



The University of
Papua New Guinea



Australian
National
University

2024 PNG UPDATE

Securing a stable environment
for growth and development

PROGRAM AND ABSTRACTS

The 2024 PNG Update is organised by The University of Papua New Guinea School of Business and Public Policy and The Australian National University Development Policy Centre. Funding support is provided by the PNG-Australia Partnership, with assistance for travel from The Asia Foundation.



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Papua New Guinea**



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Dr Lawrence Sause, Acting Executive Dean, School of Business and Public Policy, University of Papua New Guinea
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Ms Chloe Sim, Program Officer, Development Policy Centre, Australian National University
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The Chief Security, Uniforce, University of Papua New Guinea
Manager, University of Papua New Guinea Printery
Professor Genevieve Bell, Vice-Chancellor and President, Australian National University
Professor Janine O'Flynn, Director, Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University

We acknowledge generous funding support from the PNG-Australia Partnership and The Asia Foundation.

WEDNESDAY 21 AUGUST

8.30am	Registration					
9.00-10.30am	Welcome remarks and opening plenary* <i>New Lecture Theatre (NLT)</i> Chair: Dr Modowa T. Gumoi					
	Opening prayer, national anthem and national pledge Rev. Koloma Makewin, Chaplain, University of Papua New Guinea					
	Welcome remarks Robert Igara, Chancellor, University of Papua New Guinea					
	Opening address The Honourable Mr James Marape, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea					
	Reflections on Australia-PNG relations His Excellency Mr John Feakes, Australian High Commissioner to PNG					
	Reflections on UPNG-ANU relationship Dr Cecilia Nembou, Acting Vice-Chancellor, University of Papua New Guinea					
	Reflections on UPNG-ANU relationship Prof Paul Burke, Deputy Director, Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University (ANU)					
10.30-11.00am	Morning tea					
11.00am-12.30pm	Plenary session* <i>New Lecture Theatre (NLT)</i> Chair: Prof Stephen Howes					
	Panel: PNG's economic outlook in the medium term Mr Jeffrey Yabom , Deputy Governor, Bank of Papua New Guinea; Mr Andrew Oaeko , Secretary, Department of Treasury; Mr Anthony Smare , President, Chamber of Resources and Energy; Dr Martin Davies , Professor, Washington and Lee University / ANU					
12.30-1.30pm	Lunch					
1.30-3.00pm	1A: Family and sexual violence in PNG <i>New Lecture Theatre (NLT)</i>	1B: Banking and finance <i>SBPP Lecture Theatre 1 (UG.02)</i>	1C: Teachers and the education sector <i>SBPP Lecture Theatre 2 (UG.07)</i>	1D: Urban and rural development <i>SBPP Tutorial Room 1 (LG.02)</i>	1E: Development issues <i>SBPP Tutorial Room 3 (LG.04)</i>	1F: Agriculture and forestry <i>MBA Suite</i>
3.00-3.30pm	Afternoon tea					
3.30-5.00pm	2A: Politics and governance <i>New Lecture Theatre (NLT)</i>	2B: The Pacific Engagement Visa in Papua New Guinea <i>SBPP Lecture Theatre 1 (UG.02)</i>	2C: Climate change and sustainability <i>SBPP Lecture Theatre 2 (UG.07)</i>	2D: Sorcery and Gender <i>SBPP Tutorial Room 1 (LG.02)</i>	2E: Education <i>SBPP Tutorial Room 3 (LG.04)</i>	2F: Media, technology and research and development <i>MBA Suite</i>
5.00pm	Close					

*Session will be livestreamed

THURSDAY 22 AUGUST

8.30am	Registration	
9.00-11.00am	Plenary session* <i>New Lecture Theatre (NLT)</i> Chair: Associate Professor Michael Mel Plenary address The Honourable Allan Bird, East Sepik Governor Plenary address The Honourable Francesca Semoso OBE, MP, North Bougainville (TBC)	
11.00 -11.30am	Morning tea	
11.30am-12.30pm	Plenary session* <i>New Lecture Theatre (NLT)</i> Chair: Prof Paul Burke Panel – Security and geopolitics in the region: implications for PNG Ms Winnie Kiap CBE, Former PNG High Commissioner to the UK; Dr Joanne Loundes , Australian Deputy High Commissioner to PNG; Mr Oliver Nobetau , FDC Pacific Fellow, Lowy Institute; Mr David Chen , Lecturer, PNG University of Technology	
12.30-1.30pm	Lunch	
1.30-3.00pm	3A: Novel carbon opportunities in climate smart coffee production <i>New Lecture Theatre (NLT)</i>	3B: PNG's economy <i>SBPP Lecture Theatre 1 (UG.02)</i> 3C: Gender <i>SBPP Lecture Theatre 2 (UG.07)</i> 3D: Health <i>SBPP Tutorial Room 1 (LG.02)</i> 3E: Infrastructure and development <i>SBPP Tutorial Room 3 (LG.04)</i> 3F: Managing PNG's institutions <i>MBA Suite</i>
3.00-3.30pm	Afternoon tea	
3.30-5.00pm	4A: Helping women and child victims of abuse and violence <i>New Lecture Theatre (NLT)</i>	4B: Macroeconomics <i>SBPP Lecture Theatre 1 (UG.02)</i> 4C: Land issues <i>SBPP Lecture Theatre 2 (UG.07)</i> 4D: Gender-based violence <i>SBPP Tutorial Room 1 (LG.02)</i> 4E: Security <i>SBPP Tutorial Room 3 (LG.04)</i>
5.00pm	Closing Session: concluding remarks* <i>New Lecture Theatre (NLT)</i> School of Business and Public Policy, University of Papua New Guinea; Development Policy Centre, Australian National University	

*Session will be livestreamed

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PROGRAM

DAY ONE – WEDNESDAY 21 AUGUST

- 8.30am** **Registration**
- 9.00am** **Welcome remarks and opening plenary***
New Lecture Theatre (NLT)
Chair: Dr Modowa T. Gumoi
Opening prayer, national anthem and national pledge
Rev. Koloma Makewin, Chaplain, University of Papua New Guinea
Welcome remarks
Robert Igara, Chancellor, University of Papua New Guinea
Opening address
The Honourable Mr James Marape, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea
Reflections on Australia-PNG relations
His Excellency Mr John Feakes, Australian High Commissioner to PNG
Reflections on UPNG-ANU relationship
Dr Cecilia Nembou, Acting Vice-Chancellor, University of Papua New Guinea
Reflections on UPNG-ANU relationship
Prof Paul Burke, Deputy Director and Head of the Arndt-Corden
Department of Economics, Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian
National University
- 10.30am** **Morning tea**
- 11.00am** **Plenary session***
New Lecture Theatre (NLT)
Chair: Prof Stephen Howes
Panel: PNG's economic outlook in the medium term
Mr Jeffrey Yabom, Deputy Governor, Bank of Papua New Guinea; **Mr Andrew Oaeke**, Secretary, Department of Treasury; **Mr Anthony Smare**, President, Chamber of Resources and Energy; **Dr Martin Davies**, Professor, Washington and Lee University / ANU
- 12.30pm** **Lunch**

*Session will be livestreamed.

1.30pm

Parallel session 1

1A: Family and sexual violence in PNG: learning from the experiences of 7,000 survivors*

New Lecture Theatre (NLT)

Chair: Professor Stephen Howes

Estelle Stambolie, Research Officer, Development Policy Centre, ANU, **Daisy Plana**, CEO, Femili PNG, **Dr Judy Putt**, Senior Researcher, Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU, **Minetta Kakarere**, Tutor, Political Science Department, UPNG

1B: Banking and finance

SBPP Lecture Theatre 1 (UG.02)

Chair: Mr Panditha Bandara

The implementation of small and medium-sized enterprises credit enhancement loan scheme: a case of Bank South Pacific, PNG

Theo Michael, Lecturer, PNG University of Technology

Tangled webs, elusive justice: low money laundering convictions in PNG

Michael Kabuni, PhD student, ANU

Corporate governance and ethics on the PNG banking industry: challenges and opportunities

Suresh Babu Nagarajan, PGS Convener, Senior Lecturer, SBPP, UPNG, **Prof Lekshmi Narayana Pillai Chidambara Thanu**, Acting Pro-Vice Chancellor, UPNG, **Patricia Angopa**, Head of Banking and Finance Division, Lecturer, SBPP, UPNG, **Kingtau Mambon**, Tutor, SBPP, UPNG, **Kepi Mato Yogomin**, Tutor, SBPP, UPNG

1C: Teachers and the education sector

SBPP Lecture Theatre 2 (UG.07)

Chair: Mr David Mo

Teacher regulation for quality and quantity - Can it be done? -

PNG's pathway to teacher registration reform

Paul Ainui, Acting Deputy Secretary, Curriculum and Standards, PNG National Department of Education, **Samson Wangihomie**, Chairman, Teaching Service Commission, **Catherine Johnston**, Lead Education Specialist, Abt Global, **Grant Selmes**, Governance Advisor, Abt Global

How real-time evaluation can improve training practices and learning outcomes: experimental data from PNG

Kabira Namit, Economist, Abt Global, **Kathryn Lee**, M&E Manager, Abt Global

Addressing social injustice and inequity through Critical Literacy Education: PNG teacher education and critical literacy

Kele Yako, PhD Scholar, **Rhonda Faragher**, Professor, University of Queensland

Navigating education evaluations in fragile settings: measuring the impact and sustainability of an in-service teacher development program in PNG

Kabira Namit, Economist, Abt Global, **Kathryn Lee**, M&E Manager, Abt Global

*Session will be livestreamed.

1D: Urban and rural development

SBPP Tutorial Room 1 (LG.02)

Chair: Dr Ponnusamy Manohar

Safeguarding Port Moresby: evaluating the Tourist Police Initiative's impact on safety and confidence in PNG's capital

Dr Joyce Rayel, Head of Division and **Imelda Atu**, Lecturer and **Ronald Raka**, Lecturer and **Jason Eki Kundi**, Lecturer and **Joseph Kruman**, Tutor, Tourism & Hospitality Management Division, SBPP, UPNG

Hybridity and safety in an urban economic environment: experiences of Awagasi Market vendors

Wilma Langa, PhD Candidate, Queensland University of Technology

A credit guarantee facility for the development of customary land in PNG: prospects and challenges

Logea Nao, Research Fellow, Sustainable Land Development Program, PNG National Research Institute

1E: Development issues

SBPP Tutorial Room 3 (LG.04)

Chair: Dr Elly Kinkin

Extent of decentralised recruitment in unlocking Papua New Guinea's labour mobility aspirations

Natasha Turia, PhD Candidate, ANU

Student attitudes towards national identity and progress

Kelly Samof, Lecturer, UPNG

1F: Agriculture and forestry

MBA Suite

Chair: Professor Simon Saulei

The impacts of expanding oil palm industry in PNG: the Case of Kairak Community, East New Britain Province

Melga Mevat, Post Graduate student, Pacific Adventist University, Hennah Steven, PhD Lecturer, Waikato University, Patrick Pikacha, Environmental biologist researcher, Pacific Adventist University

The roles of organic matter of varying nutrient content use as amendment in composted mounds on sweet potato tissue accumulation of micronutrients

Topas Peter, MSc. Student, PNG University Of Technology, Patrick Michael, Professor Associate, PNG University Of Technology

Social and cultural influences on the Bulolo Wau Industrial Tree Plantation Development in PNG: evidence from the three indigenous forest village communities

June Mandawali, Research Officer, PNG Forest Research Institute, Master of Philosophy Candidate, PNG University of Technology, Principal Supervisor, Dr Cossey Yosi, Head of School of Forestry, PNG University of Technology

Demarcation of suitable land for rice and wheat cultivation using Multi-Criteria Decision making Approach (MCDA): A case study in Southern Highlands Province

Einstein Den, Post Graduate Candidate, PNG University of Technology, Sailesh Samanta, Associate Professor, PNG University of Technology

3.00pm

Afternoon tea

3.30pm

Parallel session 2

2A: Politics and governance*

New Lecture Theatre (NLT)

Chair: Mr Jack Assa

Reform needed to bring stability in PNG parliament

Michael Kabuni, PhD student, ANU

Are government ministers more likely to be re-elected? Evidence from PNG

Alyssa Leng, Research Officer, Development Policy Centre, ANU

Otonomi bilong wanem? Autonomy for what?: the interfaces of identity, development, and decentralisation in Papua New Guinea

James Stiefvater, PhD Candidate, Massey University

2B: The Pacific Engagement Visa in Papua New Guinea: attitudes and issues

SBPP Lecture Theatre 1 (UG.02)

Chair: Professor Stephen Howes

Natasha Turia, PhD candidate, DPA, ANU, **Dr Chakriya Bowman**, Director and Senior Consultant, Sapience

2C: Climate change and sustainability

SBPP Lecture Theatre 2 (UG.07)

Chair: Professor Chalapan Kaluwin

A climate SMART approach towards building resilience in PNG's rural farming communities

Mawe Gonapa, PhD Candidate, ANU

Resettlement of Patnav clan families in Yaga Village on Umboi Island, Siassi, Morobe Province, PNG

Lorna Saguba, Researcher, Mana Pacific Consultants Ltd

An investigation of sustainability reporting

Panditha Bandara, Senior Lecturer, SBPP, UPNG

PNG climate change and Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC): its regulation, the implementation and the importance of Article 4 of the Climate Change Paris Agreement for PNG

Alfred Rungol, PNG's UNFCCC Roster of Experts, UNFCCC PNG (Independent)

*Session will be livestreamed.

