



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS & IMMIGRATION

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MEDIA RELEASE

BY

HON. RIMBINK PATO, OBE, LLB, MP
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS & IMMIGRATION

“NEW MIGRATION LAWS TO DRIVE GROWTH AND CONNECT PAPUA NEW GUINEA”

The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration, Hon Rimbink Pato, OBE, LLB, MP today welcomed the news that the review of PNG's Migration legislation by the PNG Immigration and Citizenship Service was nearing completion.

The Minister's comments followed a meeting today of the Steering Group for the Review of Migration Legislation convened and chaired by Chief Migration Officer, Mataio Rabura ISO. At the meeting Steering Group members were briefed on the outcome of detailed policy discussions involving government, business and community stakeholders along with the key aspects of the proposed new legislation.

“National significance projects, such as the PNG LNG project now approaching completion, are engines of growth that are driving development in PNG” the Minister said. These large projects, as well as small and medium enterprises, need flexible immigration processes that are responsive to the needs of businesses while protecting the jobs and rights of PNG workers. PNG's new migration legislation will meet these demand as well as connect PNG with the rest of the world. “The current Act and Regulations, which have been in force since the late 70s, are outdated and badly in need of revision. We need legislation for the 21st Century and beyond”, the Minister said. “PNG is rightfully taking its place as a modern, advanced nation. The new migration legislation will place PNG in a prime position to take advantage of the opportunities of a globalized world.”

“Over the past 18 months, the PNG Government has undertaken the most comprehensive review of its border control and visa arrangements since Independence. The intention of this review process is to ensure that PNG has a legislative framework for managing people movement which is comprehensive, which is consistent with national development plans and aspirations and which delivers services efficiently and with a high degree of integrity.”

The Minister stated that a separate briefing session will be held on Thursday to advise PNG’s major business groups of the proposed changes. Once the stakeholder consultations are concluded, the draft legislation will be put to the National Executive Council for consideration.

“I am hopeful that the draft legislation will be put before the National Parliament in the second half of 2014”, the Minister said.

The legislation review project has been assisted by the International Organization for Migration with funding from the Australian Department of Immigration.

Authorised by:



Hon. Rimbink Pato, OBE, LLB, MP
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