Department of Finance

NEWSLETTER

Providing prudent PFM system for sustainable PNG | www.finance.gov.pg

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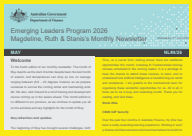
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Secretary's Kona



SAMUEL PENIAS
SECRETARY

Dear Reader

The fourth edition highlights significant progress by the Department advancing public financial management reforms that promote greater transparency, accountability, efficiency and good governance.

Key achievements include the continued Electronic Funds Transfer rollout, digital Public Finance Management training, strengthened provincial audit oversight, retirement planning and professional development initiatives.

These reforms demonstrate our commitment to modernising government financial systems and improving how public resources are managed and services delivered.

Together, these initiatives reinforce responsible management of public funds and better outcomes for citizens.

Happy Reading

Electronic roll out continues



DJAG Deputy Secretary for Corporate Affairs & General Admission Mitchell Taumpson speaking during their EFT launching.

The Department of Finance recently completed Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) rollout workshops in the Highlands and Momase regions. This marks another step forward in the Government's move toward digital public financial management.

According to debrief reports from the regional workshops, provincial and district officers showed strong support for the EFT reform. Hundreds of people participated in awareness and training sessions. The rollout was designed to help everyone better understand the EFT process, how it can improve financial accountability, and how it can prepare government agencies to move away from manual payments.

Feedback from pre- and post-training surveys showed that participants gained more knowledge and confidence in using the EFT system. Most responses were positive, but the reports also noted common challenges. These included limited internet access, insufficient staffing, funding constraints, and the need to raise awareness among agencies

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PNG officials complete Governance Seminar in China

A delegation of Departmental senior management was among 22 other agencies that successfully completed a 21-day governance and public administration seminar in Beijing, People's Republic of China, strengthening professional knowledge and the longstanding relationship between Papua New Guinea and China.

The seminar, hosted by the Chinese National Academy of Governance from 5 to 25 July 2026, brought together PNG officials to study governance, public policy and public service delivery through a combination of classroom lectures and field visits.

Speaking on behalf of the Papua New Guinea participants during the graduation ceremony, participant Finance Deputy Secretary for Strategy and Governance, Mr Dominic Ira expressed appreciation to the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Chinese National Academy of Governance for hosting the program. He also thanked the Government of Papua New Guinea for giving participants the opportunity to broaden their knowledge and exchange experiences with their Chinese counterparts.

Over the course of the seminar, participants attended 12 lectures covering key areas including governance, public administration, ecological civilization, public service delivery, international development cooperation and China's development experience. The program also featured educational visits to historical, academic and technological institutions, permitting participants to observe how governance principles are implemented in practice.

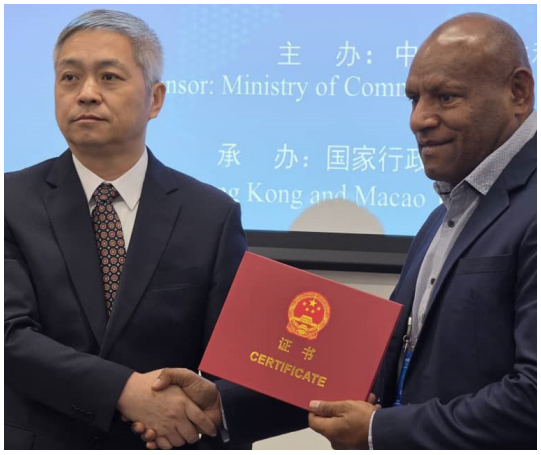
Highlights included visits to the Great Wall, grassroots communities, the Kenpeng Ecological and Artificial Intelligence Centre, leading enterprises, and the Harbin Institute of Technology. These visits provided practical knowledge of community development, technological innovation, environmental protection, scientific research, and education.

Looking back on the experience, Mr Ira said one of the most important lessons was that every nation must pursue a development path that expresses its own circumstances. He noted that the knowledge gained during the seminar would help Papua New Guinea participants reflect on existing systems, exchange ideas and adapt relevant practices that support the country's development priorities.