2D: Sorcery and Gender

SBPP Tutorial Room 1 (LG.02)

Chair: Professor Sam Kaipu

Investigating the effects of sorcery related behaviour on student learning in primary schools, Central Province, PNG

Ano Airoma, Lecturer, Sacred Heart Teachers College, Bomana

Addressing sorcery related violence and tribal fight through peace building

Dr Dick Witne Bomai, University of Goroka

Framing gender equality through the revitalised Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration

Fiona Hukula, Policy Adviser - Gender Equality, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

2E: Education

SBPP Tutorial Room 3 (LG.04)

Chair: Professor Boe Lahui

Assessing quality of basic education in Enga Province, PNG: factors impacting students' learning experience

Hafford Norea, Research Officer, PNG National Research Institute

A two-level hierarchical linear modeling of factors affecting students' examination performance in secondary schools in Papua New Guinea

Michael Magury Peter, Research Fellow, PNG National Research Institute

Effective student learning approaches and its relationship with academic performance at the School of Business and Public Policy, University of PNG

David Mo, Lecturer, **Imelda Atu**, Lecturer, **Patricia Angopa**, Lecturer, **Sharon Niaga**, Lecturer, **Molly Yoko**, Postgraduate Student, UPNG

2F: Media, technology and research and development

MBA Suite

Chair: Ms Patricia Angopa

Enabling or hindering growth and development: Mobile internet pricing in PNG

Dr Amanda HA Watson, Fellow, Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU, **Moses Sakai**, Research Fellow, PNG National Research Institute, **Loretta Dilu**, Tutor, UPNG, **Hafford Norea**, Research Officer, PNG National Research Institute, **Jonathan Zureo**, Lecturer, Divine Word University

A media environment for growth and development

Dr Amanda HA Watson, Fellow, Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU

Baseline survey of research capacity in Papua New Guinea's research institutions and universities

Paula Kaupa, PhD Candidate, PNG University of Technology, Kulala Mulung, CEO, PNG Science & Technology Secretariat, Teatulohi Matainaho, Vice Chancellor, Pacific Adventist University, Nick Tagep, Research Infrastructure Director and George Rua, Research Officer, PNG Science and Technology Secretariat

Reimagining higher education in the age of generative AI

Raymond Kamb John, Lecturer and Head of HRM Division, UPNG

5.00pm

Close

DAY TWO – THURSDAY 22 AUGUST

- 8.30am** **Registration**
- 9.00am** **Plenary session***
New Lecture Theatre (NLT)
Chair: Associate Professor Michael Mel
- Plenary address**
The Honourable Allan Bird, East Sepik Governor
- Plenary address**
The Honourable Francesca Semoso OBE, MP, North Bougainville (TBC)
- 11.00am** **Morning tea**
- 11.30am** **Plenary session***
New Lecture Theatre (NLT)
Chair: Professor Prof Paul Burke, Deputy Director and Head of the Arndt-Corden Department of Economics, Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University
- Panel – Security and geopolitics in the region: implications for PNG**
Ms Winnie Kiap CBE, former PNG High Commissioner to the UK; **Dr Joanne Loundes**, Australian Deputy High Commissioner to PNG; **Mr Oliver Nobetau**, FDC Pacific Fellow, Lowy Institute; **Mr David Chen**, Lecturer, PNG University of Technology
- 12.30pm** **Lunch**
- 1.30pm** **Parallel Session 3**
- 3A: Novel carbon opportunities in climate smart coffee production***
New Lecture Theatre (NLT)
Chair: Ewelina Przybyszewski
- Mawe Gonapa**, PhD Candidate, ANU, **Alex McClean**, Chief Executive Officer, Nakau, **Almah Tararia**, Senior Research Consultant, Sustineo, **Ellis Mackenzie**, Senior Research Consultant, Sustineo
- 3B: PNG's economy**
SBPP Lecture Theatre 2 (UG.02)
Chair: Dr Albert Prabhakar
- How much of economic growth trickles down to the population in resource-rich countries? Evidence from Papua New Guinea*
Sharad Tandon, Senior Economist, The World Bank, Paripoorna Baxi, Consultant, The World Bank, Darian Naidoo, Economist, The World Bank
- Determinants of housing prices in PNG - An ARDL approach*
Gordon Kapak, Senior Research Analyst, Bank of PNG, Meson Tumsok, Senior Research Analyst, Bank of PNG
- Determinants of governments' fiscal resource revenue: evidence from a new database*
Martin Davies, Professor of Economics, Washington and Lee University / ANU, **Marcel Schroder**, PNG Country Economist, Asian Development Bank

*Session will be livestreamed.

3C: Gender

SBPP Lecture Theatre 2 (UG.07)

Chair: Dr Joyce Rayel

Wok bung wantaim' (working together): Women associations and foreign aid in Morobe Province, Papua New Guinea

Mary Fairio, PhD candidate, University of St. Andrews

The impact of Women's Leadership Programs on return home: A pilot study in PNG

Geejay Milli, PhD candidate, Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU, **Sonia Palmieri**, Associate Professor, Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU, **Betty Lovai**, Pro-Vice Chancellor, UPNG

Leadership matters - Benchmarking women in business leadership in PNG and the Pacific

Sarah Boxall, Economic Empowerment of Women Specialist, Asian Development Bank - Pacific Private Sector Development Initiative

3D: Health

SBPP Tutorial Room 1 (LG.02)

Chair: Nakapi Tefuarani

Perceptions, acceptances, and attitudes towards COVID-19 Vaccines: A case in point of PNG

Londari Yamarak, Lecturer, PNG University of Technology, **Rex Junior**, Master in Philosophy Student, Papua New Guinea University of Technology, **Hoxchey Anton**, Student, PNG University of Technology

Implementation of tuberculosis infection prevention and control in rural PNG: an evaluation using infection prevention & control assessment framework

Dr. Gigil Marme, Lecturer (PhD Candidate), Divine Word University (Griffith University, Australia), **Jerzy Kuzma**, Professor of Surgery, HOD Medicine, Divine Word University, **Dr Peta-Anne Zimmerman**, Director, Infection Control program, Griffith University, **Neil Harris**, Professor, Director of Higher Degree, Health Griffith University, **Shannon Rutherford**, Associate Professor, Public Health Team, Griffith University

Factors affecting COVID-19 vaccination: a Morobe Province perspective

Jack Assa, Lecturer, UPNG, **Moses Sakai**, Research Fellow, PNG National Research Institute, **Albert Ayius**, Lecturer, UPNG, **Emmanuel Gorea**, Lecturer, UPNG

3E: Infrastructure and development

SBPP Tutorial Room 3 (LG.04)

Chair: Shalon Taufa

Living without electricity in urban communities in PNG: the case of 8-Mile settlement

Loretta Dilu, Tutor, UPNG

Overcoming Rural Electrification Challenges in PNG: A PMO Perspective

Sioni Sioni, Project Director, GHD

Role of district WASH committees in building bridges for improving water access, quality, and equality

Safa Fanaian, Research Fellow, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU, Grant Walton, Associate Professor, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU, Sonia Young, WASH Portfolio Manager, World Vision, Simon Wanga, WASH Program Officer and Technical Officer, WaterAid, Tim Davis, Technical Lead, WaterAid, Kolis Rua, WASH project manager, World Vision

3F: Managing PNG's institutions

MBA Suite

Chair: Dr Suresh Babu Nagarajan

The role of leadership in ensuring academic quality assurance: challenges and strategies in higher education institutions in PNG

Ponnusmay Manohar, Deputy Executive Dean (Academic) School of Business and Public Policy, University of Papua New Guinea

Institutional sources of cooperation, competition and conflict in developing countries: the cases of civil service administration in PNG and Afghanistan

Nematullah Bizhan, Senior Lecturer, Development Policy Centre, ANU,
William Maley, Emeritus Professor, ANU

3.00pm

Afternoon tea

3.30

Parallel Session 4

4A: Helping women and child victims of abuse and violence* |

New Lecture Theatre (NLT)

Chair: Dr Judy Putt

Subrata Banerjee, PhD student, ANU, **Palu Ingram**, PhD student, ANU,
Loto Losenamo, Research officer, Somare Institute of Leadership and Governance

4B: Macroeconomics

SBPP Lecture Theatre 1 (UG.02)

Chair: Dr Toan Nguyen

New trade-weighted currency and commodity-price indices for PNG

Bobby Kunda, Lecturer in Economics, UPNG, **Prof Stephen Howes**, Director, Development Policy Centre, ANU

Optimal macroeconomic policy and the resource project lifecycle

Dr Martin Davies, Professor of Economics, Washington and Lee University / ANU, Marcel Schroder, Country Economist for PNG, Asian Development Bank

Impact of excess liquidity on monetary policy transmission in Papua New Guinea

Dr Thomas Wangi, Senior Research Fellow, National Research Institute

4C: Land issues

SBPP Lecture Theatre 2 (UG.07)

Chair: Professor Leo Marai

Importance of geographical names and their effects on sustainable land development in PNG

Charlotte Tia, Cartographer, Department of Lands & Physical Planning

*Session will be livestreamed.

Land as a palimpsest of inscriptions: Some preliminary thoughts on a study of a Motu-Koita-Koiari clan genealogy and their claims of land ownership

Linus Digim'Rina, Senior Lecturer, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, UPNG, **Foxie Kaeaka**, Chairman, Board of Directors, Behori Limited, **Canute Nidue**, Lecturer, School of Law, UPNG, **David Kombako**, Lecturer, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, UPNG

Is social mapping a recipe for conflicts? A conclusion

Yvonne Hani, Anthropologist, UPNG

4D: Gender-based violence

SBPP Tutorial Room 1 (LG.02)

Chair: Dr Dora Aiyus

Do disasters always increase Intimate Partner Violence? Evidence from the 2018 Earthquake in PNG

Sharad Tandon, Senior Economist, The World Bank, Alyssa Leng, Research Officer, Development Policy Centre, ANU

The impacts of gender-based violence against women in Hula community

Aiga Ian, Temporary Full-time Tutor, UPNG

Service Providers' Role: Access to justice for women in domestic violence cases in PNG & Bangladesh

Subrata Banarjee, PhD Candidate, ANU

4E: Security

SBPP Tutorial Room 3 (LG.04)

Chair: Dr Nematullah Bizhan

The role of the law and order komiti in dispute resolution: case of Markham Bridge Community, Morobe Province, PNG

Mary Fairio, PhD Candidate, University of St. Andrews

Political economy of security: enhancing economic security through regional security cooperation

Dr Francis Hualupmomi, Advisor, National Security, PNG Department of Prime Minister & NEC

The impacts of civil unrest and riots in Gerehu, Port Moresby on the economic conditions of the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME)

Jason Eki Kundi, Lecturer, School of Business and Public Policy, UPNG,

McDonald Jack, Tutor, School of Business and Public Policy, UPNG, **Dr**

Joyce Rayel, Senior Lecturer, School of Business & Public Policy, UPNG

5.00pm

Closing Session*

Concluding remarks

Chair: Dr Ponnusamy Manohar

School of Business and Public Policy, University of Papua New Guinea;
Development Policy Centre, Australian National University

ABSTRACTS

DAY ONE – WEDNESDAY 21 AUGUST

Parallel Session 1A: Family and sexual violence in Papua New Guinea: learning from the experiences of 7,000 survivors

Estelle Stambolie, Research Officer, Development Policy Centre, Australian National University, **Professor Stephen Howes**, Director, Development Policy Centre, Australian National University, **Daisy Plana**, CEO, Femili PNG, **Dr Judy Putt**, Senior Researcher, Department of Pacific Affairs, Australian National University, **Minetta Kakarere**, Tutor, Political Science Department, UPNG

Femili PNG is a PNG NGO that supports survivors of family and sexual violence get the support that they need. Since its establishment in 2014, it has helped some 7,000 clients and their dependents. Femili PNG maintains a Client Management System through which client characteristics, abuse, objectives and outcomes are recorded. It also asks a sample of clients for feedback on their experience.

This session will discuss two new reports based on the analysis of this data:

- Survivor data from Femili PNG's first decade
- Feedback from survivors: Femili PNG 2021 to 2023

The reports offer unique insights into the problems facing survivors of family and sexual violence, their aspirations and objectives, and the extent to which support systems – in particular emergency accommodation, restraining orders, and relocations – are accessible and operational.

The two reports are authored by Professor Stephen Howes, Director, Development Policy Centre, Australian National University, and Estelle Stambolie, Research Officer, Development Policy Centre, Australian National University. The panel will include the authors as well as distinguished discussants, who will react to the findings and share their own insights.

