



"Protecting Papua New Guinea through Intelligence, Vigilance, and Security"

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION

www.nio.gov.pg



"Gathering Intelligence is key to exploring knowledge"
-unknown-



PNG's NIO Director General Lt Col Joshua Dorpar is a man on a mission. He wants to change the face of intelligence gathering to suit the evolving landscape of internal and external security challenges in PNG. Here (on the right) he stands with Mining Manager and Open Pit Mining Operations Manager Frank Daniel at the Porgera mine site assessing the site, amid security challenges the mine is facing from illegal miners and tribal fights.

ALL REPORTS BY MIRIAM ZARRIGA



STRENGTHEN the Rule of Law for the future generation of our country” that was the theme for the 2025 National Development Forum.

This was an opportunity to speak to the government, invited guests, stakeholders, media and the country on matters of national security.

The National Intelligence Organization (NIO) has made significant transformations since 1974.

Initially attached with the RPNGC as a unit known as the PNG Security Intelligence Organization, it was shifted from the police and became a dedicated intelligence agency.

The country’s security environment has shifted and evolved both internally and externally.

The threats were face now are influenced by globalization, evolution of technology and artificial intelligence (AI).

This has made the agency rethink the current NIO Act 1984 that was passed in Parliament at a time that the mandated functions have limited NIOs operability in the space of intelligence given the evolving changes in shapes, types and forms of threats that we face today.

The amendments to the Act will align with the National Security Policy for 2024 -2029.

It will empower the organization to fulfil its mandated functions effectively but also to ensure its alignment with the NSP.

The threats to our national security include:

- **Transnational criminal activities**
- **Cross-border smuggling of illegal weapons and illicit drugs**
- **People smuggling/trafficking**
- **Threats to major resource projects**
- **Tribal conflicts**
- **Economic espionage**
- **Domestic and international terrorism**
- **Border incursions**
- **Food and Energy Security**
- **Cyber Attacks**

NIO is getting support from the Marape-Rosso government who has continued to work closely with the organization to support our initiatives.

We operate under the guiding principle of the nation’s foreign policy “friends to all, enemies to none”.

We continue to coordinate with other state agencies in the sectors and private entities to ensure information and intelligence is shared on a timely manner.

National security is a prerequisite for development. Without a secure environment, our progress will be hindered.

“National Security is everyone’s responsibility.”



Security assessment of major mining sites across the country is important as it allows for the mining companies to speak on issues affecting their operations but also for stakeholders to understand, secure and maintain a stable environment for the mining companies. Standing from left to right is NIO Director General Lt Col Joshua Dorpar, Deputy Chief of Staff to the PM Henry Leia and New Porgera Mine Limited Country Manager Karo Maha-Lelai. Director of the National Security Advisory Agency Dr Francis Hualupmomi was also part of the team who recently visited Porgera Mine.

INTELLIGENCE KEY TO PNG SECURITY

AFTER Papua New Guinea became Independent, the need for a primary intelligence agency became obvious earlier on as the country began battling internal and external security threats.

Nine years after the country became Independent in 1975, the National Intelligence Organisation was set up by an Act of Parliament in 1984.

The NIO’s functions include gathering intelligence, analysing threats, and providing information to decision-makers particularly the Prime Minister.

The intelligence agency would play a crucial role in bolstering national security and fortifying the democratic system.

The agency would also monitor, analyses, and addresses potential threats, including authoritarian shifts and external challenges. When Prime

Minister James Marape took office in 2019, his aim was to re-establish the National Intelligence Organisation (NIO).

“Law-and-order woes would also need to be addressed with significant success if we want to grow our tourism industry and boost our international foreign exchange standing,” he said.

Deputy Prime Minister John Rosso is taking significant steps to enhance the collaboration and effectiveness of Papua New Guinea’s intelligence agencies in safeguarding the nation’s security and stability.

Recognising the critical role that intelligence plays in addressing emerging threats, Deputy Prime Minister Rosso has prioritised working closely with the country’s intelligence community to strengthen national security frameworks

and ensure the safety of all Papua New Guineans. Former prime minister Peter O’Neill in his message for the 2013 PNG National Security Policy said, “We did not have to fight for Independence, as it was granted to us in good faith.”

“We have therefore tended to focus on development at the expense of security, such that the security gaps of today are seriously undermining our development efforts. The current security environment is directly affecting our people.”

“It is therefore time for us to tie development and security and apportion them equal attention.”

One important aspect he highlighted at the time was “our national security has lacked effective co-ordination, the manner in which we have managed our security has either been reactionary or disjointed”.

Intelligence information key to self government

WHEN Cabinet discussed self-government in June 1970, therefore, it directed Territories and Defence to mount a study of security.

Cabinet often referred complex problems to interdepartmental committees, to ensure that they were thoroughly analysed and their ramifications explored. Such a committee might grind slowly, but it did grind exceedingly small.

A Territory Intelligence Committee (TIC, which evolved into PICNIC, the Papua New Guinea Intelligence Committee) collated patrol reports from kiaps, added clippings from the newspaper, and kept them under lock and key in a windowless room.

