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MEDIA RELEASE

MINISTER MIRISIM DEFEND CPNG AND RUBBISH SOCIAL MEDIA CLAIMS

MINISTER for Works & Highways Hon. Solan Mirisim refute unsubstantiated social media claims as rubbish with no truth in it defending the department and Connect PNG program as the Marape Rosso Government flagship policy that will transform livelihood and build Papua New Guinea to be prosperous society into the future.

I'm sadden that such stupidity by discrediting Connect PNG program will only be destroying our country whilst being sensitive of the looming vote of no confidence we expect more rubbish then good will be floating on the social media space by so called spin doctors and face book paddlers.

Mr Mirisim refute social media claims discrediting the Connect PNG program implemented by the Marape-Rosso Government as hogwash and outright defamatory by face book trollers, spin doctors and keyboard warriors with certain members of parliament having nothing to offer to the economic road infrastructure development in Papua New Guinea.

Minister Mirisim said that since taking office in 2022 after the National General Election, Connect PNG was already an Act passed by parliament under the leadership of the former Minister for Works & Highways.

I find it hard to understand some of you members of parliament and my colleagues who have voted for the Connect PNG legislation to be passed on the floor of parliament but now have the guts to throw stones at the very legislation that you voted for in the first place.

My strongest rebuttal to Hon. James Donald the Member for North Fly whose recent statement on the K350 million for Connect PNG contract payments and warrants released by Treasury is very misleading and defamatory in nature less the member forget that the Connect PNG program is an Act of Parliament which 5.6 percent by Law of the annual budget goes to road infrastructure development.

Department of Works & Highways have year in year out under Connect PNG has received considerable amount of money to the tune of K300 million plus because our annual year budget projections under Connect PNG is estimated at

K1.2 billion to fully implement Connect PNG and other capital works and road maintenance through various donor programs and projects under DoWH.

Under the reconfigured department of works & highways the department mainly focus on the national highways and building new economic corridors roads under missing links to connect remote part of the country connecting almost 1 million plus population that are still in the landlock areas of Teleformin, Finschafen, Kaintiba, Maramuni, Pomio in East New Britain Province to name a few.

At the sub-national level the Marape-Rosso Government is also ensuring that Provinces and District funds are remitted down to the second tier arm of the government where some governors like Hon. Taboi Awi Yoto of Western Province, Tony Wouwou of West Sepik, and few members are reaping those benefits while first termers like Hon. Dr Billy Joseph for Nipa Kutubu, Hon. Solan Loifa of Memyamya District to name a few have benefited greatly from this Connect PNG program, one can only ask them to seek answers.

I also wanted to remind members of parliament and all social media spin doctors that those baseless and malicious intent to discredit the integrity of my hard-working secretary David Wereh must be condemned at the highest level.

Mr. Wereh does not have the discretion under the Connect PNG to hand pick and choose who to give out contracts, as all contracts that are procured under the Connect PNG program are done in compliance to legal requirements with the oversight of the CPNG board & Project Steering Committee (PSC) chaired by Secretary for National Planning Mr. Koney Samuel, Treasury, Finance, Transport, DoWH, and State Solicitor General Office comprises members of the PSC and its CPNG board members.

Connect PNG implementation process is a robust process involving all of government approach and such baseless allegation against my secretary is aimed at discrediting the governments signature policy of Connect PNG when this program is actually having a positive impact in the remotest parts of the country so credit must be given where its due.

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