Parallel Session 1B: Banking and finance

The implementation of small and medium-sized enterprises credit enhancement loan scheme: a case of Bank South Pacific, PNG

Theo Michael, Lecturer, PNG University of Technology

Papua New Guinea's 2020 SME Credit Enhancement Loan Scheme (SMECELS), designed to stimulate economic growth, job creation, and SME innovation, faces challenges due to stringent loan processes at the disbursement bank (BSP) and limited outreach to targeted SMEs, particularly those in remote areas with insufficient collateral. These obstacles are further compounded by SMEs' limited assets and rural locations. To understand these issues and identify improvement strategies, this study employed a mixed-method approach, collecting data from a diverse range of SMEs (142 from Port Moresby and Lae) and senior retail and marketing officers at BSP (10). Descriptive and qualitative data analysis methods were used to extract insights and formulate recommendations. The research proposes collaborative solutions involving government, financial institutions, and stakeholders. Promoting credit guarantee schemes, partnerships, and enhanced collateral support can incentivize SME participation. Additionally, improved creditworthiness assessments by credit bureaus are crucial. For BSP, adopting financial technologies and digital platforms can streamline applications, reduce paperwork, and automate assessments. By addressing these limitations, SMECELS can become a more effective tool for supporting PNG's SMEs and fostering broader economic development.

Tangled webs, elusive justice: low money laundering convictions in PNG

Michael Kabuni, PhD student, ANU

Papua New Guinea is among the 200+ nations combatting money laundering and terrorist financing. As a member of the Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering, it must adhere to 49 global standards, gauged through 11 outcome-based indicators. However, PNG has only met four of these standards since 2008, and records a 'low' ranking across all 11 indicators. This presentation seeks to explain the reasons behind PNG's deficient compliance and results, drawing insights from court cases and interviews with key stakeholders in PNG.

Corporate governance and ethics on the PNG banking industry: challenges and opportunities

Suresh Babu Nagarajan, PGS Convener, Senior Lecturer, SBPP, UPNG, **Prof Lekshmi**

Narayana Pillai Chidambara Thanu, Acting Pro-Vice Chancellor, UPNG, **Patricia Angopa**, Head of Banking and Finance Division, Lecturer, SBPP, UPNG, **Kingtau Mambon**, Tutor, SBPP, UPNG, **Kepi Mato Yogomin**, Tutor, SBPP, UPNG Janet Niningi, Tutor, University of Goroka; Joy Asiure, Lecturer and Director, Centre for Educational Research, University of Goroka

This research explores the state of corporate governance and ethics within the banking industry of Papua New Guinea (PNG), identifying key challenges and potential opportunities for improvement. The study is motivated by the critical role that robust governance and ethical standards play in ensuring financial stability, fostering customer trust, and promoting sustainable economic growth. Using a mixed-methods approach, the research collects data through surveys and interviews with diverse stakeholders, including bank employees, customers etc.

The specific objectives are to:

1. Assess the current state of corporate governance in PNG banks.
2. Evaluate ethical standards and practices within the industry.
3. Identify key challenges to implementing robust governance and ethics.
4. Explore opportunities for enhancing governance and ethical practices.
5. Provide practical recommendations for improvement.
6. Document and analyze best practices within the PNG banking sector.

Key findings indicate that while there is a foundational awareness of corporate governance principles among PNG banks, significant challenges hinder their effective implementation. These challenges include regulatory constraints, limited resources, and cultural factors that may not always align with international governance standards. Ethical practices, though recognized as vital, often suffer from insufficient enforcement mechanisms and a lack of comprehensive training programs.

This study offers practical recommendations for stakeholders aiming to strengthen these areas. The findings contribute valuable insights to policymakers, banking professionals, and researchers focused on financial sector governance and ethics, particularly within emerging economies.

Parallel Session 1C: Teachers and the education sector

Teacher regulation for quality and quantity - Can it be done? - PNG's pathway to teacher registration reform

Paul Ainui, Acting Deputy Secretary, Curriculum and Standards, PNG National Department of Education, **Samson Wangihomie**, Chairman, Teaching Service Commission, **Catherine Johnston**, Lead Education Specialist, Abt Global, **Grant Selmes**, Governance Advisor, Abt Global

Teacher registration is the gateway to the teaching profession in Papua New Guinea. The responsibility for teacher registration rests with the Secretary of the National Department of Education (NDoE) as part of the National Education System established under the PNG Education Act 1983. With increasing numbers of schools, students and teachers, the teacher registration system has become inefficient and outdated with large numbers of teachers remaining unregistered or in need of progression to full registration. In order to develop a strategy for improving teacher registration, NDoE with support from the Teaching Service Commission (TSC) and Provincial Divisions of Education (PDoEs) conducted a study of the PNG teacher registration system.

The objective of the study was to conduct a thorough analysis of the current PNG teacher registration system including the existing legislative, policy and administrative settings and to provide recommendations for systems improvement. The study included an analysis and capacity assessment of the Teacher Registration Unit and also identified duplication of processes across NDoE, the TSC and PDoEs. There was a thematic analysis of interviews with 44 teachers across three provinces and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville as to their experience of teacher registration, providing real-life insights to the issues identified. Furthermore, a comprehensive list of sector stakeholders was consulted to validate key findings and recommendations.

The presentation will provide an overview of the study findings and recommendations and outline the key initiatives underway to streamline processes so that teachers experience a system that values and supports them throughout their career.

How real-time evaluation can improve training practices and learning outcomes: experimental data from PNG

Kabira Namit, Economist, Abt Global, **Kathryn Lee**, M&E Manager, Abt Global

In-service teacher training programs in fragile settings seldom undergo rigorous evaluation. It is logistically difficult to conduct teacher trainee assessments in remote settings as vast numbers of test items need to be administered and graded. Moreover, the process can take valuable time away from the training itself. The evaluation also rarely benefits the teacher trainees directly – by the time their data has been analysed, the training has long since ended. This paper discusses a novel real-time evaluation approach used to address these challenges during a series of workshops that took place sequentially across three provinces and one region of Papua New Guinea in February and March 2023.

The order in which provinces benefitted from the training was randomised. Pre-test and post-test assessments were conducted on tablets. Pre-training assessments were uploaded and analysed remotely in real-time. At the end of each workshop, the facilitators were provided feedback on concepts that teacher trainees struggled with even after training, along with anonymised feedback.

The feedback loop significantly improved facilitator performance, teacher-trainee subject knowledge, and teacher-trainee satisfaction with each iteration of the training. Gains in trainee subject knowledge increased incrementally (from 0.45 standard deviations in the first province to 0.8 standard deviations in the fourth), and trainee satisfaction increased over the period from 58% to 87%.

Overall, this study demonstrates the importance of an activist approach to evaluation. This approach can be applied to training programs to improve their content, training methods and overall effectiveness.

Addressing social injustice and inequity through Critical Literacy Education: PNG teacher education and critical literacy

Kele Yako, PhD Scholar, **Rhonda Faragher**, Professor, University of Queensland

Papua New Guinea in the 21st century needs to broaden its horizon in literacy education and begin to take the teaching of critical literacy seriously. Critical literacy can empower learners to acquire knowledge and develop skills to expand their reasoning, seek multiple perspectives, and actively advocate for social justice and equity. Teacher Education (TE) in PNG needs to adequately prepare pre-service teachers to foster critical literacy in classrooms. In making this argument, I conceive of the importance of critical literacy in decolonising education to boost integral human development and address social injustice in PNG. The study analyses policy and pedagogical gaps in critical literacy in TE.

The study enquired about the effectiveness of critical literacy policy during initial teacher education by interviewing 13 teacher educators and 16 pre-service teachers in five teacher education institutions. The qualitative study was guided by Freire's critical pedagogy and postcolonialism theories that have the potential to emancipate daily life in PNG from dominating powers of colonisation and neo-colonialism which still dominate. In analysing the data, I highlight the multiple tensions involved with enacting policy concerning critical literacy in pre-service teacher education in PNG. The findings suggest that various efforts to enact critical literacy through policy often encounter conceptual, translational, pedagogical, cultural, and logistical challenges. This research speaks to several areas of scholarship: the Freirean approach to education in postcolonial PNG, pre-service teacher education in a postcolonial context, policy enactment, critical literacy as a branch of literacy, and critical literacy and social justice.

Navigating education evaluations in fragile settings: measuring the impact and sustainability of an in-service teacher development program in PNG

Kabira Namit, Economist, Abt Global, **Kathryn Lee**, M&E Manager, Abt Global

Amidst the challenging landscape of Papua New Guinea, where the education sector grapples with persistently low learning outcomes, our presentation offers a deep dive into the design and findings of an innovative classroom evaluation.

We used propensity score matching to allow for a nuanced comparison between teachers who have undergone professional development in the last two years and their counterparts in similar but non-participatory schools. Additionally, by employing a participatory, contextualized version of the World Bank classroom observation tool for the evaluation (workshopped with the support of senior Papua New Guinean educators), our research emphasizes the collaborative nature of our methodology.

Our findings reveal a tangible short-term uplift in teaching quality across four domains – classroom management, instructional strategies, student engagement, and teacher confidence – attributable to recent in-service participation. However, the waning of these benefits over time spotlights the necessity for ongoing support structures, such as peer-to-peer learning groups and refresher workshops, to cement long-term improvements.

Our presentation further delves into the correlation between teacher motivation, absenteeism, and the effectiveness of positive reinforcement, offering insights into the motivational dynamics at play teased out by our evaluation.

This presentation promises an engaging exploration of evaluations in fragile settings where attendees will gain a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities in sustaining and evaluating teacher development efforts.

The session aims to spark a dialogue on refining teaching evaluations to better serve educators and students alike, underlining the importance of methodological rigour and stakeholder collaboration in educational evaluation.

Parallel Session 1D: Urban and rural development

Safeguarding Port Moresby: evaluating the Tourist Police Initiative's impact on safety and confidence in PNG's capital

Dr Joyce Rayel, Head of Division and **Imelda Atu**, Lecturer and **Ronald Raka**, Lecturer and **Jason Eki Kundi**, Lecturer and **Joseph Kruman**, Tutor, Tourism & Hospitality Management Division, SBPP, UPNG

Tourism plays a pivotal role in the economic development of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, but persistent safety and security concerns hinder its growth. This research evaluates the feasibility and potential effectiveness of implementing a Tourist Police Initiative in Port Moresby to enhance safety and security for tourists. The study investigates stakeholder perceptions, anticipated impacts, challenges, and recommendations for the initiative's successful implementation.

Employing a mixed-methods approach, data was collected through surveys, interviews, and observation. Respondents included government agencies, law enforcement bodies, tourism industry representatives, local communities, and tourists. The findings revealed a strong consensus among stakeholders on the necessity of a Tourist Police Initiative to address security challenges and boost tourist safety and confidence in Port Moresby. Anticipated impacts include improved tourist safety perceptions and behaviors, fostering a positive tourism environment conducive to economic growth.

However, the study also identified logistical, resource-related, cultural, and bureaucratic challenges as potential obstacles to implementation. Key recommendations emphasise the importance of establishing clear communication channels, ensuring adequate resource allocation, and providing comprehensive training for tourist police officers. Addressing these challenges is crucial for the initiative's effectiveness.

Ultimately, the study underscores the significance of the Tourist Police Initiative in fortifying the capital city's reputation as a safe and welcoming urban destination. By enhancing tourist safety and security, the initiative can contribute significantly to the city's sustainable tourism development and economic prosperity. The research highlights the importance of strategic planning and stakeholder collaboration in achieving these goals, providing a roadmap for future implementation efforts.

Hybridity and safety in an urban economic environment: experiences of Awagasi Market vendors
Wilma Langa, PhD Candidate, Queensland University of Technology

Urban settlements are common features of the urban landscape in PNG. They shelter half of all urban residents. Due to the lack of formal housing provisions in urban centers, urban residents build their dwellings on customary and undeveloped state lands. Urban settlements are perceived from the deficit lens, however they contribute to the urban economy. Urban informal markets in PNG are places where vendors from different ethnic groups conduct trading. Economic activities are associated with social activities which are carried out simultaneously giving rise to different cultural beliefs and practices. Hence, safety issues are prevalent due to vendor diversity. Perceptions of safety and informality in urban markets have often focused on apparent deficiencies, resulting in a limited understanding of hybridity that is associated

with these relationships and how it is developed, maintained, and used as a means to achieve security goals. This research uses the lens of Melanesian indigenous values to demonstrate how the hybridity of markets gives rise to local values of relational reciprocity as local ways of addressing safety issues in a hybrid market. Drawing on focus group discussion, interviews, and creative mapping with vendors and stakeholders at Awagasi market in Lae city, I argue that understanding hybrid market spaces and how relationships are developed and maintained provide a nuanced understanding of hybridity and its role in establishing and maintaining relationships as a form of internal safety mechanism.