Mr Ira also acknowledged the contributions of the lecturers, organizers, coordinators and interpreters whose professionalism and hospitality made the program just as meaningful and memorable.

The seminar concluded with participants renewing their devotion to apply the knowledge gained in their respective roles and to continue contributing to strengthened public service delivery in PNG while strengthening the continuing friendship and cooperation between Papua New Guinea and the People's Republic of China.







Pictured, Deputy Secretary Dominic Ira, A/ First Assistant Secretary FAID Stanley Yekep and Assistant Secretary IACD Nene Esau during the certificates presentation

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that have not yet switched to EFT.
The reports stressed the essential nature of maintaining stakeholder involvement, delivering ongoing technical support, and providing additional training so all provinces are ready for implementation. They recommended increasing awareness activities, working more closely with provincial administrations, and providing regular follow-up support to resolve any issues found during the rollout.



The Highlands and Momase debriefs indicate that the Department of Finance is still committed to building a modern, transparent, and efficient government payment system as the national EFT rollout continues throughout Papua New Guinea.



NSL session on retirement savings

The Department of Finance, through the Organizational Strategy Division (OSD), partnered with Nambawan Super Limited (NSL) to deliver a Retirement Savings Account (RSA) Information Session for officers aged 50 and older, reinforcing the Department's commitment to supporting employees as they prepare for retirement.

Held on 7 July 2026 at the Department's Main Conference Room (Hela 1, Level 7), the session provided practical guidance on retirement planning, superannuation benefits, and the effective management of Retirement Savings Accounts.

The program began with an opening prayer by Ms. Wendy Magini, followed by welcome and opening remarks from Mr. Tom Tiki, Acting Deputy Secretary, Support Services. In his address, Mr. Tiki encouraged officers to make informed decisions about their financial future and to take full advantage of the information provided.

Representatives from Nambawan Super Limited led the session, with Mr. Sibona Henao facilitating discussions on retirement readiness, superannuation entitlements, available member services, and the importance of long-term financial planning. Participants also had the opportunity to ask questions and receive advice tailored to their retirement needs.

One of the key moments was when some of the retirees shared strategies with the group to save more during their short period towards retirement.

The session concluded with closing remarks by Ms. Geraldine Kaupa, Acting First Assistant Secretary, Organizational Strategy Division, who thanked the NSL team for sharing their expertise and acknowledged officers' participation. She reaffirmed OSD's commitment to supporting staff development and employee well-being through initiatives that equip officers with the knowledge and resources needed throughout their careers.

The Retirement Savings Account Information Session is part of the Department's ongoing efforts to promote financial literacy and ensure employees are well prepared for a smooth and informed transition into retirement.



Officers listening to the presentation during the NSL information session.



ENB convenes first audit meet

The East New Brtitain Provincial Administration convened its first Audit Committee Meeting with a strong emphasis on accountability, sound financial management, and good governance. Bringing together Audit Committee members, senior management, finance and internal audit officers, and invited officials, the meeting marked an important step towards strengthening oversight of public resources within the province.

In his opening address, the Chair, Deputy Secretary Dominic Ira, pointed out the Committee's responsibility to make sure public funds are managed with integrity and in compliance with the Public Finances Management Act, Finance Instructions, and established governance standards. He stated that effective financial supervision is key to protecting transparency, accountability, and public faith inside government institutions.

The meeting also acknowledged Papua New Guinea's placement on the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Grey List, noting that the country's financial systems are now subject to greater international scrutiny. While accepting the national significance of this development, the Chair emphasized that strong financial management at the provincial level is crucial in improving service delivery and regaining public faith.

He reminded members that sound governance translates into concrete benefits for communities, including better schools, well-stocked health facilities, maintained roads, and improved delivery of essential government services throughout East New Britain Province.

The Committee also dealt with concerns over poor attendance and inadequate follow-up on audit matters in previous meetings. Members were urged to take their jobs seriously, with a revived devotion to meaningful participation and timely implementation of agreed actions. The chair, Deputy Ira, stated that the Department of Finance can invoke penalties by withholding warrant remittances to the province, ultimately shaping service delivery and the province's reputation.

