

“THE PLATFORM FOR ACTION”

Government of Reconciliation, Unity & Hope

for

Stability & Prosperity

PNG 2012 AND BEYOND

Our Goal

Our Goal is that after 18 months of being in office, the O'Neill led Government will be remembered by the people of Papua New Guinea as the most decisive, actioned packed, transparent and accountable Government the nation has ever had.

Our Objective

Our Objective is that under the O'Neill led Government, the lessons learnt over the last 12 months creating insecurity, uncertainty and high sovereign risk shall never be repeated. Instead, an environment of stability and prosperity will be vigorously pursued. This will be achieved by promoting reconciliation, resilience, unity and hope in the government and the country. As a result, we will achieve the highest pace of development ever achieved by any Government. Our collective efforts will bring Papua New Guinea and its people 5 years closer to Vision 2050.

Our Strategies

During the 9th term of Parliament, the Government is committed to providing the leadership to achieve the following:

FIRST 18 MONTHS IN OFFICE

1. LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

The Government will review and amend the following legislations:

- i) Section 145 of the Constitution, to move the grace period from 18 months to two and half years
- ii) Organic Law on National and Local Level Government Elections
- iii) Organic Law on Integrity of Political Parties and Candidates
- iv) Repeal of Legislation passed in the last Parliament which includes, Judicial Conduct Act, Supreme Court Amendment Act & Parliamentary Powers & Privilege Act & Amendments to the Prime Minister & NEC Act
- v) Passage of new act of Indemnity under Section 137 of the Constitution
- vi) Other Acts such as NCDC Act, Public Service Management Act, Dual Citizenship, Public Finance Management Act, Oil & Gas Act, Mining Act, Police, Defence & CIS Acts, Land Act, Education Act, Enactment of Lae City Commission Legislation

2. FIVE YEAR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (MTDS)

The Government will immediately undertake to review the current MTDS. This 5 year program will be fully costed and aligned to the Annual Budget Cycle. This will also include Priority Impact Projects for Provinces and Districts.

3. PRIORITY IMPACT PROJECTS

i) Education

The Government will expand the free tuitionfee education policy to Grade 12, provide infrastructure development support to tertiary institutions including housing program for teachers in rural areas. Training of Teachers will be given priority to achieve maintenance of standards and quality of education. Major review of conditions of employment of teachers will be undertaken.

The Government will also provide IT Infrastructure to rural based schools so that our children can access or develop skills in IT Technology. TVET Programs will receive special attention. Community Based Skills Development Programs will be expanded and the Community College Program will be fully reviewed.

ii) Health Care

The Government will maintain its commitment to accessible and affordable health care by providing free primary health care and subsidised specialised health care.

This will be achieved through the introduction of a National Health Insurance Policy in partnership with Private Health Care providers. At the same time, the Government will also increase training of all carders of health workers, reopening of all closed aid posts and improving the management of medical supplies and equipment throughout

the country. Other community based insurance policies such as "Funeral Cost Cover" and community based health cover will be encouraged.

The Government will undertake a review of the National Population Policy with the aim of bringing the population issue as a major development agenda for the country.

Special attention will be given to containing the epidemics of HIV Aids and TB, non-communicable diseases and reduction of maternal, childhood mortality and cancers particularly in women.

iii) Corruption

The Government is committed to continuing the fight against Corruption by proper funding and institutionalisation of the inter-agency committee against corruption in particular Task Force Sweep. Further, the Government will introduce the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) Bill.

The Government will also review the powers, roles and responsibilities of the Ombudsman Commission.

iv) Infrastructure

The Government will establish an Infrastructure Development Authority to take charge of overseeing the major transport and public infrastructure projects for the next 5 years and beyond. This Authority will be enabled by an Act of Parliament to mobilise and negotiate financial resources and technical expertise both in-country and off-shore. The Authority will oversee the administration and management of nominated major roads to link provinces with the aim of opening up the country during the term of this Parliament. Further, the economic corridor concept pronounced in the 2010 - 2030 National Strategic Plan will be implemented.

The Government will also provide financial support to the maintenance of the major highways, provincial roads and all feeder roads and bridges throughout the country.

Similar attention will be given to all Maritime Provinces in the maintenance of jetty's, wharfs and provision of shipping services in partnership with the private sector and other service providers. The Government will establish a National Shipping Services program which will include both national, provincial and district service provision. A national policy prescribing standards will provide the framework of administration and management of this program.

Air Services to Rural areas will be negotiated with private providers with a range of incentives, under negotiated Service Agreements.

On Public Utilities such as power, water and communication, a partnership with the private sector will allow state owned enterprises like PNG Power, PNG Ports, Telikom and Water Board to source private sector capital and technical expertise through negotiated sales and purchase agreements.

The aim of this Public Private Partnership (PPP) is to ensure that electricity, water and communication services cover the majority of our communities throughout the country and at an affordable cost.

