Department of Finance

NEWSLETTER

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

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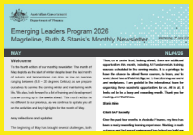
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Secretary's Kona



SAMUEL PENIAS
SECRETARY

Dear Reader

Welcome to this edition of our newsletter. Our reform agenda is moving from plans to practice. On World Teachers' Day, the Department of Education launched its Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) system, bringing one of the State's largest agencies onto cheque-less payments. We also trained Southern Region finance officers on EFT and opened the Receiver of Public Monies (RoPM) Bank Reconciliation rollout in New Ireland to strengthen accountability for public funds.
Our HR team attended the PNG aPay User Group Conference in Brisbane, where the message was clear: payroll is about trust and good governance. At IBS University, our officers introduced students to careers in public financial management and a pictorial of our 51st pre-independence celebration.
We also farewell twelve long-serving officers, and I thank them for their dedication.
Finally, please read our health feature: sit less, move more. A healthy workforce is a productive one. Thank you for your continued commitment.

Dept advances IFMS sustainability



Secretary Samuel Penias and TechnologyOne Regional Director Daniel Sultana witness the signing, in the presence of His Excellency Grand Chief Sir Bob Dadae, of the K26 million, three-year Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) agreement. The agreement marks the next phase in the sustainability and development of the Government's Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS).

The Government of Papua New Guinea has entered a new three-year, K26 million Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) agreement with TechnologyOne, marking a significant new phase in the development and sustainability of the Government's Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS).

The agreement was formally signed at Government House on 8 September 2026, in the presence of Governor-General Grand Chief Sir Bob Dadae, Chief Secretary to Government Ivan Pomaleu, Secretary for Finance Samuel Penias and representatives of TechnologyOne.

For the Department of Finance, the agreement represents more than an investment in technology. It marks the continuation of the Government's public financial management reform agenda and its efforts to strengthen the systems, processes and institutional capacity underpinning the management of public finances.

Secretary for Finance Samuel Penias said the partnership would help ensure that PNG's digital financial backbone remains resilient, secure and ready to meet the Government's evolving financial management requirements.

"This K26 million contract is not just an investment in software. It is a profound commitment to the transparency, accountability and financial sovereignty of our nation," Mr Penias said.

Mr. Penias emphasised that the continued success of IFMS would depend not only on technology, but

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Payroll Governance, Financial Accountability and Digital Transformation



Ms Jenny Tom, Department of Finance's aPay (Alesco) consultant, shares her view on the future of HR and payroll in PNG during the seminar.

At the 2026 PNG aPay User Group International Conference, held in Brisbane from 30 September to 1 October, Department of Personnel Management (DPM) Secretary Taies Sansan emphasised that public service payroll must move beyond salary processing to strong governance, accountability and public trust.

She highlighted the importance of accurate employee records, authorised transactions, approved positions and timely removal of departed employees. She also stressed preventative monitoring to identify unusual payments, retrospective adjustments and expenditure exceeding approved budgets, reminding practitioners that they are custodians of public trust.

Speaking on behalf of Department of Finance delegates, payroll consultant Jenny Tom called on PNG agencies to share HR and payroll solutions that already work instead of each building their own.

She noted IRC's salary sacrifice rollout and BPNG's Nambawan Super Portal show this has already happened. She proposed a five-step approach: share, document, connect, standardise and measure.

"The aim is a lasting community of practice that strengthens payroll controls and improves services for employees, with technology upgrades such as Ascender V24 supporting that goal rather than leading it."

Ms Tom said the take way from the conference is the need for the Department to understand and translate these principles into practical actions by:

Expediting the Ascender upgrade: Following the signing of the Master Service Agreement (MSA), progress the upgrade to an appropriate vendor-supported version, subject to technical readiness and testing, to improve system functionality and payroll controls.

Maintaining critical reporting capability: Ensure essential Oracle Discoverer reports remain reliable to support payroll monitoring, expenditure analysis, reconciliation and government financial reporting.

Strengthening financial controls: Improve reconciliation between payroll expenditure, approved budgets, bank payments and IFMS records to detect irregularities and minimise financial risks.

Sharing knowledge and improving processes: Apply conference lessons to strengthen controls, streamline procedures and promote collaboration across HR, payroll, ICT and finance teams.

The key message is clear: effective payroll governance requires reliable technology, accurate data, sound financial management and shared accountability to ensure every public servant receives the correct entitlement, at the right time, from the right budget.

In terms of Financial Management, an effective payroll governance must be supported by sound financial management and payroll accounting. Accurate reconciliation of payroll transactions, personnel emoluments budgets, bank payments and Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS) records is essential to ensure expenditure is properly accounted for, reported and controlled. Strong financial controls help identify salary overruns, unbudgeted payments, arrears and irregular transactions, protecting public funds and strengthening government financial accountability.



