The Prime Minister, Peter O’Neill has launched new infrastructure in the New Guinea Islands that is another piece in the Government’s plan to expand service delivery and create business opportunities around the country.

Visiting the New Ireland Province recently, the Prime Minister officially opened the Buluminski Highway, announced the redevelopment of Kavieng airport and the extension of the runway, launched a new stadium and the new Bopire township in the Namatanai District.

The Prime Minister, Peter O’Neill cutting the ribbon marks the opening of the newly sealed Buluminski Highway.
Welcome everyone to another edition of the Inside Sir Manasupe Haus fortnightly newsletter.

I urge everyone to continue to work together to continue to deliver quality basic services to our people right across the country.

Do not forget to adopt Christian values in your work ethics and your workplaces as well.

In this issue of the Inside Sir Manasupe Haus Newsletter, on pages 1 & 2 the Prime Minister Peter O’Neill officially opens the newly sealed Buluminski Highway in the New Ireland Province.

On page 3, I donate 15 new computers to the University of Papua New Guinea’s School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

On pages 4 & 5, is a pictorial of myself and the Prime Minister’s respective engagements.

On page 6, the Prime Minister official launch Electrification Partnership Program for Wapenamanda District of Enga Province.

On page 7, the Prime Minister talks about changes that have been happening in the Enga Province as a result of infrastructure developments.

On page 8, we bring to you the Prime Minister’s comments on the PNGSDP Court rulings in Singapore.

Happy Reading!

Isaac B. Lupari, CBE
Chief Secretary

Message from the Chief Secretary to Government

Infrastructure development in our country is very important for us to bring services right into the communities,” the Prime Minister said.

“Road Infrastructure such as Buluminski highway will bring changes in the way our people live.

“This highway will pave way for the easy and smooth transportation of goods and services from one end to the other.

“Economic development takes place when there is better infrastructure and it provides opportunities for the community to benefit greatly.

“This highway opens opportunities for SMEs to create new business in New Ireland Province, and also to access markets around the country and overseas. It also makes it easier to deliver services to communities that were difficult to reach in the past.

“The important thing is that there is strong demand for this infrastructure and we know that new infrastructure developments such as roads, airports, bridges and wharves are being put to great use by our people.

“This is infrastructure not only in the islands, but right around our country.

“Since we came to office, the construction of infrastructure, that had been left to decay for many years was one of our key priorities.

“We are delivering essential new infrastructure projects around our country, and in every district and province.

“At the same time we maintain our focus on Tuition Fee Free Education, so that our children around the country are better educated.

“While there are challenges, every child in the country has the right to education.”

The Prime Minister further highlighted other changes taking place in the country, and many projects underway, such as the electrification program that will see 70 percent of the population having access to power by the year 2030.
The University of Papua New Guinea’s School of Medicine and Health Sciences has now embarked on a major restoration work at the school, located at the Taurama Campus. They now have the backing of the Chief Secretary to Government and the support of the staff at the Department of Prime Minister and National Executive Council.

The Chief Secretary to Government, Isaac Lupari said in his talk with members of the faculty that the school has trained some of the best doctors in the region. He said during his visit to the school last year, he found that many of the facilities were very old and needed renovations.

"The Medical College is an iconic Institution and it put PNG on the map and around the Region as well. "It has produced quality doctors and has supported service delivery in the country," the Chief Secretary said.

He said it was quite sad for the visiting delegation he led, to see the condition of the college. The Chief Secretary said the Government has been budgeting money consistently for the Medical Faculty throughout the years but have not seen tangible results in the outlook of the school.

"Because of that, the Chief Secretary secured some funds before the close of accounts last year, to start the renovation and restoration work," he said.

"We have to start somewhere. "Let us restore and modernise the Medical Faculty Facilities. "We are building hospitals and health centres but without the people to use that building to provide health services, our investment comes to nothing. "Our investment in human resources is very important for us.

"There is a huge shortage of doctors in the country and the populations a growing at an alarming rate.

The Chief Secretary said we need institution like this to train medical personnel to cater for the growing populations demand for health services.

The training of Papua New Guinean Health Workers was started by the Australian Administration in the early 1930’s however, the now School of Medicine and Health Sciences was first established to train Health workers in the 1960’s as the Papuan Medical College at the current location.

The Chief Secretary to Government and the Chairman of the Mineral Resources Development Corporation, Isaac Lupari donated 15 brand new computers to the University of Papua New Guinea’s School of Medicine and Health Sciences recently.

"It was quite sad for the delegations visiting the place to see the condition of the school," the Chief Secretary said.

"The Medical College is an iconic institution that put PNG on the map around the region and produced some of the best doctors in the country and the region.

The Chief Secretary said after the visit, a report was made to the Prime Minister and he was directed to take on the rehabilitation of the college as an impact project for the department.

