



Security in resources: law and justice reforms to address law and order challenges

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OVERVIEW

- Serious cause for concern
 - ❑ Land ownership disputes,
 - ❑ benefits sharing,
 - ❑ lack of access to government services,
 - ❑ illegal mining,
 - ❑ drug and alcohol abuse, and
 - ❑ political disputes in and around the vicinity of the resource projects
- Increase in intensity & levels of security threats
- Types of security threats continue to evolve prompted by:
 - ❑ the evolution of technology,
 - ❑ proliferation of small arms and light weapons,
 - ❑ the rise of organised criminal groups and warlords,
 - ❑ the use and abuse of substances aiding the increase in security issues.

DARTMENT OF JUSTICE & ATTORNEY GENERAL (DJAG)

- Central agency responsible for legal policy matters, law & order and justice administration.
- Constantly reviewing and adjusting OUR **overall establishment and purpose**
- Responsible for about 100 pieces of legislation and is actively **pursuing legal reforms**

DJAG ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE

- Coverage of Functions & Activities
 - **extensive, cross cutting and multi-sectoral**
 - Attorney General's Office
 - State Solicitor's Office
 - Solicitor General's Office
- **State Legal Services** (Division)
 - Legal Policy & Governance
 - Ocean's Secretariat
 - JLSC
 - (Innovating the Law)
 - (International Relations)

DJAG ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE (Cont..)

- **Justice Administration services** (Division)
 - Probations Services
 - Parole Services
 - Juvenile Justice Services
 - Village Courts & Land Mediation Secretariat (VCLMS);
 - and the SARV / GBV programs.
- **National & Provincial Coordination and Crime Prevention (NPCCP)** Division
 - Coordination of law & justice matters between national, provincial and law & justice sector agencies;
 - Crime Prevention
 - Law & Justice Sector Secretariat

PRIORITY OF MARAPE / ROSSO GOVERNMENT (MTDP IV – 2023 TO 2027)

- New policy initiatives to progress the country's development (MTDP IV 2023 – 2027)
- Grow PNG's GDP to K200 billion and create one million additional jobs by 2030
- Alignment to development aspirations in Vision 2050 and PNG DSP 2010-2030.
- Relevant Strategic Priority Areas –
 - SPA 05 - Rule of Law & Justice (i.e. Policing, Crime Prevention etc)
 - APA 06 - National Security
- *Legislative reforms are necessary to give effect to policy objectives*

LEGAL REFORMS

➤ ***Maritime Zones Act 2015***

- Oceans Policy 2020
- Maritime Scientific Research Committee (MRSC) 2021 (Headed by DJAG through Oceans Office / Secretariat)

➤ ***Joint Forces College of Papua New Guinea Act 2020***

➤ ***Controlled Substance Act 2021***

➤ ***Firearms Amendment Act 2022***

➤ ***Land Commission Act 2022***

➤ ***Counter-Terrorism Act 2024***

➤ ***Accession to United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime***

LEGAL REFORMS (Cont..)

- Amendments to ***Claims by and Against the State Act 2021***
- Amendments to the ***Lawyers Act 2021***
- Amendments to the ***Attorney Generals Act 2021***
- ***Village Courts Revitalisation Policy and Strategy 2020***
 - ***Village Court & Land Mediation Secretariat***
 - ***Dealing with 19,000 VCLM officials in 1670 VC Areas***
- ***Law and Justice Sector Policy 2025 – 2035***

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE RECENT DECISION

- Decision of the **International Court of Justice** (in Hague) on harmful effects of **Climate Change**
 - Decision handed down on Wednesday 23 July 2025
 - Reparation, Mitigation, Adaptation
- Still processing the Impacts of this very important Landmark decision, particularly as PNG is both at the receiving end of impacts of Climate Change and also contributes in some ways fossil fuel, mining and deforestation

CONCLUSION

With the leadership of the Marape-Rosso Government together with the Minister for Justice and Attorney General, Mr. Pila Niningi, the Department has taken a lot of strides in legal policy development and legal reforms to give effect to the government's economic and social development priorities.