Has PNG been able to translate its booming mineral wealth into services for ordinary people?

The joint NRI-ANU Promoting Effective Public Expenditure (PEPE) project tries to answer this question in a report to be launched in this budget forum. The report presents results of survey completed at the end of 2012 of more than 350 primary schools and health clinics across eight provinces, from the nation’s capital to its most far-flung and inaccessible regions. Many of the same facilities were also surveyed at the start of the decade, in 2002. By combining these two surveys, we can assess progress over time, and analyse the impact of important policy reforms.

The report finds very different performance across education and health. Primary schools have expanded rapidly over the last decade, but services delivered at health clinics have declined. The study also documents and explains trends in the variable performance across facilities, provinces, and between church and government facilities surveyed.

The report shows that development progress is possible in PNG, but that it requires much more than a growing budget. It also requires sound financial management, local oversight, effective supervision, and a motivated workforce. This report and the unique data set on which it is based will be an invaluable resource for PNG’s policy makers and people.

As seats may be limited, please R.S.V.P your attendance to Eunice Kivan on email: ekivan@nri.org.pg or Tel: (675) 326 0300/0061 Ext. 345 or 70311044/70311045, by Tuesday 28th October 2014.

For more information, contact Ronald Sofe: rsofe@nri.org.pg. For media enquiries, contact Samuel Kehatsin: skehatsin@nri.org.pg.

Authorised by: Dr Thomas Webster, Director, NRI

This event is open to the public and media!