A credit guarantee facility for the development of customary land in PNG: prospects and challenges

Logea Nao, Research Fellow, Sustainable Land Development Program, PNG National Research Institute

With limited availability of State land, customary land has become more important for development in Papua New Guinea in recent years. Developing customary land requires financing, which is often sourced from financial institutions, particularly commercial banks. To access funding from commercial banks, a formal land title is required. However, most customary land in PNG remains without title. Since 2009, amendments to the Land Registration Act 1981 have allowed for customary land without title to be voluntarily registered for a customary land title, and tradable customary land lease titles to be derived from the parent freehold title. Despite this reform, commercial banks do not recognise customary land lease titles as equivalent to a State lease title to be used as collateral to extend credit for the development of customary land. A study undertaken in 2022 by Nao et al. proposed two options to provide financing for the development of customary land – establishment of a National Customary Land Bank, and/or a credit guarantee facility. To understand how a credit guarantee facility can be established in PNG, including potential challenges and strategies to address the same, this study applied a literature review method. The study found that to develop the proposed facility, challenges such as moral hazard and sustainability of the facility should be considered, and strategies to address such challenges should include developing the appropriate legal, regulatory and operational framework and appropriate risk-sharing arrangement. The proposed facility has the potential to unlock the economic value of customary land in PNG.

Parallel Session 1E: Development issues

Extent of decentralised recruitment in unlocking Papua New Guinea's labour mobility aspirations
Natasha Turia, PhD Candidate, ANU

Preliminary findings will be presented on new research that examines the extent of Papua New Guinea's unique decentralised recruitment practices in achieving its national target of sending 8,000 workers overseas by 2025 through participation in Pacific Australia Labour Mobility and Recognised Seasonal Employers schemes. While overall findings indicate growth, it is not at an equitable scale across all 118 electorates in PNG, resulting in uneven access and share to PALM and RSE schemes. This research describes the complexities that exist in the practice of decentralised recruitment. Situated in the migration discipline through a political economy lens, the research describes how PNG's existing decentralised governance structures influence its recruitment practices. It introduces a new layer of cooperative governance to temporary managed labour mobility schemes that present both challenges and opportunities to scale recruitments from a sending country. Multi-sited research was conducted through semi-structured interviews from across PNG, New Zealand and Australia with over 70 participants including policy makers, implementing partners, employers and Papua New Guineans engaged under the PALM and RSE schemes. A deep dive analysis of the similarities and differences in decentralised governance structures at the political, administrative, and fiscal levels of recruitment practices was undertaken among selected recruitment hubs in PNG. This research

provides insights to enhance PNG's cooperative labour mobility governance arrangements with Australia and New Zealand and has the potential to identify a best practice recruitment system(s) that will inform national labour mobility policy in unlocking PNG's labour mobility aspirations.

Student attitudes towards national identity and progress

Kelly Samof, Lecturer, UPNG

With over 830 languages, Papua New Guinea is one of the most ethnically diverse countries in the world. Much has been written about the development challenges Papua New Guinea is enduring today but very little is known about the views of its citizens regarding these issues and their perceptions of the direction in which the country is heading. This paper presents findings of a survey on the attitudes of 370 students from the University of Papua New Guinea. These students are highly likely to feature among the next generation of leaders. The study examines their perceptions on national identity, the direction the country is heading in, media access and the PNG National Rugby League bid. Comparability with a survey conducted a decade ago allows for changes over time to be tracked.

Parallel Session 1F: Agriculture and forestry

The impacts of expanding oil palm industry in PNG: the Case of Kairak Community, East New Britain Province

Melga Mevat, Post Graduate student, Pacific Adventist University, Henna Steven, PhD Lecturer, Waikato University, Patrick Pikacha, Environmental biologist researcher, Pacific Adventist University

The global palm oil sector is experiencing rapid expansion driven by escalating global demand for edible oils and biofuels. With developed countries facing land scarcity, the oil palm industry has expanded into Papua New Guinea, notably in East New Britain. Various impacts have been researched but there is little knowledge on how indigenous communities in PNG are successfully addressing the impacts of oil palm expansion. The main aim was to explore how the Kairak Indigenous Community adapt in addressing impacts of oil palm expansion while continuing to engage in oil palm production. A qualitative, ethnographic case study approach is deployed, with tok stori and observation employed to further investigate patterns reported through a quantitative demographic survey and individual interviews. These methods were used to find out how people address the impacts of expanding oil palm. The comparative analysis confirmed the validity of the findings. The findings underscore substantial development implications: socially, the industry triggers land disputes, community fragmentation, and cultural erosion; economically, it brings about unequal benefit distribution, and dependency; environmentally, deforestation, biodiversity loss, and water pollution are observed. These issues exemplify broader development challenges that PNG experiences, where economic activities often entail social and environmental trade-offs. Emphasising the importance of balancing economic growth with social equity and environmental sustainability, the paper advocates for addressing these implications by using indigenous peoples' experiences to formulate policy frameworks that promote sustainable practices.

The roles of organic matter of varying nutrient content use as amendment in composted mounds on sweet potato tissue accumulation of micronutrients

Topas Peter, MSc. Student, PNG University Of Technology, Patrick Michael, Professor Associate, PNG University Of Technology

Sweet potato is the staple of the central highlands and many parts of the lowlands in PNG. One major problem with sweet potato consumption is micronutrient deficiency and its associated health implications. The micronutrients obtained for good health depend entirely on the soil types, soil nutrient management, and production practices. In the central highlands, sweet potato is produced mainly in composted mounds and in flat beds, which is rare. The principal

practice in composted mounds used for sweet potato production is that a heap of organic matter (amendment) is covered with topsoil, and vines are planted around the top end. In this study, a trial using organic matter of varying nutrient content in composted mounds was conducted in the central highlands (Laiagam, Enga Province) to understand the roles of organic matter in tissue accumulation of micronutrients in sweet potatoes. Fern leaf and cogon grass plant materials (locally available) were collected from the study site, prepared as required and used as organic matter. The first treatment was the control mound without amendment and planted, the second was cogon grass amended and planted, the third was fern amended and planted, and the fourth was a combined cogon grass and fern leaf amended and planted. All the treatment mounds were replicated four times and set up in a complete randomized block design under field conditions. Soil and plant tissue (vines and tuber) were sampled after six and twelve months, and replicated plant tissue samples from each treatment were analysed for the contents of seven micronutrients. The treatment average was taken by taking the mean of the treatment replicates. Significant differences ($p < 0.05$) between treatment means were determined by two way ANOVA to compare the treatment means. The results showed that the accumulation of micronutrients depends on the type of organic matter used as an amendment and the age of the tissues at harvest, which has health implications for the general uses of sweet potatoes.

Social and cultural influences on the Bulolo Wau Industrial Tree Plantation Development in PNG: evidence from the three indigenous forest village communities

June Mandawali, Research Officer, PNG Forest Research Institute, Master of Philosophy Candidate, PNG University of Technology, Principal Supervisor, Dr Cossey Yosi, Head of School of Forestry, PNG University of Technology

Industrial tree plantations contribute to economic growth, sustainable forest management, biodiversity conservation, and carbon sequestration and require a more comprehensive and balanced approach that considers the long-term ecological, social, and economic impacts. The influence of Indigenous Forest Communities (IFCs) on industrial tree plantation development, management, and sustainability in Papua New Guinea is not well understood.

This study examines the social and cultural influences of IFCs in the Bulolo Wau Industrial Tree Plantation (BWITP) within two districts involving the development, management, and sustenance of one of Papua New Guinea's only sustainable industrial tree plantations to date. A social survey using the ethnographic methodology was employed to gather data in the target areas. Data were collected via a questionnaire and analysed by the SPSS software package. The results indicated that IFCs in the target areas do have a significant influence on the sustainability of the BWITP's management, development, and sustenance. The results can be used by the PNG Forest Authority to develop management plans, policies, and strategies to replicate such plantations elsewhere around the country.

Demarcation of suitable land for rice and wheat cultivation using Multi-Criteria Decision making Approach (MCDA): A case study in Southern Highlands Province

Einstein Den, Post Graduate Candidate, PNG University of Technology, Sailesh Samanta, Associate Professor, PNG University of Technology

Papua New Guinea has abundant land resources that are not being fully utilised. Rice is a key food staple in urban and some rural regions of the country. The demand for wheat and rice is significant for the production of bread, biscuits, and noodles in Papua New Guinea. Despite the high consumption levels, rice and wheat are the primary imported crop grains meeting the needs of a rapidly growing population. Remote sensing and geographical information systems are two formidable tools with the potential for applications in land suitability analysis. Multi-criteria decision approach (MCDA) was employed to delineate and evaluate the suitability of land for rice and wheat crops. This research was carried out in the southern highlands province, situated prominently in the centre of mainland Papua New Guinea. The conditioning parameters were carefully chosen using Pairwise comparisons within the multi-

criteria decision aid paradigm. These core parameters include soil depth, texture, drainage, nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, pH, cation exchange capacity, topographic wetness index, base saturation, altitude, slope, land aspects, rainfall, and temperature. The consistency ratios for rice and wheat were computed as 0.08 and 0.09 respectively, which demonstrates a higher level of consistency in the Pairwise comparisons. According to the findings, around 29.59% of the study area exhibits exceptional suitability for rice cultivation, while approximately 13.14% is suitable for wheat production. Despite being applied to two crops, there is potential for this technique to be adapted for a wide range of crops by integrating additional socio-economic and environmental factors.

Parallel Session 2A: Politics and governance

Reform needed to bring stability in PNG parliament

Michael Kabuni, PhD student, ANU

Political horse trading in Papua New Guinea intensified in February 2024 after the grace period preventing votes of no confidence ended. Such instability can hinder the government's attention to national issues, but the risk of stability is that it can consolidate an irresponsible governments. There are two proposals before the PNG parliament aimed at, among other things, ensuring political stability: the revised Organic Law on the Integrity of Political Parties and Candidates, and the Direct Election of the Prime Minister. This presentation will examine aspects of these proposals that could ensure stability in parliament while maintaining the legislature's ability to hold the executive accountable.

Are government ministers more likely to be re-elected? Evidence from PNG

Alyssa Leng, Research Officer, Development Policy Centre, ANU

Being a government minister is often seen as providing a resource and reputational advantage for parliamentarians running for re-election. Using a difference-in-differences event study approach, I find that being a minister increases the likelihood that an incumbent parliamentarian wins at the next election by 14.4 percentage points in open (district-level) electorates in PNG. This ministerial incumbency effect dissipates within one election cycle, even if the parliamentarian continues to hold ministerial office. Substantial heterogeneity however exists across types of electoral seats and ministerial portfolios. There appears to be no effect for ministers running for re-election in provincial electoral seats covering multiple districts, likely reflecting the effects of a law governing ministerial office in PNG. The magnitude and direction of the ministerial incumbency effect also differs according to the type of ministry, with economic and central agency portfolios providing substantially greater electoral benefits than more junior ministerial positions.

Otonomi bilong wanem? Autonomy for what?: the interfaces of identity, development, and decentralisation in Papua New Guinea

James Stiefvater, PhD Candidate, Massey University

Complex social identities in contemporary Papua New Guinea have become even more complicated by the implementation of state development policies. This presentation is about the challenges and negotiations in relationships between strongly held, dynamic, and multifaceted local identities with state politics and development policies and processes in Papua New Guinea. Using tok stori methodology, this doctoral thesis project explores relationships between multiple layers of identities and state development policies of redistribution of resources, and their role as drivers in movements for greater decentralisation via special autonomy in the subnational island jurisdictions of East New Britain Province (ENB) and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (AROB).

Special autonomy as a political status appears to be seen by its proponents as a panacea for the challenges of development faced by ENB and AROB, but a deeper analysis of the surrounding issues will shed light on whether efficiency is the only matter at hand. The

location-specific focus of this research seeks to understand what Indigenous peoples in these provinces might seek to gain through special autonomy, gaining a better comprehension of the dynamics surrounding local identities and government development. This examination of the interfaces between identities, development, and decentralisation and how they are strategized within provincial and state governments will shed light on the contemporary dynamics of the state of Papua New Guinea as we ask the question, autonomy for what?

Parallel Session 2B: The Pacific Engagement Visa in Papua New Guinea: attitudes and issues

Prof Stephen Howes, Director, Development Policy Centre, ANU, **Natasha Turia**, PhD candidate, DPA, ANU, **Dr Chakriya Bowman**, Director and Senior Consultant, Sapience

In June 2024, Papua New Guineans became eligible to enter into a ballot that will give 1,350 PNG citizens the right to become permanent residents of Australia.

This is part of the Pacific Engagement Visa (PEV), which will offer 3,000 permanent residency visas across the Pacific. While 10 countries are participating, PNG is by far the largest with almost half of the total quota reserved for it.

The introduction of the PEV is arguably the biggest change in PNG's migration regime since independence.

But what does the PEV mean for PNG and the diaspora? What is the interest in PEV? What are the obstacles and reservations? And what is its future?

You don't have to be in PNG to apply for the PEV and applications are expected from both PNG residents and from PNG temporary workers in Australia, especially those on the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) program.

A panel of experts will discuss the attitudes of and issues facing both PNG residents and PNG PALM workers, based on their respective research. The panel will also present the historical background to the PEV and the experience of other countries.

