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FOREWARD MESSAGE



Mr Gordon Kega - MBA, CPA
Auditor General of Papua New Guinea

Dear Colleagues and Stakeholders,
I am pleased to present the first quarter news bulletin for 2025, highlighting key developments, initiatives, and engagements undertaken by the Auditor General's Office (AGO). This edition reflects our unwavering commitment to upholding transparency, accountability, and integrity in the governance of public resources. As we navigate the evolving landscape of financial oversight, our focus remains on strengthening institutional capacity, fostering ethical conduct, and promoting inclusivity within our organization.

A landmark initiative this quarter is the Auditor General's Office gaining full access to financial data from the extractive industries. This milestone, led by the Department of Treasury, is a critical step toward enhancing transparency and accountability in the management of revenues generated from Papua New Guinea's mining, oil, and gas sectors. Strengthening our oversight in these industries ensures that public funds are utilized efficiently and equitably, benefiting all Papua New Guineans. We acknowledge the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders involved in this initiative and look forward to its successful implementation.

In line with our commitment to professionalism and integrity, the AGO recently conducted an ethics training session for our staff, facilitated by Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) Advisor, Ms. Rachel Kris. This session, delivered in collaboration with the Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI), emphasized the crucial role of ethical conduct in public sector auditing. Ms. Kris highlighted the importance of integrity in decision-making and its direct impact on maintaining public trust. As custodians of accountability, our auditors must adhere to the highest ethical standards to reinforce public confidence in our work.

We also take this opportunity to celebrate the achievements and contributions of women in our profession. On March 6, 2025, female staff from the AGO, along with executives from PASAI, participated in a special webinar in recognition of International Women's Day. The event, held under the theme "For ALL Women and Girls: Rights, Equality, Empowerment," provided a platform for women leaders to share their journeys, challenges, and successes. This initiative underscores our commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women in leadership roles, fostering a more inclusive and dynamic workplace.

Additionally, from March 3rd to 7th, we welcomed PASAI Program Directors, Mr. Mike Scott and Ms. Susanna Laulu, to assess training needs and capacity-building opportunities for our staff. Their visit aligns with PASAI's ongoing commitment to strengthening the capabilities of Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) across the Pacific region. Through targeted training and skill enhancement programs, we aim to equip our team with the knowledge and expertise necessary to uphold international best practices in auditing.

As we move forward into the rest of 2025, the AGO remains steadfast in its mission to promote accountability, transparency, and good governance. I extend my sincere gratitude to our staff, stakeholders, and partners for their unwavering dedication to our shared objectives. Together, we will continue to build a stronger and more accountable Papua New Guinea.



Auditor General to Review Extractive Industry Revenues



AGO officials and representatives from multi-stakeholder groups (MSG) convene to discuss and gain insights into the new auditing framework.

The Auditor General's Office (AGO) is set to gain full access to financial data from the extractive industries as part of a government-led initiative to enhance transparency and accountability. Spearheaded by the Department of Treasury, this effort aims to strengthen oversight of revenues generated from the mining, oil, and gas sectors.

During a recent meeting in Port Moresby, AGO officials and representatives from the Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) were introduced to an auditing framework presented by JICA expert Mr. Shiro Otomo. The framework establishes standardized reporting procedures and verification methods to ensure the accuracy of revenue data provided by extractive industry operators.

The review process will officially commence following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on July 1, which will formalize the AGO's role in assessing financial reports and verifying government earnings from the sector. This initiative is expected to improve financial accountability and reinforce public trust in revenue management.

The Department of Treasury, through the Papua New Guinea Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (PNGEITI), has been actively promoting transparency in the extractive sector. Since

2013, PNGEITI has published reports analyzing government earnings and sector governance, contributing to improved oversight and policy reforms. The AGO's involvement marks another significant step in ensuring that revenues from the extractive industries are accurately reported and effectively utilized for national development.



JICA expert Mr. Shiro Otomo presents the new audit framework.



AGO Staff Strengthen Ethical Standards in Audit Practice



AGO staff engaged in an ethics training session facilitated by ANAO advisor Rachel Kris.

In a concerted effort to uphold integrity and professionalism, staff of the Auditor General's Office (AGO) recently participated in an ethics training session facilitated by Ms. Rachel Kris, an advisor from the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO). The session was conducted as part of the ongoing partnership between ANAO and the Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI) to reinforce ethical practices in public sector auditing.