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also on the capacity of public servants and institutions to effectively adopt, utilise and sustain the system.

The Department will therefore continue to place emphasis on strengthening human and institutional capacity across national and sub-national levels of Government, ensuring that officers have the necessary skills to effectively use IFMS and that institutions are able to sustain the reforms over the long term.

Chief Secretary to Government Ivan Pomaleu highlighted the scale of the IFMS reform during his address at Government House, noting that the system has connected 43 national departments, 21 provincial health authorities, 89 districts, more than 313 local-level governments and 26 statutory bodies.

"By embedding cloud technology and artificial intelligence directly into state operations, we are ensuring that every kina appropriated under the Public Investment Program directly supports national development outcomes," Mr Pomaleu said.

Mr Pomaleu acknowledged the leadership of Secretary Penias and the wider public finance establishment for their contribution to modernising the Government's financial management systems.

He said the new agreement represents a shift from simply deploying the software towards ensuring long-term operational sustainability, institutional capability and financial sovereignty.

The Chief Secretary further linked the next phase of IFMS development to the Government's Medium Term Development Plan IV (MTDP IV) 2023–2027, particularly national priorities relating to public financial management and digital government.



Offical photo session after the contract signing of the three-year Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) agreement.



Under the new phase, the IFMS platform is expected to expand its capabilities in areas including artificial intelligence, revenue receipting and capital investment monitoring, while continuing to support electronic financial transactions and stronger integration with other Government systems.

The continued development of IFMS forms part of the Department of Finance's broader digital transformation and public financial management reform agenda, aimed at strengthening financial systems, improving access to reliable financial information, supporting accountability and enhancing the management of public resources.

The K26 million agreement therefore represents the next chapter in Papua New Guinea's ongoing IFMS reform journey moving beyond the establishment of a nationwide financial management platform towards strengthening its sustainability, capability and long-term value to Government.

Education Department takes major step into chequeless payments



Left: Education Secretary Dr Uke Kombra and Acting Deputy Secretary Tom Tiki launch the Department of Education's EFT system on 5 October 2026.

The Department of Finance, supported the Department of Education in launching the EFT system at Vulupindi Haus, Port Moresby, on 5 October 2026, coinciding with World Teachers' Day.

The rollout marks another step in the Government's transition from paper-based cheques to more efficient, secure and transparent electronic payments.

Deputy Secretary for Support Services Tom Tiki, representing the Department of Finance, thanked the Secretary for Education, Dr Uke Kombra, for his leadership and commended him and his executive team for embracing the digital transformation.

With the Department of Education now on boarded, the Department of Finance continues to advance the Government's transition to electronic payments. Given the scale of the Education Department's financial responsibilities and transaction volumes, the adoption of EFT is expected to support more efficient payment processing, strengthen supplier relationships and facilitate the delivery of government education programs.

"The transition will reduce administrative backlogs, minimise payment delays and cut the work involved in printing and processing cheques. Suppliers will also no longer need to travel to government offices to collect payments," he said.

Dr Kombra thanked the Department of Finance for its longstanding partnership with the Department of Education and reaffirmed his department's readiness.

"I acknowledged that the change would require adjustments, particularly within its Finance Division. However, we must ensure clear deadlines for internal payment processes so that service providers know when to expect payment.

Department of Finance will continue to work closely with participating agencies to facilitate a smooth transition to EFT, supported by staff familiarization, updated internal approval procedures and ongoing coordination to ensure effective implementation with maximized benefits of the system.

To date, the Department has on boarded 14 out of 38 government departments and aims to complete the rollout by end of this year.

The rollout is more than a change in how payments are made. It is part of a wider effort to build a more efficient, transparent and accountable public sector.



Dept trains Southern Region Officers on EFT Payments

The Department of Finance held an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) information and training session for provincial and district finance officers from the Southern Region at Tuna Bay Resort in early September 2026. The session introduced officers to the EFT system, which will replace paper cheques with electronic payments, and prepared them for changes to financial processing procedures in their offices.

The session forms part of the Government's digital transformation agenda, which aims to simplify government transactions, strengthen financial controls and reduce processing costs.

Representatives from the Bank of Papua New Guinea (BPNG) and Bank South Pacific (BSP) explained how the electronic payment system works and how it will be implemented.

Officers welcomed the benefits of EFT but raised concerns about unreliable internet connectivity and frequent power outages, which continue to disrupt digital services in some provinces and districts.



Acting First Assistant Secretary FCD Ms Marlene Philip addresses provincial and district finance officers during the Department of Finance's Southern Region EFT information and training session at Tuna Bay Resort, Port Moresby, September 2026.