The TIC was a subcommittee of the Australian Joint Intelligence Committee. (At self-government, the police special branch was separated out and given two

staff seconded from ASIO.) The TIC could collect only information that was widely known.

In discussion with other Departments, Territories revealed that there were two branches of the intelligence agency: the Intelligence Branch itself, which would become Papua New Guinea’s Internal Security Intelligence Organisation, and a Security Branch, which serviced the Internal Security Committee. The Intelligence Branch evidently employed 100 people — including one Papua New Guinean.

Fact Box (what you had the bottom keep it please)

The Papua and New Guinea Act, passed in Australia in 1949, confirmed the administrative union of New Guinea and Papua under the title of ‘The Territory of Papua and New Guinea’ and placed

it under the International Trusteeship System.

The Act provided for a Legislative Council (established in 1951), a judicial organisation, a public service, and a system of local government.

The first House of Assembly, which replaced the Legislative Council in 1963, opened on 8 June 1964.

In 1972, the name of the territory was changed to Papua New Guinea and elections saw the formation of a ministry headed by Chief Minister Michael Somare, who pledged to lead the country to self-government and then to independence.

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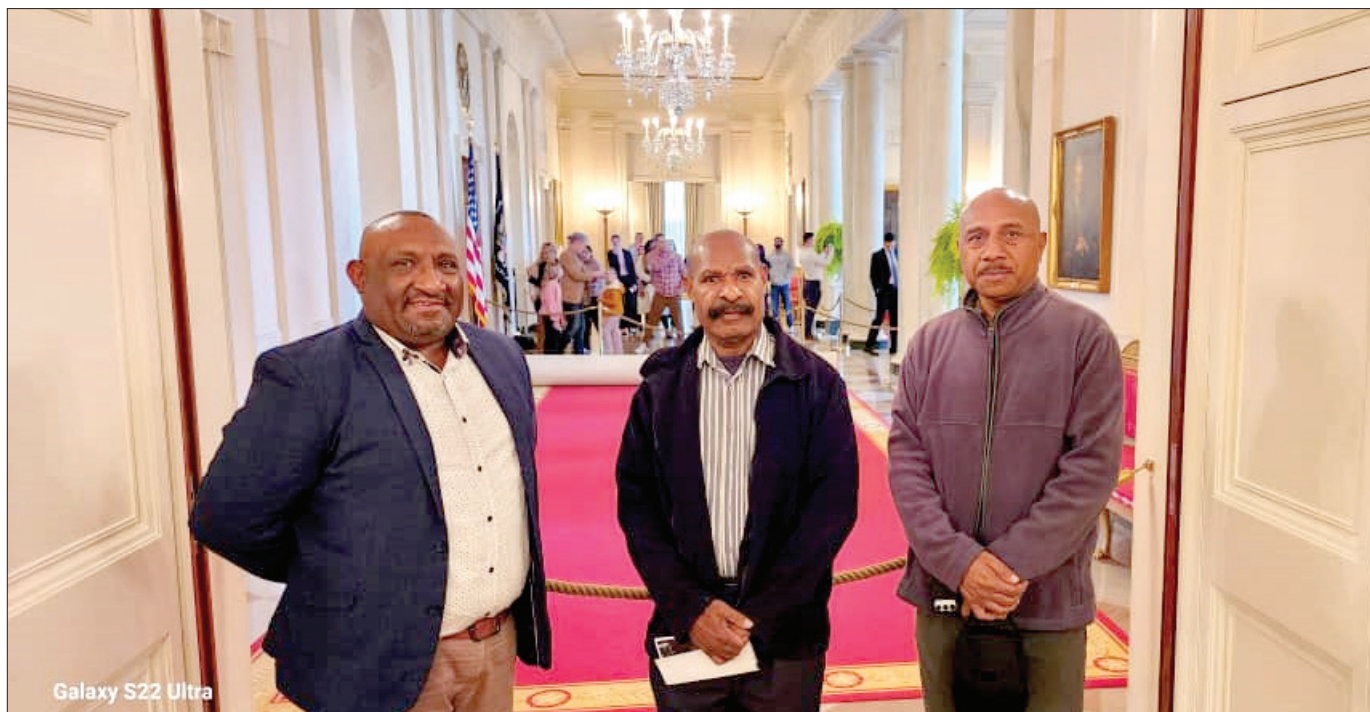
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NIO Director General Lt Col Joshua Dorpar, Deputy Commissioner of Police (specialist operations) Donald Yamasombi, and former PNGDF military intelligence Lt Col Nicholas Henry stand inside the White House during a visit with Deputy Prime Minister John Rosso in 2024. The trio were in the US for the first ever PNG-USA Strategic Partnership Dialogue. Lt Col Henry is now Director Intelligence for the RPNGC. PICTURE SUPPLIED.



ESTABLISHMENT OF SOLE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

HENRY Veratau led the Security Intelligence Organisation (SIO) till 1983 when he handed over the reins to Charles Ali.