Parallel Session 2C: Climate change and sustainability

A climate smart approach towards building resilience in PNG's rural farming communities

Mawe Gonapa, PhD Candidate, Australian National University

Productivity and efficiency of agriculture supply and value chains in PNG are impacted due to extreme weather patterns (erratic rainfall and temperatures) which affect food security, income security and livelihoods of more than eight five percent of smallholder growers who are responsible for total volume of food, cash crops and livestock produced in PNG.

In the face of climate change, climate smart agriculture is an option for smallholder growers to pursue productivity and profitability through resilient farming. The skills, knowledge and technologies associated with climate science and climate application are lacking, hence smallholder growers in PNG would require targeted capacity building to empower them to adapt and mitigate climate change to secure food, income and livelihood.

A Climate Smart Agriculture Resource Centre (CSARC) is a viable model to generate innovative research and extension outcomes empowering grower groups in strategic locations across PNG to pursue conventional, commercial and carbon farming. A typical CSARC model would comprise a training centre, model farm (with nurseries), climate smart technologies to support interventions to raise productivity and profitability of farming enterprise in rural communities in PNG. The effective operation of a CSARC model will be discussed in this paper to demonstrate that commodity organisations (such as Coffee Industry Corporation (CIC), Cocoa Industry Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) etc.) could take the lead to develop the capacity training required to empower grower groups to engage productively in commercial farming using a partnership approach. The presentation will focus on capacity building for a youth cohort in climate smart farming.

Resettlement of Patnav clan families in Yaga Village on Umboi Island, Siassi, Morobe Province, PNG

Lorna Saguba, Researcher, Mana Pacific Consultants Ltd

Climate change is affecting Island communities in the Pacific, forcing many to move or consider moving to bigger land mass. Tok Stori was employed to investigate climate mobility on Yaga Village, Umboi Island, Siassi, Morobe Province. Arts-based methods were also employed. The research project *Rising stories: investigating climate (im)mobility in the Pacific through multigenerational family stories* was initiated by the New Zealand Government (MFAT) and implemented/carried out by the Mana Pacific Consultants. The case study of Patnav clan families in Yaga Village was one of ten case studies across six Pacific nations in this research project. The data was analyzed using thematically, coded under resilience and wellbeing. The first family from the Patnav clan who moved from Tuam Island in the 1960s, and others who followed thereafter, were able to survive in the new environment through cultural and traditional connections established in the past between their people and the host community, the people of Umboi Island. Current issues experienced by the settlers on Yaga village include remoteness of the island, lack of government services, lack of economic activities, population increase in the village, land shortage and, restricted access to land and sea resources. Despite these challenges, they continue to survive drawing strength from inspirational ancestral survival stories, communal living, intermarriages with the host communities, trading/bater systems and their Christian Faith in God. Settlers on Yaga village call for support from all levels of government and NGOs to help them to mitigate the social-economic impacts and challenges associated with climate change mobility.

An investigation of sustainability reporting

Panditha Bandara, Senior Lecturer, SBPP, UPNG

This research investigates sustainability reporting with a focus on the provisions outlined by the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) and their application in Papua New Guinea. The ISSB, established by the IFRS Foundation, aims to create a global baseline for sustainability-related financial disclosures, enhancing transparency and comparability across jurisdictions. Sustainability reporting in Papua New Guinea is closely aligned with global frameworks and national priorities to address environmental, social, and governance (ESG) issues. This approach is reflected in several key initiatives and strategic frameworks including UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2024-2028, SDG 13 Roadmap and Corporate ESG Initiatives.

This study examines the specific requirements set by the ISSB and their relevance to PNG's regulatory framework and corporate reporting practices. Through a detailed analysis of current sustainability reporting standards in PNG, the research highlights the challenges and opportunities faced by businesses in adopting these international standards. The findings demonstrate that while PNG is making strides towards integrating ISSB provisions, significant efforts are needed to fully align local practices with global expectations. This alignment is crucial for improving corporate accountability, attracting foreign investment, and supporting sustainable development in PNG. Case studies and stakeholder interviews provide insights into the practical implications of these standards, offering a comprehensive overview of PNG's experience in transitioning to enhanced sustainability reporting.

PNG climate change and Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC): its regulation, the implementation and the importance of Article 4 of the Climate Change Paris Agreement for PNG
Alfred Rungol, PNG's UNFCCC Roster of Experts, UNFCCC PNG (Independent)

In Papua New Guinea, climate change poses significant challenges to the country's environment, economy, and society. Recognizing the urgency of addressing this issue, PNG has committed to taking action through its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC).

This abstract examines PNG's regulatory framework for climate change, focusing on its NDC and the implementation plan thereof. Central to this discussion is the critical role of Article 4 of the Paris Agreement in guiding PNG's climate action efforts.

The NDC serves as PNG's roadmap for mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to the impacts of climate change. It outlines specific targets, policies, and measures aimed at reducing carbon emissions, enhancing resilience, and promoting sustainable development. Through its regulatory mechanisms, PNG seeks to mobilise domestic resources, foster international cooperation, and integrate climate considerations into its national policies and strategies.

Crucially, Article 4 of the Paris Agreement emphasises the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, acknowledging the varying capacities and circumstances of nations like PNG. It underscores the importance of support from developed countries in enabling PNG to effectively implement its NDC and achieve its climate goals. Additionally, Article 4 highlights the need for transparency, accountability, and the provision of adequate financial, technological, and capacity-building assistance to developing countries.

In conclusion, PNG's climate change regulation, embodied in its NDC and guided by Article 4 of the Paris Agreement, underscores the country's commitment to addressing the climate crisis while ensuring sustainable development and resilience for its people and ecosystems.

Parallel Session 2D: Sorcery and Gender

Investigating the effects of sorcery related behaviour on student learning in primary schools, Central Province, PNG

Ano Airoma, Lecturer, Sacred Heart Teachers College, Bomana

Sorcery, a traditional belief system based on superstitious power from the demons and ancestral remains, is common in Melanesian Society and widely practiced in Papua New Guinea. Students involvement in sorcery related activities in primary schools has caused alarm. This study investigated the effects of sorcery-related behaviour on student learning in primary schools in Central Province, PNG and find possible measures to address and control the phenomena.

Findings from the current study reveal that students' involvement in sorcery activities in primary schools is real and has negative effect on student learning. Almost half (40%) of the students have seen or experienced forms of sorcery practices in their schools, which is significant. Results show that sorcery practices affect students learning including their academic performance, behaviour and personal relationship with others. Hereditary, peer pressure, cultural values and parental negative influence were some of the causes of students involvement in sorcery related activities.

Data further reveals that a collaborative approach from all stakeholders (government, education department, schools, church, community leaders and parents) play a significant role to address this issue.

Addressing sorcery related violence and tribal fight through peace building

Dr Dick Witne Bomai, University of Goroka

Core to this discussion is an analysis of how the tribal, inter clan relationships, social networks, and values of caring and sharing with other family and community members at difficult times were important for peace building and resolving issues related to sorcery accusations. From the lens of peace building, contemporary complex violent issues such as sorcery accusation related violence (SARV) requires a holistic response embracing social, cultural, physical, emotional, economic and legal wellbeing of a person and community. Peace building aimed at addressing and preventing tribal fights and SARV privilege open conversations, consensus, mutual acceptance and reconciliation, which are key values of Indigenous knowledge, relationality, and identity. The understanding and responses to SARV among the Yuri people of Simbu Province were documented through semi-structured interviews and integrating the local form of storytelling (kapor) with photovoice. These were methods developed to suit the context and that allowed me as the researcher and the participants to engage in open conversations, stories, and reflections to gain insights into the lived experiences and challenges of the people. The participants expressed their actions and emotions of joy, sadness, hope, or a combination of these in peace building and responses to SARV. I discuss both Indigenous and exogenous concepts that impacted on Yuri's approach to building peace and community cohesion.

Framing gender equality through the revitalised Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration

Fiona Hukula, Policy Adviser-Gender Equality, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

In 2012, Pacific Islands Forum Leaders endorsed the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (PLGED) in response to a deep concern about the slow progress of gender equality in the region. Their endorsement, critical for progress, brought a new determination and commitment to efforts towards lifting the status of women in the Pacific so they can be active participants in economic, political, and social life. The 2012 PLGED focused on six priority areas specifically (i) gender-responsive government programmes and policies, (ii) decision-making, (iii) economic empowerment, (iv) ending violence against women, (v) health

and (vi) education. In 2021, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat commissioned a review of the PLGED. Key findings from the review included a lack of visibility, ownership, and governance. In 2022, PIF leaders endorsed the process to revitalise the PLGED using the findings of the 2021 review of the Declaration. Following extensive consultations with Member countries, the Revitalised Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration was endorsed in Rarotonga in 2023. This Revitalised PLGED is the region's renewed commitment by PIF leaders to address gender inequality in our Blue Pacific Continent. This paper will aim to connect the Revitalised PLGED and regional gender equality efforts to Papua New Guinea's gender equality actions and commitments. Furthermore, the paper will explore the idea of what a 'Pacific' definition of gender equality could look like.

Parallel Session 2E: Education

Assessing quality of basic education in Enga Province, PNG: factors impacting students' learning experience

Hafford Norea, Research Officer, PNG National Research Institute

The research focuses on the Tuition Fee-Free (TFF) policy, highlighting its dual impact: while increasing student enrollment and easing financial burdens, it strains resources, leading to overcrowded classrooms, inadequate materials, increased teacher workloads, and ultimately, diminished educational quality.

External factors such as natural barriers, tribal conflicts, transportation challenges, and family dynamics further hinder students' educational experiences. Internal school factors, including lack of teacher support, bullying, inadequate resources, and poor sanitation, exacerbate these challenges.

Based on surveys conducted with 1,358 students, 130 teachers, and 15 head teachers, the findings reveal significant adverse effects of TFF on education quality, as well as critical external and internal impediments. To address these issues and foster a conducive learning environment, the study recommends several interventions: improving TFF administration and resource management, building accessible schools in remote areas, fostering community-school relationships, implementing conflict resolution mechanisms, prioritizing funding for educational resources and infrastructure, and creating awareness programs to combat bullying and distractions.

By adopting these strategies, Enga Province can enhance the stability and quality of its educational system, thereby contributing to the broader goal of securing a stable environment for growth and development in the region.

A two-level hierarchical linear modeling of factors affecting students' examination performance in secondary schools in Papua New Guinea

Michael Magury Peter, Research Fellow, PNG National Research Institute

Multilevel analysis and data from 2020 Year 10 Examination results in Papua New Guinea's secondary schools were used to estimate a two-level model for the impacts of student and school characteristics on student academic performance from which important government policy implications are extracted. Two models used were an empty model and student model. The empty model indicates that proportion of variance in the student achievement scores exists between students from the same school and smaller variance exists between students from different schools. The student model indicates that the effect of gender is significant for mathematics, science, and social science when the effects of age and written expression are statistically controlled. The effect of age is significant in all subjects indicating that older students scored lower in all subjects than younger students. Students' academic performance is strongly related to their written expression results for all four subjects. School type had a significant positive influence on students' academic scores in English, mathematics, science,

and social science when church and independent schools were compared to government schools. There were also significant location and remoteness effects for all four subjects, with students in remote rural areas scoring lower than students in urban areas. School size shows that marks achieved by students were higher for larger schools than for smaller schools. An exploratory analysis was used for each of the above models to determine which of the student effects were moderated by each of the school effects.

Effective student learning approaches and its relationship with academic performance at the School of Business and Public Policy, University of PNG

David Mo, Lecturer, **Imelda Atu**, Lecturer, **Patricia Angopa**, Lecturer, **Sharon Niaga**, Lecturer, **Molly Yoko**, Postgraduate Student, UPNG

This research examines effective student learning approaches employed within the academic settings of the School of Business and Public Policy, University of Papua New Guinea. The approaches a student uses to learn differ among individuals due to various factors. While the learners actively participate in the learning process, the education process engages and expands their experience. The study investigates the relationship between students' learning approaches and academic performance. There are limited empirical studies done to explore students' learning approaches and the corresponding impact on academic performance in Papua New Guinea. A quantitative research methodology was utilised where data was collected through a structured questionnaire distributed among a stratified random sample of School of Business and Public Policy final-year undergraduate students. Research questionnaires were used to investigate various dimensions of students' learning approaches, perceptions of mediating factors and academic outcomes. The collected data was analysed using descriptive and inferential statistical analysis. Descriptive statistics were used to summarise the characteristics of the variables. Further, inferential statistics were utilised to determine the relationship between students' learning approaches and academic outcomes. In addition, thematic analysis was used to analyse the qualitative responses to provide a deeper understanding of the students' experiences and perspectives. The implications of the study inform educational practices, policy formulation, and research advancement. Furthermore, this research aspires to boost the effectiveness of student learning approaches, elevate educational standards, and ensure holistic development within the diverse and vibrant academic community.

Parallel Session 2F: Media, technology and research and development

Enabling or hindering growth and development: mobile internet pricing in PNG

Dr Amanda HA Watson, Fellow, Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU, **Moses Sakai**, Research Fellow, PNG National Research Institute, **Loretta Dilu**, Tutor, UPNG, **Hafford Norea**, Research Officer, PNG National Research Institute, **Jonathan Zureo**, Lecturer, Divine Word University

This PNG Update presentation will outline the authors' continuing mobile internet price monitoring research and present the latest findings. It will examine whether mobile internet pricing in Papua New Guinea is enabling or hindering growth and development.

When this research began in early 2020, mobile internet prices were very high in PNG and the country was ranked very poorly on internet affordability compared to other countries. For more than two years, expected price reductions did not occur. However, the prices of mobile internet services started to decrease when a new mobile network operator launched its services in April 2022.

While mobile internet remains too expensive for many people in PNG, recent price decreases may present opportunities for growth and development in various ways. For instance, small businesses may be able to increase their profitability, resilience and/or efficiency. Students may be able to access online learning resources. Job seekers may be able to review job

advertisements online. Government entities could look to offer some services through online portals. Further price decreases could create an enabling environment for growth and development. On the other hand, stubbornly high prices may hinder the achievement of economic growth targets and development goals.

The presentation will focus on the consumer experience and the latest pricing data. The data and analysis will be of interest to policy makers, students and industry representatives. Indeed, every person in PNG who uses a mobile telephone could be expected to be interested in the internet service costs.

A media environment for growth and development

Dr Amanda HA Watson, Fellow, Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU

The government of Papua New Guinea is proposing to bring into force the country's first media law, which could have substantial impacts for the media environment.

The PNG government made available version five of the proposed media policy early in 2024. This PNG Update presentation will provide analysis of version five, update the audience regarding the status of the policy, and clarify whether this version presents a threat to media freedom in PNG.

PNG slipped down noticeably in the annual World Press Freedom Index in 2024. Media freedom has been protected in the constitution of PNG since independence in 1975. Nonetheless, it is fragile.

Importantly, the presentation will unpack what changes in media regulation could mean for the prospects for growth and development. Some may assume that media support for a government would be beneficial for growth and development. However, a media industry that is freely able to investigate government policies and actions can assist with ensuring an enabling environment for growth and development. The presentation will explain the key role of the media sector in the effective functioning of a democracy.

The presentation will focus on media regulation in PNG, which is a timely topic, given the major shift that the PNG government is considering. It is anticipated that the presentation would be of interest to various PNG Update attendees, including students, academics and policy makers. The presentation would likely have thought-provoking overlaps with presentations in the areas of public policy, political studies and social studies.

Baseline survey of research capacity in Papua New Guinea's research institutions and universities

Paula Kaupa, PhD Candidate, PNG University of Technology, Kulala Mulung, CEO, PNG Science & Technology Secretariat, Teatulohi Matainaho, Vice Chancellor, Pacific Adventist University, Nick Tagep, Research Infrastructure Director and George Rua, Research Officer, PNG Science and Technology Secretariat

National Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) indicators establish the link between Research and Development (R&D) performed and its impact on the technological intensity and measure the overall R&D impact on the economy, ultimately driving economic growth. To seize this potential the Papua New Guinea government needs reliable and precise data to take appropriate action in providing a cohesive investment plan to address R&D issues that are relevant and coherent with the national development goals. In response a Baseline Research Capacity Assessment Survey was carried out in 2016 to establish the state of R&D in PNG. The objective of the survey was to assess human and financial resources devoted to R&D in universities and research institutions in PNG. The survey comprised a census across universities and government and private non-profit research institutions. Based on partial survey data the share of researchers in relation to the total population of PNG was

33.4 full-time equivalent per million inhabitants. This indicator for human resource potential for research shows that PNG has a lesser proportion of researchers compared to other similar sized countries across the Asia-Pacific region. In 2016 PNG spent approximately K20.5 million in R&D, which translates to just 0.03% of GDP of the same year. This share of GDP devoted to R&D activities is way below the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) average of 2.1% for East Asia and the Pacific region.

Reimagining higher education in the age of generative AI

Raymond Kamb John, Lecturer and Head of HRM Division, UPNG

Generative Artificial Intelligence is a game-changer that is disrupting all industries around the world. Generative AI refers to the type of Artificial Intelligence that generates novel and diverse text, image, and video based on prompts. The impact of Generative AI in higher education is transformative. This paper will demonstrate the use cases of Generative AI in teaching and learning and also propose strategies on how higher education institutions can adopt Generative AI to improve quality of teaching and learning. Specifically, the paper will explore how Generative AI can enhance personalized learning experiences for students, streamline administrative processes, and fostering innovative teaching. Additionally, it will address the challenges and ethical considerations associated with integrating Generative AI in educational settings. Through case studies and practical examples, this paper aims to provide a comprehensive roadmap for educators and policymakers to effectively harness the potential of Generative AI, ensuring that higher education remains adaptive, inclusive, and forward-thinking in this rapidly evolving technological landscape.

DAY TWO – THURSDAY 22 AUGUST

Parallel Session 3A: Novel carbon opportunities in climate smart coffee production

Mawe Gonapa, PhD Candidate, ANU, **Alex McClean**, Chief Executive Officer, Nakau, **Almah Tararia**, Senior Research Consultant, Sustineo, **Ellis Mackenzie**, Senior Research Consultant, Sustineo

In Papua New Guinea, coffee is an important part of the national economy and a crucial crop for supporting rural livelihoods. The coffee industry provides income to just under half of the nation's rural population in some form, but has been impacted in recent decades by environmental and market challenges. The industry recognises that sustainable coffee production will require certain farming system adaptations to climate change.

Meanwhile, climate change has created opportunities such as global carbon markets that hold potential for reducing emissions while rewarding those who can sequester carbon. Previous research has shown that climate smart approaches – such as agroforestry, which integrates crops (like coffee) with trees – hold promise for yielding multiple benefits. Climate change impacts will be felt strongly across PNG coffee farming communities, and integrating nature-positive solutions with economic opportunities provides an important opportunity to share the benefits generated through adaptive climate responses with local communities and stakeholders across the supply chain.

Drawing from environmental and climate justice roots, this panel will present a narrative based on existing research about how equitable benefits from responses to climate change can be supported by considering how climate smart approaches to agriculture intersect with emerging carbon market opportunities. The first panellist will share how as part of 'mitigadaptation' agroforestry, PNG coffee farmers could potentially reap multiple benefits for improving resilience of coffee systems, through additional carbon sequestration on-farm. Educational training and capacity building opportunities could successfully demonstrate

and link the benefits of new climate smart agricultural approaches with the many benefits available through nature-positive and carbon-focused solutions. The second speaker will share considerations for how lessons from other high-integrity carbon projects across the Melanesian Pacific can inform the development of such projects in the PNG Highlands, and particularly how exploring new carbon opportunities through agroforestry might require novel approaches in working with smallholders and farming communities. The final panellist will speak to the importance of considering the regulatory framework that supports the development of a PNG voluntary carbon market that makes space for these novel, integrated approaches. Together the panel shares valuable insights from ongoing project work and seeks reflections and feedback from those in attendance to continue shaping future opportunities in PNG.

Parallel Session 3B: PNG's economy

How much of economic growth trickles down to the population in resource-rich countries?

Evidence from Papua New Guinea

Sharad Tandon, Senior Economist, The World Bank, Paripoorna Baxi, Consultant, The World Bank, Darian Naidoo, Economist, The World Bank

There has been substantial growth in the resource sector in PNG during the last resource boom, increased revenue collection by the government associated with that growth, and significant increases in international assistance, all which might have translated into improved well-being outcomes across the country. To better understand whether these changes improved household-level outcomes, we update estimates of key well-being outcomes in the country. Specifically, we impute monetary poverty status using non-monetary indicators in the 2016-18 Demographic and Health Survey and estimate the World Bank's Multidimensional Poverty Measure. Despite the significant growth since 2009, monetary poverty and access to several essential services hardly changed, which stands in stark contrast to the substantial improvement across the rest of the world and other comparison regions over the same period. Combined, the results illustrate that it is possible that very little of resource-led growth trickles down to the population and that the link between macroeconomic and microeconomic outcomes is more tenuous in PNG than found in other resource-intensive settings.

Determinants of housing prices in PNG – An ARDL approach

Gordon Kapak, Senior Research Analyst, Bank of PNG, Meson Tumsok, Senior Research Analyst, Bank of PNG

This paper investigates the determinants of housing prices in Papua New Guinea using the quarterly data from 2000 to 2023. The study employs the Autoregressive Distributive Lag Model (ARDL) bounds testing approach and finds that in the long-run, monetary policy rate and nominal money supply have a negative effect on housing prices while real GDP and housing loan availability affect housing price positively. In the short-run, past housing prices and nominal money supply have a positive influence on the current period housing prices, while the current nominal money supply and real mortgage lending rate have a negative effect on current house prices. The Global Financial Crisis and the Papua New Guinea Liquefied Natural Gas project shocks had negative and positive effects, respectively, on housing prices in PNG.

Determinants of governments' fiscal resource revenue: evidence from a new database

Martin Davies, Professor of Economics, Washington and Lee University / ANU, **Marcel Schroder**, PNG Country Economist, Asian Development Bank

We construct a new database using the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) annual reports that documents fiscal resource revenues for a large set of Resource Rich Developing Countries from 2006 to 2019. The novel feature of this database is that it contains detailed information on various revenue streams such as corporate income tax, royalties, and dividends. Using this dataset, we document heterogeneous fiscal regimes across countries

and other interesting trends and patterns. Furthermore, we construct a simple measure of governments' take from the resource sector and study its determinants through a game-theoretic model as well as regression analysis. The latter allows for international comparisons of the government take.

Parallel Session 3C: Gender

Wok bung wantaim' (working together): Women associations and foreign aid in Morobe Province, Papua New Guinea

Mary Fairio, PhD candidate, University of St. Andrews

Despite an increase in aid assistance, women continue to struggle to be recognised as leaders in formal spaces in Papua New Guinea. So, I ask: how do women themselves organise? And do aid agencies understand (or fail to understand) women's lives and community work? This paper is based on a 15-month ethnographic fieldwork (from November 2021 to February 2023) that explored women's associations, and their roles in the Lae city and the peri-urban Markham Bridge community, Morobe Province. The findings show that women associations utilise local approaches of 'wok bung wantaim' (working together) and 'givim bel' (giving without expecting anything in return) to organize themselves; and local women leaders are key actors in shaping aid negotiations and outcomes for women leadership programs. Therefore, local women leaders are catalysts for social change who must be involved in aid projects from their beginning.

The impact of Women's Leadership Programs on return home: A pilot study in PNG

Geejay Milli, PhD candidate, Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU, **Sonia Palmieri**, Associate Professor, Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU, **Betty Lovai**, Pro-Vice Chancellor, UPNG

A common theory of change for women's leadership programs suggests an overseas education –funded through scholarships to individuals in developing countries –improves the scholar's socio-economic status, and in so doing, her opportunity for leadership and to contribute to development outcomes in her country. Our research, undertaken in 2022 as a collaborative project between scholars at The Australian National University (ANU) and the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG), uncovered three key assumptions made in both the literature on returned scholars, and the objectives of certain leadership programs: first, the connections made by WLI alumnae with women across the Pacific support their leadership opportunities on return home; second, the ideas and skills learned overseas (in this case, in Australia) can be integrated in to the workplace and community on return home; and third, building women's leadership 'competence' will contribute to their ability to drive development reforms on return home. Of critical concern from these findings is the potential for the expectations raised by these programs to do more harm than good. A few of the women interviewed in this study have endured significant periods of unemployment on return home, and another was at the point of resigning from her position due to repeated incidences of sexism and discrimination in the workplace. Interviewees referred to a 'patriarchal culture' in PNG as a given, an accepted norm of work life. In some workplaces, women have been blocked from leadership opportunities sometimes in spite of their higher qualifications and experience in Australia.

Leadership matters - Benchmarking women in business leadership in PNG and the Pacific

Sarah Boxall, Economic Empowerment of Women Specialist, Asian Development Bank - Pacific Private Sector Development Initiative

In 2021, the Pacific Private Sector Development Initiative (PSDI) launched the first edition of "Leadership Matters," consolidating data on women's representation in business leadership across 50 private sector organizations, including publicly listed companies, state-owned enterprises, and industry associations. The second edition of the report expands this scope, presenting data on nearly 400 private sector organizations across the Pacific, including 95

from Papua New Guinea. This data is supplemented by survey responses from almost 300 women business leaders and over 50 interviews with business leaders.

The report tracks progress and trends in women's representation in business leadership since the 2021 edition. It includes additional analysis on the challenges women face in assuming leadership roles and the organizational responses aimed at increasing women's representation in leadership. The 2024 findings reveal that, despite the scale of the private sector in PNG, women remain underrepresented in business leadership, with almost a quarter of boards having no women directors. On average, women comprise 23% of board directors, below the regional average of 26%. Women are very poorly represented as chief executive officers, at only 9% compared to the regional average of 20%. However, there has been progress in the proportion of women board chairs, directors, and CEOs since the 2021 baseline. The qualitative component of the study highlights promising trends in organizational commitment to enhancing women's leadership opportunities within the business community in PNG, suggesting potential for significant improvement in the coming years.

