme diets that are difficult to maintain."

### Take Action Today

A healthy workforce is a productive workforce. By making informed lifestyle choices, you can improve your health, increase your energy levels, and enhance your overall wellbeing. Your health is your greatest asset—invest in it every day.



### Quick Wellness Prescription

- ☐ Drink 8 glasses of water daily
- ☐ Walk or run for at least 30 minutes
- ☐ Eat 5 servings of fruits and vegetables
- ☐ Limit sugary snacks and drinks
- ☐ Get 7-9 hours of sleep
- ☐ Exercise by lifting weights



### The Impact of Excess Weight

Being overweight can affect both physical and mental health. Some common risks include:

- High blood pressure
- Type 2 diabetes
- Heart disease
- Joint and back pain
- Reduced energy levels
- Increased workplace stress and fatigue

Taking small steps today can lead to significant health benefits tomorrow.