The inaugural meeting focused on three main priorities: reinforcing members' devotion to their roles, reviewing outstanding audit findings and management responses, and agreeing on clear actions with assigned responsibilities and implementation timelines. Progress on these actions will be monitored through quarterly Audit Committee meetings.

Concluding the opening session, the Chair called on management to provide honest and comprehensive reporting and encouraged Committee members to actively support the implementation of decisions. He reaffirmed that every kina of public funds must be administered responsibly and transparently to ensure government resources continue to benefit the people of East New Britain.



Deputy Secretary Dominic Ira (right) with officers from HQ and Provincial Administration officers during the meeting held at Rabaul, ENB.

Dept kicks off online training

The Financial Management Training Branch (FMTB) under the Corporate Services Division has taken a major step toward digital transformation by introducing online blended learning for Public Finance Management (PFM) training through the Department of Finance's Learning Management System (LMS).

The initiative, which forms part of the Department's ongoing digital reforms under the Medium-Term Development Plan IV (MTDP IV), aims to improve access to training, strengthen financial management skills, and equip public sector officers with the knowledge required to effectively manage government financial systems.

The transition from traditional classroom-based training to digital learning officially entered its rollout and awareness phase in 2026, with the Office of Censorship becoming the first National Agency to participate in the online blended learning program. Ten accountable officers successfully completed the training and received Certificates of Attainment during a ceremony held on 8 July 2026 at the Central Government Office.

The online Public Finance Management course covers four key modules: Legal Framework, Minor Procurement, Accounts Payable, and Asset Management Procedures. Participants completed online assessments through the LMS, with the system automatically evaluating results and generating certificates upon successful completion.

The certificate presentation was attended by Secretary for Finance Mr Penias, Acting First Assistant Secretary for Corporate Services Division Mr John Wohiemani, Chief Censor Mr Jim Abani, and representatives from the Office of Censorship.

The Financial Management Training Branch acknowledged the assistance and collaboration of the Office of Censorship in making the first rollout successful. The Branch will continue expanding the online blended learning program to other National Agencies and sub-national government levels beginning in August 2026.

Through this digital reform initiative, the Department of Finance is strengthening public sector capacity by delivering accessible, efficient, and modern training solutions to improve financial management practices across government.



(L-R) A/AS Joseph Tirang, A/FAS CSD John Wohiemani, Secretary Mr Samuel Penias, Chief Censor Mr Jim Abani & Deputy Chief Censor Ms Ilikomau Ali during the presentation of the certificates









Emerging Leaders Program 2026 JUNE NEWSLETTER NL#5/26

Welcome to the fifth edition to our newsletter!

Highlight of June: AI Week

With Artificial Intelligence (AI) continuing to emerge at a rapid pace, the Department of Finance has embraced its use in a way that is safe, responsible and ethical. AI Week featured a range of activities, from information sessions to interactive workshops, experiments and hands-on learning, facilitated by the AI for Finance branch within ICTD. The program was designed for everyone, whether they were simply curious about AI or already using it in the workplace. It provided an opportunity to build confidence, develop practical skills, and see how AI is already helping teams work smarter, faster and more efficiently.

Placement Updates

While continuing doing the daily tasks and activities of CBMS security, I was selected to attend the in-house IT Risk Fundamentals training. This training gave me a clear and practical understanding of IT risk fundamentals and how they apply within an organisation. I learned that effective risk management involves more than identifying threats and vulnerabilities; it also requires strong governance, clear roles and responsibilities, and structured processes for assessing, responding to, and monitoring risk. The training highlighted key risk response options, including acceptance, mitigation, transfer, and avoidance, as well as the importance of monitoring through tools such as key risk indicators, key performance indicators, control testing, incident reviews, and regular reporting. Overall, it strengthened my understanding of how IT risk management supports business objectives and the need for a proactive and continuous approach to managing risk.

Each participant will receive an exam voucher from ISACA, which must be redeemed to sit the exam before the end of December.

Magdeline Igo

Throughout June, I assisted the OPA team to complete essential routine tasks to maintain smooth operation of the OPA team. Additionally, I completed training on "Coaching and Developing Others". This training provided valuable strategies to support team growth and enhance professional capability within the public sector.

