



Deputy Prime Minister's Opening Remarks

On the Occasion of the Pacific ICT Ministers' Dialogue 2023

28th August 2023 - APEC Haus, Port Moresby, PNG

- ICT Ministers and Delegation Members from across the Pacific Countries and Territories,
- Deputy Prime Minister and ICT Minister for Fiji, Hon. Manoa Kamikamica,
- Our Local Sponsors,
- Distinguished Guests,
- Ladies and gentlemen,

I am truly honored to stand before you today, representing the Government of Papua New Guinea in this monumental gathering of the Pacific ICT Ministers Dialogue.

I want to echo and reinforce the sentiments expressed by the Prime Minister, Hon. James Marape, during the welcome dinner last night, reaffirming our resolute dedication to the collective vision of "Smart Pacific – One Voice: Creating a digital future together for the Pacific."

The words and vision articulated by our Prime Minister resonate deeply with the values and aspirations ingrained within our nation's fabric. Papua New Guinea remains unwavering in its commitment to nurture an inclusive digital economy that elevates every citizen, transcending geographical confines and bridging the disparities in digital access.

The convictions shared by our Prime Minister not only underscore our determination but also encapsulate the very essence of unity that forms the bedrock of our regional endeavors.

With the theme of "Smart Pacific – One Voice: Creating a digital future together for the Pacific," we acknowledge that connectivity stretches beyond physical accessibility.

It embodies the principles of quality, affordability, and inclusivity, ensuring that every Pacific Islander reaps the benefits of the digital strides we are making.

Our Prime Minister's call to align with the Pacific Island Forum's overarching vision of leaving no one behind echoes the very core of our policies and strategies. It rests upon our collective shoulders to guarantee that the digital transformation we embark upon is genuinely all-encompassing, enriching the lives of every citizen and community.

I commend the Honorable Timothy Masiu, MP, Minister for ICT, for leading this dialogue, fully supported by the Marape-Rosso Government. This dialogue serves as a beacon of our region's aspirations, where we advance in harmony, leveraging technology to shape a brighter, more equitable future.

As I reiterate the sentiments of our Prime Minister, I assure you of Papua New Guinea's unwavering commitment to this cause.

Let me also say that Papua New Guinea stands ready and is committed to supporting any existing structure or for that matter a new Secretariat, to facilitate the vision of the Pacific ICT Ministers for the next few years until the Ministers meet again to deliberate.

I wish you all every success in your deliberation and look forward to be briefed by my Minister for ICT on the outcome of your dialogue.

Thank you and God Bless

Hon. John Rosso, MP

Deputy Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea