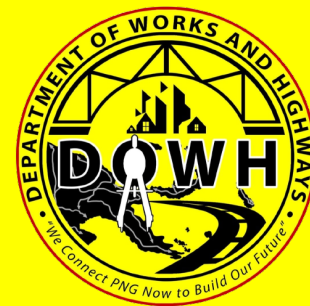




## DEPARTMENT OF WORKS & HIGHWAYS

### OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY



## PRESS RELEASE

# Papua New Guinea lost a Champion Nationalistic Leader

**P**APUA NEW GUINEA lost a champion nationalistic leader and public servant who is committed to nation building and connecting rural communities to market for easy access to government services with better road and bridge connectivity.

The Department of Works & Highways is shocked with mixed emotions by the untimely passing of our Late Minister Hon. Solan Mirisim, MP and Member for Teleformin.

Works Secretary Gibson Holemba said that it is with a heavy heart to relay the painful message to the management and staff of the department of the sad news that Minister had passed on. Mr Holemba made these official remarks after the social media was flooded with message of tribute and condolence to our late Minister.

I would like to quote a bible text to give comfort to all staff and family members and the people of Teleformin during this bereavement period in the book of Job 1:21 - *"The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord."*

As soon as I received the message in the early hours of the morning that Minister was rushed to the hospital, I made my way there to confirm and present was our Prime Minister Hon. James Marape and Minister for Tourism Hon. Beldan Namah, MP and member for Vanimo Green.

Mr. Mirisim was 47 years old at his untimely passing after being rushed by Saint John's Ambulance to Port Moresby International Hospital in the early hours of this morning around 1am (December 2nd 2025) and was pronounced dead on arrival.

It is with deep and profound sadness that we mourn the passing of a distinguished leader and a three -term serving Member of the National Parliament of Papua New Guinea. He passed away early this morning after a brief illness leaving behind his wife, kids and his people of Teleformin District.

Late Mr. Mirisim entered parliament in 2012 and quickly rose to prominence as a hardworking and influential leader from amongst his colleagues and fellow leaders.

He represented the Telefomin District in West



**Late Minister Hon. Solan Mirisim, MP  
and Member for Teleformin.**

Sepik Province and served the nation with unwavering commitment and dedication for almost 2 decades or 15 years. First entered the 9th Parliament in 2012, he was re-elected again in to the 10th parliament in 2017 and now the 11th parliament after winning the 2022 National General Elections respectively.

He held several key ministerial portfolios, including Minister for Forestry, Minister for Defense and currently held the portfolio of the Minister for Works and Highways under the Marape - Rosso Government.

Throughout his political career, Hon. Mirisim has contributed immensely at different levels, capacities and portfolios he was tasked to take reign as a state minister who served faithfully until his untimely demise.

His most notable contribution to nation building was him being the champion behind the infrastructure development and connectivity projects that transformed rural communities in Papua New Guinea for the last 4 years being the Minister for Works & Highways (2022 – 2025).

Under his leadership, the Connect PNG Program advanced road infrastructure reforms, smooth administrative head transitions, implement major national highways and missing link roads and bridge programs, to improving access for many of Papua New Guineans in rural areas that have no road connectivity and access for the last 50 years

since independence, who now can have access to better connectivity.

The famous missing link projects that became a rural testimony that elevates him to be the true champion for the rural people in landlock areas in some of the remotest parts of PNG. The road projects were the Teleformin – Tabubil Highway, the extended Magi highway from Port Moresby to Alotau and the Trans – National Highway connecting Morobe to Gulf and Port Moresby.

He was also instrumental in delivering landmark projects and policy implementation such as the country's longest footbridge at Papa-Lealea, and he played a pivotal role in forestry reforms promoting downstream processing and sustainable forestry practice, and the push to increase the Infrastructure Tax Credit Scheme infrastructure development threshold percent from 2% to 3% which is to be passed into law by Parliament.

He was born and raised in Telefomin, he completed his education locally before earning a Certificate in Business Management from Lae Business College. Prior to entering politics, he was a successful businessman and community advocate.

His passing is a profound loss to Papua New Guinea. He will be remembered for his vision, leadership, and tireless efforts to improve the lives of his people. One thing for certain he never gave up on his people of Teleformin, the most remote district in PNG, yet he connected them by road, he brought light into their lives. He wanted to replicate the success of his district with other road infrastructure projects only to succumb to the fate of his demise.

However, his legacy that will live on for generations to come, his people will surely miss his leadership and drive to make Teleformin station a better and modern model district in PNG despite being landlocked for almost 50 years.

State Funeral arrangements and official statements from the Government will be announced in due course.

Authorized by;  
**Gibson Holemba  
Secretary**