Coaching and developing others are a powerful way to lead. It turns daily work tasks into opportunities for employees to learn and grow.

Instead of just telling people what to do, a coaching manager helps employees find their own answers to workplace challenges. This modern approach helps employees work at their very best.

This type of leadership creates major benefits in three key areas. First, it helps individual employees build confidence and learn new skills. Second, it helps the manager because the team learns to solve problems without needing constant help. Finally, it helps the whole organisation by increasing productivity and empowering and motivating employees to stay.

Ruth Dot

The month of June has had its own challenges and reflections compared to previous months as we approach the end of our first placements.

I have continued with my normal daily roles in the procurement division. What stood out for me was the training and development course organised by the International Team, particularly the two-day training on "Coaching and Mentoring Others".

It opened my perspective on coaching and mentoring others in a professional environment, including different coaching models and how I can better assist others to thrive in their work environment.

I also worked on my monthly activity report, which will be submitted to the International Team for review and endorsement before dissemination.

Stanis Hirie

Officers participate in fun day

The PNG Cancer Foundation recently hosted its annual Fit & Fun Challenge, bringing together key organisations, including the Bank South Pacific Financial Group Limited (BSP), the Department of Finance, World Vision, and other participating institutions for a day of health, wellness, and team engagement.

The Department of Finance was invited to participate in the one-day event at Koroboro International School. The friendly competition was designed to encourage workplace wellness, promote active lifestyles, and strengthen teamwork among employees through fun activities.

Under the theme "Fun First, Fitness Forever," the event stressed the significance of staying physically fit while strengthening workplace connections. Participants competed in volleyball and touch football, allowing staff to interact, collaborate, and build team spirit outside the usual work environment.

In addition to sporting activities, the event featured health awareness sessions showcasing the role of fitness in preventing and managing various forms of cancer. The key message, "Fitness is the new fizz," encouraged participants to adopt healthier ways of living and recognize the important role of frequent physical activity plays in improving general health. Staff also benefited from free health checks, allowing them to assess their physical health and gain greater awareness of their fitness levels.

The Department of Finance team demonstrated outstanding teamwork and enthusiasm throughout the competition, securing 3rd Place in Touch Football among six participating teams and finishing 3rd Overall Best Team in the challenge. The team also proudly claimed the Best Overall Chant award, displaying their creativity, unity, and strong team spirit.

The Department of Finance congratulates officers who participated and represented the organization with commitment, energy, and enthusiasm. The event was a great success and strengthened the Department's devotion to fostering a healthy, active, and connected workplace culture. The Department encourages staff to continue participating in future wellness initiatives that support staff well-being and strengthen workplace relationships.







Officers particiapting during the fun day

Health Talk - Wellness First

Health Talk!



We all want to feel good. You do not need to make big changes overnight. Small actions done consistently create big results.

THREE EQUALLY IMPORTANT HABITS

1) WALK

This is the easiest place to start. You don't need equipment or a plan just 30 minutes a day. A walk with the family in the early morning or evening improves heart health, helps maintain a healthy weight, and lifts your mood. It's also simply good time together.

2) RUN

Once walking feels easy, ease into light jogging. You don't need distance a few minutes of jogging mixed with walking builds real fitness. Try 5 minutes to warm up, 10–15 minutes jogging, then walk again to cool down. This isn't a competition with anyone else it's just you, getting a little stronger each week.

3) STRENGTH & STRETCH

Round it out with bodyweight basics. Start with 5 push-ups in the morning and add more as you get stronger consistency beats intensity here. A few minutes of stretching arms overhead, shoulder rolls, legs before and after a walk , keeps you flexible and eases the tension of a desk-bound day.

Bring the family in. Kids who see active parents are far more likely to build the same habits themselves. Trade an hour of screens for an evening walk together, and it stops feeling like "exercise" and starts feeling like family time.

Don't forget the basics alongside movement: drink water through the day, and reach for simple, fresh food when you can. Neither takes extra time — they just take a little intention.

Start now. Not next week, not after "one more thing" gets handled. Take the walk today, your future self, and your family, will feel the difference.

> ***Watch how small daily habits can add up to major health gains. No gym required.***