Parallel Session 3D: Health

Perceptions, acceptances, and attitudes towards COVID-19 Vaccines: A case in point of PNG
Londari Yamarak, Lecturer, PNG University of Technology, **Rex Junior**, Master in Philosophy Student, Papua New Guinea University of Technology, **Hoxchey Anton**, Student, PNG University of Technology

Faced with the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, development of COVID-19 vaccines have been progressing at an unprecedented rate. Vaccines are effective interventions that can reduce the high burden of diseases globally. However, public vaccine hesitancy is a pressing problem for public health authorities with limited information available to the public. This study is aimed to evaluate the acceptance, perceptions, and attitudes of COVID-19 vaccination in PNG. An online, cross-sectional, and self-administered questionnaire was instrumented to survey adult participants from PNG on the acceptability of COVID-19 vaccines. A total of 724 participants completed the survey. Logistic regression analysis was used to find the predictors of COVID-19 vaccines' acceptability. Based on the results, most people trusted information from health authorities. But there is a total breakdown of information dissemination by the relevant authorities and therefore systematic interventions are required by public health authorities to reduce the levels of vaccine hesitancy and improve their acceptance. The results indicated that there is very low rate of acceptance which should be a concern for the relevant authorities in PNG and interventions are urgently needed for more education awareness to revive the trust in the PNG National Department of Health and the Government of PNG at large.

Implementation of tuberculosis infection prevention and control in rural PNG: an evaluation using infection prevention & control assessment framework

Dr. Gigil Marme, Lecturer (PhD Candidate), Divine Word University (Griffith University, Australia), **Jerzy Kuzma**, Professor of Surgery, HOD Medicine, Divine Word University, **Dr Peta-Anne Zimmerman**, Director, Infection Control program, Griffith University, **Neil Harris**, Professor, Director of Higher Degree, Health Griffith University, **Shannon Rutherford**, Associate Professor, Public Health Team, Griffith University

Papua New Guinea is one of the 14 countries categorised as having a triple burden of tuberculosis (TB). This study examines the implementation of the TB infection prevention and control (TBIPC) policy in rural hospitals in the Highlands and Momase region of PNG.

Methods: the implementation of the TB-IPC policy was assessed using a survey method based on the World Health Organization (WHO) IPC assessment framework to implement the WHO's IPC core components. The study included facility assessment at ten district hospitals and validation observations of TB-IPC practices.

Results: overall, the implementation of IPC and TB-IPC guidelines was inadequate in participating facilities. Though 80% of facilities had an IPC program, many needed more clearly defined IPC objectives and budget allocation. 80% (n=8 of 10) of hospitals had no IPC training and education; 90% had no IPC committee to support the IPC team; 70% had no surveillance protocol to monitor infections, and only 20% used multimodal strategies for IPC activities. Similarly, 70% of facilities had a TB-IPC program without a proper budget. 80% indicated that patient flow poses a risk of TB transmission; 70% had poor ventilation systems; 90% had inadequate isolation rooms; and though 80% have personal protective equipment available, frequent shortages were reported.

Conclusion: TB-IPC policy is not effectively implemented in most of the participating district hospitals. Improvements in implementing and disseminating TB-IPC guidelines, monitoring TB-IPC practices, and systematic healthcare workers training are essential to improve TB-IPC guidelines in health settings to reduce TB prevalence in PNG.

Factors affecting COVID-19 vaccination: a Morobe Province perspective

Jack Assa, Lecturer, UPNG, **Moses Sakai**, Research Fellow, PNG National Research Institute, **Albert Ajius**, Lecturer, UPNG, **Emmanuel Gorea**, Lecturer, UPNG

A highly contagious virus, COVID-19 has emerged as a global threat affecting nearly all countries worldwide. It was caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) and was initially identified in China in 2019. In Papua New Guinea, the virus claimed lives of more than 600 people, while the global death toll exceeded 6.8 million.

While vaccination was seen as primary intervention to reduce deaths and transmission of COVID-19, not many people were willing to get vaccinated. Therefore, this post-COVID study was conducted to identify the factors behind vaccine hesitancy in Morobe Province.

This cross-sectional survey, conducted in September 2023, involved 1,385 participants across Morobe Province as part of an ongoing nationwide post-COVID vaccine hesitancy study. However, this paper only present a subset analysis of the study, focusing on 376 samples (N=376).

The subset analysis revealed that vaccine hesitancy is primarily driven by fear of side effects (with 33.2% strongly agree and 35.4% agree) and a lack of trust (42%). Furthermore, 41.4% of respondents indicated they would not take the vaccine, whereas 40.2% strongly agree that they would take the vaccine for employment and travel purposes. Notably, a significant number of participants trust home and natural therapies more (63.6%) than vaccines (18.5%). Additionally, religion was found to be a lesser factor in vaccine hesitancy.

We conclude that government authorities should prioritise raising awareness and educating the public about COVID-19 to improve trust and confidence in the vaccine.

Parallel Session 3E: Infrastructure and development

Living without electricity in urban communities in PNG: the case of 8-Mile settlement

Loretta Dilu, Tutor, UPNG

This PNG Update presentation will highlight the author's recent academic research project that investigated the electricity access challenges in urban communities in PNG and present the latest findings. It will examine urban areas' access issues, focusing on safety, health, education, and economic impacts to inform policy improvements, especially in informal settlements. Using qualitative methods such as non-random sampling and snow ball technique, the study explores 8-mile settlement residents' electricity access challenges, coping strategies, and implications of off-grid living, revealing that limited access reasons are often linked to service inadequacies rather than personal choices. It exposes infrastructure

and land tenure complexities leading to financial struggles and safety concerns, disrupting daily life and business operations, prompting alternative energy use and increased expenses. Electricity shortages hinder business viability and education, with community efforts and government interventions addressing access gaps but posing safety risks. Land recognition issues exacerbate the problem, hindering utility expansion and individuals' access to essential amenities. The focus of this presentation is on presenting the findings of this recent research project and highlight the need for further research on related issues like water supply connections in informal urban communities. This is a timely research topic, where the data and analysis will be of interest to policy makers in the electricity and public service delivery space and other respective stakeholders. Overall, comprehensive solutions involving government, infrastructure improvements, and community involvement are needed to address these socio-economic challenges effectively.

Overcoming Rural Electrification Challenges in PNG: A PMO Perspective

Sioni Sioni, Project Director, GHD

Rural electrification in Papua New Guinea presents a complex landscape shaped by legislative and policy challenges, the strain of a large and growing population, and aging infrastructure. This paper examines these challenges from a Project Management Office (PMO) perspective, emphasising the importance of diligent management of relationships and expectations among the numerous stakeholders involved in the sector.

Drawing on recent projects, this paper explores the multifaceted obstacles faced in rural electrification, including regulatory hurdles, policy inconsistencies, and the demands placed by an expanding population on outdated infrastructure. The PMO's role in navigating these challenges involves meticulous planning, robust stakeholder engagement, effective risk management, and continuous monitoring and evaluation to ensure project success.

Key findings indicate that a PMO-driven approach not only improves project outcomes but also fosters greater community ownership and long-term sustainability. The paper underscores the importance of integrating local knowledge and resources into project planning and execution to effectively meet the unique needs of rural populations.

This paper contributes to the broader discourse on rural development and infrastructure delivery in Papua New Guinea. It offers insights into best practices for managing rural electrification projects and emphasizes the need for strategic project management to navigate the legislative, policy, and infrastructural complexities. By focusing on a PMO perspective, it highlights the potential for transformative impact through well-managed and coordinated electrification initiatives.

Role of district WASH committees in building bridges for improving water access, quality, and equality

Safa Fanaian, Research Fellow, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU, Grant Walton, Associate Professor, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU, Sonia Young, WASH Portfolio Manager, World Vision, Simon Wanga, WASH Program Officer and Technical Officer, WaterAid, Tim Davis, Technical Lead, WaterAid, Kolis Rua, WASH project manager, World Vision

Papua New Guinea faces significant challenges in water and sanitation access, with only about 40% of its population having safe water and less than 19% access to sanitation. Addressing these issues requires coordination among various governmental departments, such as Education, Health, National Planning and Monitoring, and the Centre for Environment and Protection on Water Quality, as well as NGOs and donor-funded programs. The National Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WaSH) Policy (2015-2030) introduced District WaSH Committees to facilitate coordination among these entities through District WaSH plans. However, the effectiveness of these committees in improving water access remains unexamined.

This study investigates the District WaSH coordination mechanism, focusing on its interaction between local communities and national stakeholders, and identifies gaps in the governance framework. It specifically looks at the implementation of District WaSH committees in two districts, Wewak and South Fly, based on over 46 stakeholder interviews and seven group discussions. Our study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of District WaSH Committees in improving water access. We employ qualitative methods, including stakeholder interviews and social network analysis, to explore coordination mechanisms and identify gaps in governance. Furthermore, we identify who is currently excluded from decision-making processes and proposes ways to include them.

The findings offer valuable insights on who are missing from governance practices and solutions for enhancing water and sanitation delivery. As the research outcomes are being finalised, we aim to foster a reflexive learning process and co-produce knowledge by presenting our findings at various platforms and soliciting diverse feedback.

Parallel Session 3F: Managing PNG's institutions

The role of leadership in ensuring academic quality assurance: challenges and strategies in higher education institutions in PNG

Ponnusmay Manohar, Deputy Executive Dean (Academic) School of Business and Public Policy, University of Papua New Guinea

This research paper examines the critical role of leadership in ensuring academic quality and assurance in Papua New Guinea higher education institutions. Amidst the unique socio-economic and cultural context of PNG, maintaining and enhancing academic standards is paramount for the development of a skilled workforce and the advancement of the nation. However, leaders in the higher education sector in PNG face numerous challenges in this endeavor, necessitating innovative strategies to overcome them effectively.

Phenomenological research in the context of academic quality in higher education aims to explore and understand the lived experiences of individuals within educational settings. Drawing on a review of relevant literature and empirical studies, the first section of the paper outlines the challenges confronting leadership in academic quality assurance in PNG.

In response to these challenges, the subsequent section presents a comprehensive framework of strategies for effective leadership in academic quality assurance in PNG higher education institutions. These strategies encompass proactive governance, stakeholder engagement, capacity building, curriculum reform, quality assurance mechanisms, and leveraging partnerships with industry and international stakeholders.

The paper highlights the importance of adaptive leadership and contextualized approaches tailored to the unique needs and challenges of PNG's higher education sector. This study provides a comprehensive analysis of the challenges and strategies pertaining to leadership in academic quality assurance in PNG higher education institutions, grounded in scholarly literature and empirical evidence.

Institutional sources of cooperation, competition and conflict in developing countries: the cases of civil service administration in PNG and Afghanistan

Nematullah Bizhan, Senior Lecturer, Development Policy Centre, ANU, **William Maley**, Emeritus Professor, ANU

Institutions are central to a great deal of political life, but an endemic problem in developing countries has been that of institutional dysfunctionality. In post-colonial environments, institutions left behind by former colonial powers as part of a process of decolonisation have often proved to be singularly inappropriate to new states, either because of serious mismatches between institutional form and long-standing authority patterns within wider postcolonial societies, or because such 'legacy institutions' have created incentives for destructive behaviours that the architects of those institutions failed to anticipate. In this article, we explored some of these complexities by examining problems of civil service administration in Papua New Guinea after it obtained its independence in 1975, and in Afghanistan between the overthrow of the Taliban regime in 2001 and the return of the Taliban in 2021 following the abandonment of Afghanistan's republican regime by the United States. What emerges very clearly from these cases is that the achievement of a neutral, politically impartial civil service is itself a political objective, but more broadly that different institutional designs can foster cooperation, competition, or conflict to different degrees, and that very careful reflection is required before new arrangements are put in place, with a view to ensuring that destructive tendencies are not inadvertently encouraged. We begin by discussing the wider theoretical context of institutional development and design; move on to discuss challenges of cooperation, competition, and conflict; and conclude with a detailed discussion of the experiences in Afghanistan and Papua New Guinea.

Parallel Session 4A: Helping women and child victims of abuse and violence

Dr Judy Putt, Senior research fellow, ANU, **Subrata Banerjee**, PhD student, ANU, **Palu Ingram**, PhD student, ANU, **Loto Losenamo**, Research officer, Somare Institute of Leadership and Governance

According to a recent United Nations report, PNG has almost double the global average of violence against women and girls, with 60% of women and girls aged between 15 and 49 having experienced some form of physical or sexual violence. Violence against children is prevalent all over the world, but worryingly, a study conducted by the Save the Children Fund estimated that over 70% of children suffer abuse and 50% face family abuse in PNG. The question arises as to how well are services responding to these high levels of abuse and violence, and improving the safety of women and children.

Three panellists will present on their research in PNG with the common theme of addressing domestic, family and sexual violence. One panellist will present on the role of service providers in assisting women victims of domestic and family violence, and the other two will present on efforts to address and prevent the abuse of children. The panel will reflect on the multiple challenges faced by government and non-government agencies to provide effective and durable interventions. In particular, the theme of collaboration or networking between agencies will be considered in more depth, and how differences exist in perceived priorities, responsibilities and the nature of the problem.