"The Prime Minister’s reaction was, get a team together to get involved in the restoration of the medical college. "Because of that, we have some funds that have been secured, about K3 million and the Higher Education Department has also put some money in this year’s budget.

The Chief Secretary said the funding will be managed by the Medical Faculties Project Steering committee and work have already started on the Dental Facilities. The University of Papua New Guinea’s Pro-Vice Chancellor Professor Kenneth Sumbuk said the computers could not have come at a better time.

"The University has got an increased band width from 25 +5 to 50 + 5, therefore the computers you have delivered will go a long way in helping with research work.

"ICT facilities is a big thing in terms of delivery, we just had the university library transferred to Liberty 5. Prof. Sumbuk said the medical school Library is now on cloud and students can use the new computers donated to access the university library as long as they have a computer and internet connectivity.
The Chief Secretary to Government, Isaac Lupari meeting with Pro - Vice Chancellor, Kenneth Sumbuk school’s senior staff

Pro - Vice Chancellor, Kenneth Sumbuk and Chief Secretary Lupari

The Chief Secretary to Government, Isaac Lupari listening attentively on issues discussed

The Chief Secretary sharing a moment with representatives from UPNG

Presentation of computers to School of Medicine and Health Sciences
The Prime Minister, Peter O’Neill speaking to the people of Wapenamanda, Enga Province

The Wapenamanda District school children singing the National Anthem

The Chief Secretary, Isaac Lupari is greeted upon arrival at Wapenamanda

The Wapenamanda Rural LLG councillors getting ready to greet PM O’Neill

The Police and Defence performing the Guard-of-Honour
At Sunday school they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny, a child in the kindergarten class, seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam’s ribs. Later in the week his mother noticed him lying as though he was ill, and said, “Johnny what is the matter?” Little Johnny responded, “I have a pain in my side. I think I’m going to have a wife.”

A teacher asked the children in her Sunday School class, “If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale and gave all my money to the church, would I get into heaven?” “NO!” the children all answered. “If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the yard, and kept everything neat and tidy, would I get into heaven?” Again, the answer was “NO!” “Well,” she continued, “then how can I get to heaven?” in the back of the room, a five-year-old boy shouted out, “You gotta be dead!”

The average human brain contains around 78% water.

The Prime Minister, Peter O’Neill officially launched the Wapenamanda Electrification Project under the Electrification Partnership Program between Australia, New Zealand, Japan and the United States on April 5, in Wapenamanda, Enga Province.

The Prime Minister said that this is an important time when we launch this program and it will change people’s lives. “The program is about K3 billion (US$ 1.6 billion), which is a lot of money and makes about one third of our country’s budget. “I want to thank Australia, Japan and the United States, who are our traditional partners who have always worked with us. “We have close to 8 million population in our country but only 1 million have access to reliable electricity. “That is why we must make sure that over the next 10 to 12 years, we must connect the entire country to electricity. “Currently, electricity is accessible to only 12 percent of households in the country and when this program is completed, 70 percent of households in the country will have access to electricity.

“It is going to be a huge project and if we do not agree and work together, this work will not eventuate. “To generate power, to put up electricity transmission lines and pull lines to homes are all different types of work to be undertaken. “The Government is also working to improve power generation in the country to ensure that power is reliable and distributed on time to stop frequent black-outs. “We will make sure that we use our gas from Hides to generate the electricity. “Today, there are companies putting up power transmission lines from Tari to Mount Hagen, then it will be distributed to each district. “Another option is to generate more hydro power in the country and we are talking with partners. “We have a lot of water in the country and we can use that to produce power” The Prime Minister said the electrification program will transform everyone’s lives and build capacity to establish business and improve livelihoods. The Prime Minister also officially launched the Tsak Valley Road Project and the Wapenamanda Airport Redevelopment Project.
The Prime Minister, Peter O’Neill, officially opened the Tsak Valley road on April 5, in Enga Province.

The Prime Minister said in the last seven years, the Government has been working closely with Enga Governor, Sir Peter Ipatas. “This is because we want to see Enga change and Enga is changing. You have all seen that and you know Enga is changing. “A lot of road networks have come into the Province, one is the Enga Highway to Hagen (Western Highland Province) and it is one of the best road in the country.

“We have road networks going to Kandep and to Mendi. Now we are making roads to other districts, going to Tsak Valley and soon we will be building a road to Kompiaim. “I am pleased to see placards made by the children of Wapenamanda saying the work must go on. That is the approach that the Government is taking, politics aside, work must go on.”

The Prime Minister told more than 10,000 people who turned up to witness the occasion that these road work will continue although sometimes resources and funding are slow is coming due to the country’s small economy. However, the Prime Minister said, if you look at Enga, “we have built a Teachers College and a Nursing College in the last six years and today we are building the Enga Hospital for more than K300 million. “More initiatives like roads will be coming to Enga valued close to K1 million,” the Prime Minister said.