The Department acknowledged these challenges and stressed the need for cooperation with provincial governments and other stakeholders. Successful implementation will depend not only on the new platform but also on adequate infrastructure, staff readiness and ongoing support for officers.

Once in place, EFT will transfer payments directly into designated bank accounts, reducing paperwork and saving provincial and district offices the cost of travelling to collect payments. Electronic records will also make transactions easier to trace, supporting reporting, reconciliation and audits.



Provincial and district finance officers from the Southern Region take part in the EFT information and training session at Tuna Bay Resort, September 2026.

The session builds on the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed by the Department of Finance and BSP in September 2025 to introduce EFT services and phase out government cheques. The initiative has since expanded to agencies and regions across Papua New Guinea.

The participation of provincial administrators and financial managers was particularly important, as their leadership will be key to supporting officers through the transition. Continued engagement with provinces and districts will help the Department close infrastructure gaps and deliver a more efficient, transparent and accountable system for managing public funds.



2026 HQ retirees with Secretary Samuel Penias, senior executives and officers at their farewell at Department of Finance headquarters.

Retirees Honoured for Years of Service

The Department of Finance headquarters recently has farewell twelve long-serving officers who have completed their careers with the Department on the 25th of September.

Held in conjunction with the signing of their Retirement Deed of Release, it was an emotional occasion as colleagues came together to acknowledge the retirees' years of dedication, service and contribution to the Department, the Public Service and Papua New Guinea.

Before the retirees signed their Deed of Release, Secretary Samuel Penias addressed the retirees with gratitude.

"On behalf of the Department, I thank you all for your commitment throughout your years of service, and I wish you all every success in the next chapter of your lives.

Secretary Penias commended them, saying the Department of Finance stands where it is today because of the foundations that were laid throughout their years of hard work, loyalty and sacrifices that have built some of the systems and standards we rely on every day, and the progress we continue to make is a reflection of your service.

"Many of the reforms and achievements this Department is recognised for today were made possible through your dedication over many years. You leave behind a legacy that will continue to guide and inspire the officers who follow in your footsteps.

"With that, I encourage you all to make wise decisions as you learn from Nambawan Super RSA and manage your life after employment.

Nambawan Super's Business Development Officer Mr. Sibona Henao had practical discussions on the key message "Look after yourself first," with emphasis placed on protecting their hard-earned benefits and making careful financial decisions.

"I encourage you all to reconsider your ongoing family commitments and financial responsibilities as your once regular salary is coming to an end.

He added that they can explore business ideas and personal goals, but with caution.

"Those with business experience may be better placed to pursue them, while others are advised not to risk their savings on costly mistakes."

The message was clear: protect what they had worked hard for and plan wisely for the years ahead.

The retirees, in turn, shared words of advice with incoming graduates and current officers, urging them to be responsible, committed and, above all, good public servants. Their message reflected the importance of serving the country with integrity and dedication.

As they move forward, the Department of Finance acknowledges their valuable contribution and wishes all retiring officers good health, happiness and fulfilment in the years ahead.

Strengthening Provincial Finances Through RoPM

The Department of Finance is embarking on a nationwide rollout of its Receiver of Public Monies (RoPM) Bank Reconciliation Project, an initiative to strengthen financial accountability and the management of public funds in the provinces.

The project brings together officers from the Non-Tax Revenue Division (NTRD), the Provincial and District Financial Management Division (PDFMD), the Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS) team, the Accounting Frameworks and Compliance Division (AFCD) and the Financial Management Training Branch (FMTB) in a whole-of-department effort.

Opening the New Ireland Province RoPM workshop on 21 September on behalf of the Secretary and Executive Management, Acting First Assistant Secretary for PDFMD Chris Waiya said the Department's core functions are budget execution, accounting and reporting. Under budget execution, provincial finance staff raise revenue for the national government by receipting monies into RoPM accounts, while also collecting internal revenue and implementing the budgets of their respective provincial governments.

"Staff who receive national government monies into RoPM accounts must also account for them through proper receipting and bank account reconciliations," Mr Waiya said. He explained that these daily transactions affect both the Public Accounts and provincial governments' annual financial statements. "The Auditor-General's audit findings on the Public Accounts every year recommend massive improvements in the way we account for revenues and expenditures. This is the reason why we are here at this workshop today so that you are thought to do your job better."

Mr Waiya also outlined the Department's wider reforms: The Public Finances (Management) Act review, the move from PGAS to IFMS, non-tax revenue regularisation, chequeless payments and online receipting. He encouraged staff to learn as much as possible and apply this knowledge at their workplaces.

For New Ireland, the training covers the Kavieng and Namatanai District Finance Offices and the Lihir Island cash office, which collect and receipt government fees and charges. "Every toea we receipt into RoPM accounts must be reconciled and accounted for. This training gives our officers the skills to keep our records accurate and ready for audit," said New Ireland acting Provincial Finance Manager Peggy Wong.

