



**SPEECH DELIVERED ON THE OCCASION OF THE
NATIONAL STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION WORKSHOP ON
OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP
BY SECRETARY, KONEY SAMUEL
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL PLANNING & MONITORING
14TH AUGUST 2025**

Opening

Distinguished guests, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,
It is my honour to stand before you today to speak about Open Government Partnership — a cause that is not just a government initiative, but a shared commitment.

Acknowledgement

I acknowledge the presence of our development partners, civil society organisations, the private sector, and most importantly, the citizens whose voices are at the heart of open governance.

Purpose & Values of OGP

The Open Government Partnership is more than a policy framework that Papua New Guinea join the global efforts in 2015. It is a promise — a promise that government will be transparent in its decisions, accountable in its actions, and inclusive in its processes. It is about opening the doors of governance so that the people we serve can walk alongside us, see how we work, and help shape the outcomes that affect their lives.

Why OGP Matters

In an age and nation where trust in institutions is being tested, OGP offers a powerful pathway to rebuild and strengthen that trust. Transparency builds confidence. Accountability reinforces integrity. And participation gives every citizen a stake in their nation's future.

OGP brings together government and civil society champions of reform who think that governments are much more likely to be effective and credible if they open their doors to public inputs and oversight. The crafting of the GoPNG-CSO Partnership Policy will elevate the participation of Civil Societies in the government business processes.

Our Commitments

The Government through its concerted efforts undertaken certain reforms demonstrating our commitment to the global OGP processes. The policy and legislative reforms undertaken in the last five years were facilitated through the OGP process.

Some of those reforms have shifted the focus of the Government and the reforms are; Whistle Blowers Act 2020, ICAC Act 2020, Public Finance Management Act (Amendment) 2018, National Procurement Act 2017, Digital Government Act 2022, and the review of the PNG Planning and Monitoring Responsibility 2016 to name a few.

Other evolving reforms such as Digital Transformation will be given equal priority and developed through the OGP Platform. Government will also streamline the activities of the CSOs and ensure that their activities are aligned to the Government long-term to medium-term priorities and work closely with Government through Sectors.

Hence, the OGP platform seems to be a mainstay for the effective service delivery process. The OGP principles are incorporated in respective sectoral policies and development plans developed over the last five years.

Nonetheless, the OGP commitments will be realized through effectively implementation of the PNG's 3rd National Action Plan (NAP) 2025-2029 which is aligned to the Medium-Term Development Plan 2023-2027 and other cascading development plans and policies including global development agenda such as SDGs.

Through the Open Government Partnership, we commit to:

- Making government data accessible and understandable.
- Strengthening anti-corruption efforts and the rule of law.
- Encouraging citizen participation in policy-making.
- Using technology and innovation to improve service delivery.

These are not abstract ideals. They are practical measures to make government more effective, more responsive, and more trusted.

Call to Action

But open government cannot be achieved by government alone. It requires collaboration between leaders and citizens, between public institutions and private enterprise, between policymakers and the communities they serve.

I invite all of us here today to work together — to bring ideas, to question, to challenge, and to partner in building a governance system that is worthy of the trust of our people.

Closing

I call on all our development partners, government agencies, sub-nationals, development partners, civil society organisations, the private sector, and most importantly, the citizens to contribute your share of commitments in ensuring a government that is more transparent, accountable and responsive to people needs.

As we celebrate our 50th Anniversary (Golden Jubilee), let us embrace the Open Government Partnership not as a task we must complete, but as a journey we choose to take together. A journey towards a society where **OPENNESS IS OUR STRENGTH, ACCOUNTABILITY IS OUR CULTURE, AND PARTICIPATION IS OUR RIGHT.**

Thank you