A Policy on reducing the cost of transportation including freight subsidies will be developed and implemented.

v). LNG Projects

The Government will ensure that the Papua New Guinea LNG Project will be delivered on time, so that the revenue flows, shall begin in 2014.

The Inter Oil LNG Project will be given priority support to ensure the delivery of the project in this term of Parliament.

In this regard, the Government will immediately establish a State negotiating team comprising of the key agencies to negotiate a Gas Agreement with InterOil and its partners. The State team will work with Petromin, the State nominee to ensure that the best Gas Agreement is negotiated, having had the lessons learnt from the Papua New Guinea LNG Project.

In this regard, specific considerations will be given to increased benefits to landowners, local level governments and provincial governments.

These two projects will underpin the economy of this country for the next 40 years.

vi) Law & Order

Priority will be given to restructuring of the RPNGC by establishing Office of the Secretary for Police to oversee the effective administration and management of the Police Force, whilst reviewing the process of appointment of the Police Commissioner and his Deputy's. This restructuring will allow the Police Commissioner to focus on the effective operations of the Police force, whilst the Secretary of the Police Department will focus on the administration and management of the Police Force.

A vigorous training program to increase the size of the Police Force will be undertaken.

The Government will undertake a similar approach to both the Defence Force and the Correctional Services.

Frontline or village level dispute resolution, community policing, land mediation, village magisterial services will be fully funded.

vii). Public Sector Reform

The Government will completely overhaul the Public Service for improved efficiency and accountability. A performance based and outcome orientated policy will be undertaken for all levels of Public Service from Waigani right down to the Local Level Governments.

Government will review the current arrangement of the Department of Personal Management and the Public Service Commission. A holistic review of this arrangement will result in the abolishment of the Department of Personal Management and restructuring of the Public Service Commission. In this regard, the Public Service Commission will be given the Constitutional powers and responsibility to oversee the efficiency of the Public Service. The Commission will be accountable to the National Executive Council and Parliament.

This will result in the establishment of a smaller office representing Personnel Management to focus entirely on deployment of public servants and their ongoing in-service training.

The Government will also introduce incentives for Public Servants such as, improved salaries, affordable housing in urban and rural areas, and rewards for performance including penalties for poor performance.

Part of this reform includes the transfer of powers of appointment of Provincial Administrators to the Provincial Executive Council (PEC).

Government will also immediately amend the Constitution and the Public Services Management Act, to allow the National Executive Council to hire and fire Departmental Heads. The role of the Central Agency Co-ordination Committee will be confined to monitoring of the implementation of key Government policies and priority programmes.

The Department of Prime Minister and NEC will assume overall responsibility of monitoring the implementation of the Government Development Programmes. In this regard the Department of National Planning and District Development will be restructured and its functions completely changed to macro level planning, development of standards and collecting of national statistics at all levels for planning purposes.

The National Statistical Office will be restricted to ensure that the capacity to collect data, and translate data into information for planning purposes will cover all sectors and extend right down to the districts and the ward level. The village recorder programme will be fully funded and implemented as part of this commitment.

With regard to Development Funds, they will be disbursed through the Budget to the relevant agencies, Provincial Governments and Districts. The Government will undertake to introduce a Development Programme for each Local Level Government in the Country.

viii). Public Private Partnerships (PPP Policy)

Under the Government Public Private Partnership Policy, the Private sector will be invited to Partner the Government with the aim of ensuring efficiency in the State owned enterprises, creation of employment for our citizens and increasing income earning opportunities for our people. A partnership at a ratio of 49 % - 51 % in favour of the Private Sector will be undertaken. Citizens, Local Level Governments and Provincial Governments, National Financial Institutions, Unions, NGOs and Churches will be invited to buy shares in this arrangement. Entities such as PNG Power, PNG Ports, Telikom and Waterboard, will be exposed to this Policy.

The Government in recognition of the role the churches play in the development of our country will provide targeted funding under a Church Government Partnership arrangement.

THE LAST 42 MONTHS IN GOVERNMENT

4. PRODUCTIVE SECTORS

i). Petroleum and Energy

The Government will review the current arrangement with resource owners, the Departments of Petroleum Energy & Planning with the aim of ensuring that the

benefits prescribed in the Project Agreement with regards to royalties and infrastructure grants achieve their outcomes.

The Department of Petroleum & Energy will be reviewed and follow the Mineral Resources Authority structure. Part of this review will lead to the decentralisation of the functions responsible for the management of resource owner funds, such as royalties and infrastructure funds. This will take the pressure away from the VulupindiHaus.

With regards to Energy, the Government will fund and implement the Rural Electrification Policy. This will entail the promotion of the use of green energy systems including solar, wind, hydro, bio-fuel and geothermal energy. In this regard, the Government will introduce a zero-tax policy for these items.

ii). Mining

The Government will undertake a review of the Mining and Petroleum Act in full consultation with stakeholders such as our Foreign Investors and Resource Owners.