Ms. Kris emphasized the critical role of integrity in decision-making, highlighting its direct impact on maintaining public trust in audit institutions. She underscored the ethical challenges auditors frequently encounter, particularly regarding the acceptance of gifts and benefits. Drawing from best practices in international audit institutions, she stressed the importance of clear policies, including monetary limits and transparent reporting mechanisms, to mitigate conflicts of interest.

"A proactive approach to preventing ethical breaches is far more effective than addressing them after they occur," Ms. Kris noted, urging AGO staff to remain vigilant in safeguarding the credibility of their work.

The training also explored personal and professional dilemmas auditors may face, particularly in maintaining professional boundaries in their interactions with clients. Through interactive discussions and shared experiences, AGO staff reaffirmed their commitment to ethical conduct, further strengthening the institution's dedication to accountability and transparency.

The AGO continues to prioritize professional development initiatives to enhance its role in promoting good governance and public financial management in Papua New Guinea.



Ms. Kris emphasizes the importance of vigilance in upholding the credibility and integrity of the AGO's work.



AGO and PASAI Commemorate International Women's Day with Leadership Webinar



AGO female staff and PASAI executives joined in a special webinar to foster collaboration.

In celebration of International Women's Day, female staff from the Auditor General's Office (AGO) and executives from the Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI) came together for a special webinar on March 6, 2025.

The event provided a platform for women in leadership to share their journeys, reflecting on the challenges they have overcome and the milestones that shaped their careers. Centered around the theme "For ALL Women and Girls: Rights, Equality, Empowerment," the discussion highlighted the ongoing global push for gender equality and the importance of empowering women and girls in professional spaces.

The webinar explored strategies for breaking down workplace barriers and emphasized the role of mentorship in fostering future female leaders. Keynote speakers highlighted the collective responsibility of organizations and individuals in driving gender parity, stressing that sustainable change requires both policy reforms and cultural shifts. Participants also shared insights on

navigating male-dominated industries, advocating for inclusivity, and fostering environments where women can thrive.

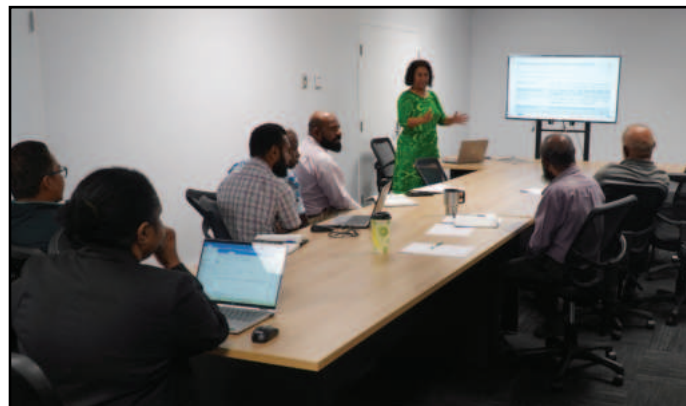
The event concluded with a strong call to action, urging organizations to implement policies that support women's advancement and create equitable opportunities in leadership. Speakers reinforced the need for continuous dialogue and commitment to gender-inclusive workplaces, emphasizing that progress in women's empowerment is a shared responsibility.

As part of the broader International Women's Day agenda, AGO and PASAI reaffirmed their commitment to championing gender equity and supporting women at all levels of professional growth.





Strengthening Audit Excellence: PASAI Directors Assess Training Needs at AGO



Mike Scott and Susanna Lau visited AGO to assess training needs and strengthen audit capacity.

Mike Scott and Susanna Lau, Program Directors of the Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI), visited the Auditor General's Office (AGO) to assess training needs and capacity building for staff. This initiative aligns with PASAI's commitment to enhancing the capabilities of Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) across the Pacific region.

PASAI's strategic priorities include strengthening public financial management, supporting SAIs to deliver their mandates and enhance audit quality, and building SAI governance and enduring capability. These efforts aim to promote good governance, public accountability, and integrity, ensuring that SAIs can effectively respond to emerging issues and maintain robust audit practices.

By collaborating with the AGO, PASAI continues its mission to support SAIs in delivering quality, impactful, and timely audits that enhance public sector performance. This visit underscores the importance of tailored capacity-building initiatives to meet the unique needs of SAIs in the Pacific region.