Ahead of each visit, project teams work with provincial finance managers to correct historical bank reconciliation records. The project aims to reconcile outstanding provincial bank accounts, improve the accuracy of government records and build lasting skills among provincial finance officers. The rollout will continue across the remaining provinces and districts.







Left: Acting FAS PDFMD Chris Waiya officially opens the week-long RoPM Bank Reconciliation training. Right: New Ireland provincial and district finance officers strengthening skills in receipting and bank reconciliation procedures during the RoPM training.

Department showcases career opportunities at IBSU

The Department of Finance recently took part in an industry engagement hosted by IBS University (IBSU) in Port Moresby, joining representatives from other industries to showcase career opportunities to students preparing to enter the workforce.

The Department was represented by the Human Resource Skills and Enhancement (HRSE) Training Branch of the OSD, together with several officers from the Department's Graduate Development Program (GDP). The team introduced students to the Department's role in managing Papua New Guinea's public finances and the career pathways available in the public service.

The HRSE Training team outlined the Department's employment and professional development opportunities, including its internships and the GDP, which give students and graduates practical workplace experience and a pathway into public financial management.

GDP officers shared their own experiences of moving from tertiary study into the public service, giving students a first-hand view of how young professionals contribute to the country's financial administration.

The visit comes as the Department revitalises its Graduate Development Program to make it more accessible to tertiary institutions such as IBSU.

Stronger links with universities help ensure students know what opportunities exist and how to prepare for a career in the public sector.

Attracting and developing capable young professionals is essential to building a skilled workforce that can meet the demands of modern public financial management.

Engagements such as this help the Department raise awareness of its work, connect with emerging talent and encourage more young Papua New Guineans to consider a career in the public service.

The Department thanks IBS University for the invitation and looks forward to continued partnership with tertiary institutions in developing the next generation of public servants.



HRSE Manager Ms Joyce Nindil (above) and Acting Assistant Secretary Ms Letty Difilapnok (below left) having discussions with IBSU students at the Department of Finance stand, as GDP officers share their experiences of joining the public service.













GOAC & OSD





AFCD



NSRCD



IPD





FCD

Sit Less, Move More

Sedentary vs active lifestyle: what is at stake for our health, our fitness and our pockets in Papua New Guinea.

47%
of deaths studied in six PNG provinces were due to NCDs

1 in 7
PNG adults is living with diabetes, around 838,000 people

73%
of those with diabetes do not know they have it

NCDs (non-communicable diseases) are long-term illnesses that do not spread between people, such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes and cancer.

Sedentary lifestyle: the risk		Active lifestyle: the benefit
HEALTH		
Type 2 diabetes Inactive muscles leave more sugar in the blood	→	**Steadier blood sugar, lower diabetes risk** **How:** 30-minute brisk walk daily; a stroll after meals
Heart disease and stroke Top NCD killers in PNG, with higher risk in towns	→	**Stronger heart, lower stroke risk** **How:** Walk, swim or cycle briskly, 30 min, 5 days
High blood pressure Often silent until serious damage is done	→	**Healthier blood pressure** **How:** Jog, brisk walk or play touch rugby most days
Stress, low mood, poor sleep Long sitting and screen time drain wellbeing	→	**Better mood and sleep** **How:** Walk outdoors, play sport, stretch before bed
PHYSICAL FITNESS		
Weight gain Fewer calories burned, more stored as fat	→	**A healthy weight** **How:** Walk short trips instead of catching a PMV
Back pain, stiff neck, poor posture Common after long hours at a desk	→	**Stronger back, better posture** **How:** Squats and planks twice a week; desk stretches
Low energy and stamina Stairs, carrying loads and walking get harder	→	**More energy for work and family** **How:** Stand and move 2–3 minutes every half hour
ECONOMIC		
Costly long-term treatment Medicines, clinic visits and travel add up	→	**Fewer medical bills, more for family** **How:** Free options: walking, gardening, village sport
Sick days and lower output Fatigue and illness reduce productivity	→	**Sharper focus, fewer sick days** **How:** Lunchtime walks and 5-minute stretch breaks
Families lose a provider Early illness or death cuts household income	→	**A longer working life to support family** **How:** Walk to market or church with the family

Start today

Aim for **150 minutes** of moderate activity a week: about 30 minutes, five days a week. Start slowly, and see a doctor first if you have a health condition.

Sources: NCD mortality, PNG Comprehensive Health and Epidemiological Surveillance System, six provinces, 2018–2020 (PLOS Global Public Health, 2022); diabetes, IDF Diabetes Atlas, PNG adults aged 20–79, 2024 estimates; activity target, WHO Guidelines on Physical Activity and Sedentary Behaviour (2020).