“Today we will see our Highlands Highway changing. “We have already appointed three contractors to make sure that we do not see one pothole on the Highlands Highway and we have spent close to K1 billion to do the job.

“To ensure that it is of the highest international standard. We have already put a lot of money into the maintenance of the highway but it has been deteriorating quickly. “The people at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have come aboard and created a good partnership with us to make sure that the Highlands Highway changes in the next three years.”

The Prime Minister said the ADB has put close to K1 billion to carry out necessary baseline work to improve the Highlands Highway. The Prime Minister urged the people present to work together and let the infrastructure development continue uninterrupted.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Highlands Highway is a 700 kilometres stretch of road running from the Morobe Province, through the Highlands Provinces, all the way to the Madang Province. The project will run from 2017 to 2027 and will cost about K3.32 Billion (US$1 Billion). The three contractors that have been contracted will look after the Goroka to Lae stretch, the other will look after the Goroka to Hagen stretch and another will look after the Chimbu sector.
The Prime Minister, Peter O’Neill, has announced that lawyers representing the Independent State of Papua New Guinea intend to appeal against the judgment of the High Court in Singapore in the action taken against the Board of the PNG Sustainable Development Fund.

In taking the matter to the Singapore Court of Appeal, the Prime Minister said Papua New Guinea will seek a continuation of court orders from the 4th of August 2017, that are intended to prevent the misuse of SDP funds while the appeal is being heard.

“This is not the end of the road for obtaining justice for the people of Western province and enabling them to gain control over their funds,” the Prime Minister said.

“We have a situation where Mekere Morauta and his cronies treat PNGSDP like it is their own private business account. These people are fleecing tens of millions from PNGSDP through consultancy fees, overseas travel and other wastage.

“People in Western Province are suffering because they are not being given access to these funds that should be used for real projects in the province, and improving access to healthcare and other support.

“We are going to appeal the decision and in preparation for that hearing, we are asking the court to maintain the order to prevent further misuse of the people’s money.

“This is particularly important considering the ongoing and persistent breaches of the SDP rules, including the recent dissipation of funds from the Long Term Fund as was revealed in March 2018 and February 2019.

“As part of this we are still seeking information on whether the SDP Board has acted against the original order of the court that was issued in 2017.”

The Prime Minister said the position of the State is clear, following the actions taken by Sir Mekere and the other directors of PNGSDP in 2013, the Government had to act and protect the interests of our people.

“The State remains very concerned that the current directors of PNGSDP have run, and are continuing to run, PNGSDP in a highly unsatisfactory manner.

“They have clearly failed to provide any level of improvement to the lives of the people in Western Province.

“This is despite purported expenditure of hundreds of millions of dollars on development projects in Western Province.

“This depletion of PNGSDP’s assets are partly due to excessive and unjustified expenditure by PNGSDP with them spending US$64 million from 2013 to 2018.

“This is despite PNGSDP having unaccountably ceased all its development projects and programs in Papua New Guinea since October 2013, so what are they spending this money on?

“We are also aware that in 2013, PNGSDP had made an unjustified transfer of US$21.5 million from the Long Term Fund to the Development Fund, and this is also in breach of the Program Rules which govern PNGSDP’s operations.”

The Prime Minister said it is believed that these illegal transfers continue and there is absolutely no accountability.

“Most recently, PNGSDP decided to make further transfers amounting to US$41 million in 2017 and US$15 million in 2018 from the Long Term Fund to the Development Fund. These are in further breach of the Program Rules.

“The transfer in 2018 was particularly egregious given that PNGSDP suffered investment losses from the Long Term Fund amounting to over US$33.8 million that year. PNGSDP has sought to justify these transfers on the basis that it has spent the money on development program expenses.

“PNGSDP has purportedly spent over US$24.8 million in 2017, and US$32.1 million in 2018, on such development program expenses in a manner that is not transparent.

“PNGSDP’s choice to operate on the basis that it is accountable to no one, including the State, will mean that any errant expenditure on its part can remain unchecked.

“Given the serious nature of the matter, the State will continue to take all steps necessary to ensure that PNGSDP manages and utilises its assets to promote sustainable development within the State’s Western Province and to advance the welfare of its people.

**Department Vision and Mission Statement**

**OUR VISION IS TO PROVIDE STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP IN SUPPORTING THE GOVERNMENT OF PNG IN THE DEVELOPMENT, COORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SOUND POLICIES, PROGRAMS AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE THAT WORKS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PEOPLE.**

**OUR MISSION IS TO PROVIDE COHERENT, HIGH QUALITY AND TIMELY ADVISE AND SUPPORT TO THE PRIME MINISTER, THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.**