The aim of this exercise is to increase the level of benefits going to the resource owners, the local Level Governments and Provincial Governments. At the same time, giving comfort to our Foreign Investors in the Industry.

iii). Agriculture

The Government will increase funding support to the sector and will include land mobilisation, road and transport infrastructure. The National Development Bank will be continuously capitalised with the aim of increasing support to the expansion of Agri-Business by our citizens. Special attention will also be given to the rehabilitation of cash crop plantations around the country, fresh food storage and distribution infrastructure, agriculture research and restructuring of the Department and Commodity Boards.

A promotional program will be undertaken to invite foreign investors to invest in the sector, in areas such as rice, corn, wheat production and downstream processing.

iv). Commerce & Business

The Government will ensure that Papua New Guineans participate in all levels of business activity in particular by providing training and expanding credit facilities to citizens through micro financing, National Development Bank and other avenues.

The Government will immediately adopt the Indigenous Business Summit recommendations of Kokopo. Particular attention and support will be given to women, youth and disadvantaged. Programs such as financial literacy training will be fully supported.

v). Land & Urban Planning

The Government will give full support to the current Land Reform & Urbanisation Policy. Special focus will be on Unlocking Customary Land for Development and Voluntary Land Registration.

vi). Forestry

Down Stream Processing will be promoted and a 'No Log Export' policy will be enforced. The Forest Act will be reviewed to further streamline the FMA process and fully align the Act with the Climate Change Policy.

Resource Owners will be given Special Attention in this review.

vii). Tourism

A National and International Tourism Promotion Program will be funded and Incentives to develop Tourism infrastructure at all levels, in particular, Rural Based Tourism infrastructure development.

viii). International Relations / Foreign Policy

The 'friends to all enemy to none policy' will be maintained.

Focus will be on major economic partners and traditional friends, like Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand and our Pacific neighbours in particular the Melanesian Spearhead Group. Papua New Guinea will seek to provide leadership and engagement with our Pacific neighbours and regional development organisations.

Trade with our wealthy partners will be vigorously pursued and will entail engagement of the private sector. The Trade Functions will be reverted back to Foreign Affairs. Emphasis will be placed on a one-stop-shop on visas and work permits.

ix) Environment & Climate Change

The Government has a commitment to the preservation of our rich cultures, traditions and bio-diversity. The Government will restructure the Department of Environment

and Conservation and place emphasis on improving the capacity of the Office of Climate Change. The Government will establish a Climate Change Policy and present that Climate Change Bill to Parliament. This policy and the legislation will dictate how the country will administer and manage domestic and international Climate Change issues for the benefit of our people. This policy will include the preservation of our natural forest, our fauna and flora and our ability to access carbon markets efficiently and transparently.

5. GENDER, YOUTH & CHURCHES, COMMUNITY & SPORTS

The Government will promote Papua New Guinea as one of the great sporting nations in the region. To achieve this, we will provide the required resources to the National Sports Institute and promote sporting programmes at all schools throughout the country. More funding will be available to individual sports such as swimming, boxing, etc.

To demonstrate this commitment, the Government will establish a separate Ministry on Sports and a separate Ministry on 2015 Pacific Games. The Ministry will take charge of the preparation towards the 2015 Pacific Games where we will show case this commitment.

In the area of Church, the Government will establish a new Ministry of Church & Community Development which will include gender and youth. This Ministry will expand the church government partnership programme with support funding from our development partners.

A National Youth Service programme will be fully funded to ensure that our youth are fully engaged and properly nurtured.

An Old Age and Disability pension policy will be developed to follow the New Ireland Provincial Government experience.

6. INTER GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

The Government will create a Ministry of Autonomy and Bougainville Affairs. This Ministry will provide leadership in the development of policy and programmes including the devolvement of a wide range of powers from Waigani to the Provinces. East New Britain and New Ireland will be the two provinces to pilot this initiative.

7. PARLIAMENT

The Government will ensure that the Parliament as the Legislature will be given the support it deserves to perform all its functions.

This will include:

- i) Full Funding for its maintenance and upkeep
- ii) Full funding of all Parliamentary Committees to carry their roles and responsibilities
- iii) Review of Staffing levels and grade in particular the creation of more legal officers, draftsman, etc
- iv) Equipping of offices with IT equipment's
- v) Increase support staff grades and numbers for Backbenchers
- vi) An annual grant to be determined by the Salaries Remuneration Commission (SRC) for all Members of Parliament for the purpose of rental of office and accommodation in Port Moresby and the Electorate, recruitment of qualified staff, purchase of vehicles, office equipment's such as computers and mobile phones.
- vii) This funds will be channelled to the districts.