Parallel Session 4B: Macroeconomics

New trade-weighted currency and commodity-price indices for PNG

Bobby Kunda, Lecturer in Economics, UPNG, **Prof Stephen Howes**, Director, Development Policy Centre, ANU

Papua New Guinea is an open, commodity-exporting economy. To understand the state of the PNG economy, it is essential to know the value of the kina and of PNG's exports. However, neither an up-to-date trade-weighted currency index nor an up-to-date commodity price index is available for PNG. This presentation will provide a new trade-weighted currency index and a new commodity price index, both of which are up to date. The weaknesses in existing measures, the methodology of the new measures, and their economic and policy implications will be discussed.

Optimal macroeconomic policy and the resource project lifecycle

Dr Martin Davies, Professor of Economics, Washington and Lee University / ANU, Marcel Schroder, Country Economist for PNG, Asian Development Bank

We identify a novel and unrecognised source of macroeconomic instability for resource-rich developing countries (RRDCs) which is the lifecycle of 'giant' resource projects. The resource project lifecycle is delineated into four phases: an initial investment phase, a period of high production paired with low revenue, a subsequent phase of high production and high revenue, and finally, a phase of declining production as the resource approaches exhaustion. The progression between phases can disproportionately influence the economic trajectory of the host country, exposing the economy to sharp fluctuations in economic activity and government revenue, undermining fiscal stability. This contrasts with traditional sources of instability which include: volatility of commodity prices, the 'Dutch Disease', inadequate diversification, and external shocks leading to boom-bust cycles. We present a simple small open economy model which illuminates the macroeconomic consequences of the resource project lifecycle for an RRDC. We then propose a sequence of policy measures designed to mitigate the macroeconomic instability that the project lifecycle introduces and ensures intergenerational equity. We conclude by presenting two country case studies, on Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste, to support our thesis.

Impact of excess liquidity on monetary policy transmission in Papua New Guinea

Dr Thomas Wangi, Senior Research Fellow, National Research Institute

The accumulation of excess reserves in the banking system of PNG may have undesired implications on the effectiveness of monetary policy transmission. Hence, this paper employs a structural VAR model to measure the flow-on effects of positive shocks to excess reserves and the lending rate on private sector loans, the exchange rate, the CPI and real GDP using quarterly time-series data from March 2001 to December 2020. The study uses quarterly data since high frequency data for some variables are not available. The shocks are measured by the orthogonalized innovations to the monetary policy variables. The impulse response results show that the lending rate and excess reserves shocks have unanticipated effects on the exchange rate and the CPI in the short run. Similarly, in the long run, the response of GDP to the shocks is not consistent with monetary theory. Furthermore, the variance decomposition results indicate that excess reserves account for minimal components of the shocks to all variables in the short horizon. The historical decomposition results suggest that the excess reserves shock contributes weakly to the fluctuations of the CPI and GDP over the sample period. The findings determine that excess reserves reduce the effectiveness of monetary policy transmission mechanism in PNG. The study suggests that in order to promote an effective monetary policy transmission, the central bank should consider improving the monetary policy framework and modernizing the financial market system.

Parallel Session 4C: Land issues

Importance of geographical names and their effects on sustainable land development in PNG
Charlotte Tia, Cartographer, Department of Lands & Physical Planning

The purpose of the study was to determine the importance of geographical names and their effects on sustainable land development in PNG. The study aimed to investigate the importance of geographical names and their effects on sustainable land development to provide reliable data to effectively regulate increasing rate of land development. It investigated the importance of geographical names and their effects on customary land registration, land use planning and acquisition. This study is based on semi structured in-depth interviews with key persons in both the public and private sector that have vast experience in land development projects. The study is a qualitative study based on purposive sampling using snowballing technique and was analysed using a thematic approach. The results show accurate recording and updating of geographical names with their definition will reduce land dispute and improve coordination of land development. It also found that rescaling of topographic maps capturing names of new developments are needed for comprehensive land use planning. This can be achieved through close collaboration of relevant state agencies that coordinate various geographic features. Another key finding is engagement of Department of Lands and Physical Planning for proper acquisition of customary land by the state prior to issuing of petroleum development leases or establishment of infrastructure that will improve recording of historical geographical names. In order to achieve this, there is a need for greater awareness and workshops with state agencies on the importance of geographical names. The study provides recommendations to improve standardisation of geographical names to aid land development.

Land as a palimpsest of inscriptions: Some preliminary thoughts on a study of a Motu-Koita-Koiari clan genealogy and their claims of land ownership

Linus Digim'Rina, Senior Lecturer, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, UPNG, **Foxie Kaeaka**, Chairman, Board of Directors, Behori Limited, **Canute Nidue**, Lecturer, School of Law, UPNG, **David Kombako**, Lecturer, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, UPNG

In the wake of a 'land-grabbing' trend on customary lands around Port Moresby, a Motu-Koita clan is collaborating with researchers at UPNG in an attempt to preserve their land, cultural heritage, and group identity for the benefit of their future generations. The study is founded on the following grounds: claims of land and resource ownership involve stories about individuals, past and present, and their relationships. These individuals and their stories are tied to specific pieces of land, and that any piece of land involves origin stories. This study proposes that land is a form of a palimpsest that can be reused or altered but still bearing visible traces of its earlier form. This relates to tangible and intangible material cultures inscribed on land. When land is viewed as a palimpsest the cultures, stories and activities of different people on the land become inscriptions. We can think of the act of inscription as any tangible and intangible product of human imagination that defines a piece of land. In the context of this study, we consider land as a form of a palimpsest that different people use to inscribe their stories and activities in space and time. The very act of inscribing stories or justifying a particular activity on any piece of land then becomes the basis to launch claims of ownership to land and resources.

Is social mapping a recipe for conflicts? A conclusion

Yvonne Hani, Anthropologist, UPNG

At the 2019 PNG Update, brief findings of a case study entitled: "A Recipe for Conflict? A Case Study of Social Mapping for a Petroleum Project in Papua New Guinea" was presented. The research looks into the case study of a Social Mapping and Landowner Identification (SMLI) process in the petroleum industry in Papua New Guinea and the different interests of

the key stakeholders involved. SMLI is often regarded as a contributing source of resource related conflict but the finer details of why is often not explained. The case study focuses on the fieldwork phase of the SMLI and the stakeholder perceptions that influenced the SMLI methodology. Therefore, the case study looks into the SMLI process to identify the different interests of stakeholder perceptions on what SMLI is to each stakeholder, and how the different perceptions of each may be contributing to conflict. It is hoped that the research will contribute to securing sustainable growth and development, to make way for improved regulation and implementation of the SMLI process within the petroleum industry (and others resource extraction sectors) within PNG.

Parallel Session 4D: Gender-based violence

Do disasters always increase Intimate Partner Violence? Evidence from the 2018 Earthquake in PNG

Sharad Tandon, Senior Economist, The World Bank, Alyssa Leng, Research Officer, Development Policy Centre, ANU

We examine how an earthquake in Papua New Guinea changed attitudes about and the prevalence of intimate partner violence (IPV). Although there are several reasons why disasters can aggravate IPV, the acceptability of IPV amongst men in disaster-affected regions significantly declined. There was a smaller and noisier decline in reported incidents of IPV, driven by declines amongst women least likely to underreport IPV. The results highlight that the responsibilities of household members and social norms can change in sufficiently turbulent disasters, which can lead to IPV improvements, and that measurement issues need to be better addressed to improve understanding of IPV.

The impacts of gender-based violence against women in Hula community

Aiga Ian, Temporary Full-time Tutor, UPNG

This study focusses on Gender-based violence (GBV) as a serious problem that affects women in Papua New Guinea . These effects include hindering freedom of movement and community participation by women. The ultimate aim is to develop an understanding of such negative effects on women and girls as a case study that was conducted in Hula village of Central Province, PNG. The purpose of the study was to identify the main forms of violence against women in the community, the possible causes and their consequences, identify and recommend strategies to reduce and prevent these captioned issues. The research involved 20 key informant interviews with community leaders and three focus groups within a small group of men and women i.e. including the teachers from an elementary school in the village. The main finding from the study highlights the effects of gender-based violence committed against women, either single or married. The major contributing factors of gender-based violence identified are: acts of adultery, pure jealousy, lack of food and money, and, alcohol consumption. These contributing factors have extensively contributed to gender-based violence i.e. having greater impacts on women's mental and physical health, socioeconomic impacts on women, and impacts on perpetrators and the community. Consequently, the women are unable to participate fairly in social activities. The study is important as it highlighted the proportion of GBV prevalence at the community level.

Service Providers' Role: Access to justice for women in domestic violence cases in PNG & Bangladesh

Subrata Banarjee, PhD Candidate, ANU

Women face multiple challenges when seeking justice for domestic violence cases in Bangladesh and Papua New Guinea. Similar to many other countries, the justice services in these two nations can be categorised as formal or informal justice services. The primary goal

of this project is to assess the role of service providers in facilitating women's access to justice services in cases of domestic violence. Furthermore, this study investigates the different pathways victims can consider to seek justice and examines the opportunities and obstacles faced by women in accessing justice services. Consequently, the project aims to determine how both the formal and informal justice sectors, such as courts, police, village courts, NGOs, and victim support services, can effectively collaborate to improve the access to justice for women in both countries. The presentation will involve sharing the preliminary findings from fieldwork conducted in both countries. The findings of this research will contribute to the understanding of the service system aimed at protecting women from domestic violence in Bangladesh and Papua New Guinea, and it will provide practical guidance to those involved in delivering services to victimized women in both countries.

Parallel Session 4E: Security

The role of the law and order komiti in dispute resolution: case of Markham Bridge Community, Morobe Province, PNG

Mary Fairio, PhD Candidate, University of St. Andrews

The law and order komiti (Tok Pisin language for committee) is an informal collective local group or mechanism that maintains peace and order at the community level. This paper is based on a recent ethnographic study conducted in Markham Bridge community in the Huon Gulf District of Morobe Province, Papua New Guinea that explored creative local methods utilised to address gender violence. During the 15-month fieldwork (from November 2021 to February 2023), ten community leaders were interviewed and observed, ten mediations observed, and four community meetings attended in the community. The findings of the study show that the law and order komiti plays a significant role in resolving disputes; provides leadership within the community; and steps in where there are no formal mechanisms. The law and order komiti therefore, must be recognised and supported by the government to bridge the gap by the state, and to effectively address law and order problems at the community level.

Political economy of security: enhancing economic security through regional security cooperation

Dr Francis Hualupmomi, Advisor, National Security, PNG Department of Prime Minister & NEC

PNG is a resource-rich country in the Pacific region. It's a strategic theatre for great power geopolitical competition in the region. Because PNG is a gateway between Asia and Pacific, it is highly vulnerable to various external and internal threats.

The strategic and security architecture of the Pacific region has increasingly become more contested and volatile due to the rise of China in the East. PNG among the Small Pacific Island Countries are highly vulnerable to strategic and economic shifts from the West to the East. As China, the second largest global economic power, grows in military size, the threat for diminishing US hegemonic power in the regional is inevitable.

PNG, the largest and most populated Melanesian country located in the 'Arc of Instability' as the 'Achilles Heel' of Australia. That is, Australia's vulnerability is PNG, given the fact that if its national security is weak, Australia's security is at stake.

The geopolitical-geo-economic-geostrategic dynamics have, somewhat, complicated the security landscape with seamless complex external and internal security threats. The complexity of myriad security threats has created uncertainty and diminished predictability.

Through the lens of political economy of security, this presentation argues strongly that the recent bilateral security arrangements between PNG and its traditional security partners, the US and Australia, plus the Republic of Indonesia, will enhance PNG's national security capability and regional cooperation in combating complex security threats. The agreements also guarantee economic security for burgeoning business, economic prosperity and maintaining peace and stability in the region in the face of geopolitical complexity.

The impacts of civil unrest and riots in Gerehu, Port Moresby on the economic conditions of the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME)

Jason Eki Kundi, Lecturer, School of Business and Public Policy, UPNG, **McDonald Jack**, Tutor, School of Business and Public Policy, UPNG, **Dr Joyce Rayel**, Senior Lecturer, School of Business & Public Policy, UPNG

This paper examines the impacts of civil unrest and riots on the economic conditions of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Gerehu area of Port Moresby during Black Wednesday (10 January 2024). The study was focused on investigating the challenges faced, strategies employed to mitigate these challenges, and the long-term implications on business sustainability and growth.

Using qualitative phenomenological research approach, observation and interviews with the MSME operators and employees who have been affected by the events were conducted.

Based on the findings, these events have brought a lot of destruction into the lives of people and business communities in terms of their business operations, revenue generations, and employment.

The study has recommendations for further development of strategies for the MSMEs and suggestions for effective government policy formulations and intervention in order to help and support the business community. It also recommended for the government and other stakeholders provide guidance and awareness to the surrounding communities about the existing policies and laws to mitigate negative impacts from such civil unrest and riots on MSMEs in the future.