While Ali was at the helm as Director General, and nine years after PNG became Independent, the country established the National Intelligence Organization (NIO) through the National Intelligence Organisation Act 1984, passed in Parliament.

The agency's roles and functions are defined by the Act and that is to collect, collate, analyse, and provide accurate intelligence information to the Government on matters affecting the national security of the country.

The NIO's powers, including the ability to collect intelligence information outside the country and conduct searches, are subject to specific legal provisions and require warrants from the National Security Council.

The Organisation is currently operational, and the key findings of its reports are occasionally made public and commented on in the media.

In 2013, Prime Minister Peter O'Neill appointed former police commissioner Gari Baki to lead the NIC, and to revive it as it had become "run down".

The current Director General is Lieutenant Colonel Joshua Dorpar.



In 2023, then Director General of NIO Terence Frawley (right) appeared before the Special Parliamentary Committee on the 2022 National General Elections. Mr Frawley appeared after a report on the Elections was leaked to media. NIO lost Mr Frawley after he passed away in 2024. His contribution to NIO is immeasurable and will be remembered by the current NIO boss Lt Col Dorpar said. PICTURE POSTCOURIER FILE.

THE FORMER DIRECTOR GENERALS OF NIO ARE:

1. Henry Veratau PNGSIO 1979-1983

2. Charles Ali 1983-1986

3. Brigadier General Kenneth K Noga 1986-1996

4. Ovia Rauka 1997-2000

5. Colonel Tokam Kanene 2000-2006

6. Robert Nenta 2006-2013

7. Bruno Maika 2013-2014

8. Gari Baki 2014-2015

9. Benjamin J Umba 2015-2019

10. Frawley W Terence 2019-2024

FUNCTIONS OF NIO

- Combating seditious enterprises,
- Espionage and sabotage,
- Providing early warnings of potential military attacks, and
- Assessing global and regional political, economic, and social issues.

Introducing the First Director General

WHEN 20-year-old Henry Veratau went into the East Sepik province little did he know that his role as a Trainee Patrol Officer in 1970 would lead him to be the new country's first Director General of its own Security Intelligence Organization (SIO).

Veratau from Rigo, Central province was part of the move to localise departments under Australian rule in preparation for Self Government and this was his introduction by way of securing the province of East Sepik from all threats of security related issues.

One day in Malu village in 1970-71. Henry experienced the tough conservatism of Middle Sepik people towards Self-Government in general and to localization in particular. The men of Malu made it clear to Henry that they did not accept the authority of "black" kiaps - and particularly not the authority of one from Papua.

Mr Veratau explained later that he challenged the village offering to take on anyone and everyone, one at a time. Although young, he exuded self-confidence, usually with an engaging smile. No one accepted his challenge that day and Henry had no further problems with Sepik resistance to his authority.

He quickly passed through the ranks and was serving as Assistant District Commissioner of Angoram and then Maprik before going to Wewak as Provincial Commissioner.

His easy-going manner of dealing with conflict was one of the reasons he had no further problems with Sepik resistance to his authority.

When the Sepik become known as the East Sepik Provincial Government, Mr Veratau handed over his powers and authority as District and Provincial Commissioner.

Prime Minister, now Grand Chief, Sir Michael T. Somare and Paul Bengo knew and understood my advice to them and allowed me to stay on in the Sepik ... I left Sepik in 1979 to go the NIO," Mr Veratau



A TRAINEE patrol officer in 1970, Henry Veratau's job along the East Sepik province was well documented. His training was the catalyst for his life in public service in PNG after Independence. He was the first Director General of the country's intelligence organization known then as PNG Security Intelligence Organization (PNGSIO) which came under the RPNGC.

PICTURE BY "SEPIK V-DEPARTMENT OF DISTRICT SERVICES AND NATIVE AFFAIRS".

said.

VERATAU'S RESUME:

■ 1971-73 Assistant District Commissioner [At Angoram]

■ 1973-7 5 Deputy District Commissioner [At Maprik]

■ 1975 District Commissioner

- East Sepik District

■ 1976-77 Provincial Commissioner - East Sepik District

■ 1977-1979 Administrative Secretary - East Sepik District

■ 1979-81 The first Director General of the National Intelligence Organisation [NIO] Developed and upgraded the NIO from the Office of Security Intelligence in the Department of Prime Minister and National Executive Council [NEC]

■ 1981-86 Chief Electoral Commissioner

■ 1986-93 Public Service Commissioner including 1989-90 also serving as head of Dept. of Defence.

■ 1992-94 Provincial Administrator and Secretary - East Sepik Province. 1994 Provincial Administrator and Secretary Western Province [while Provincial Govt suspended]

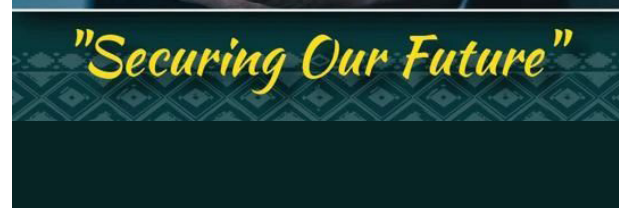
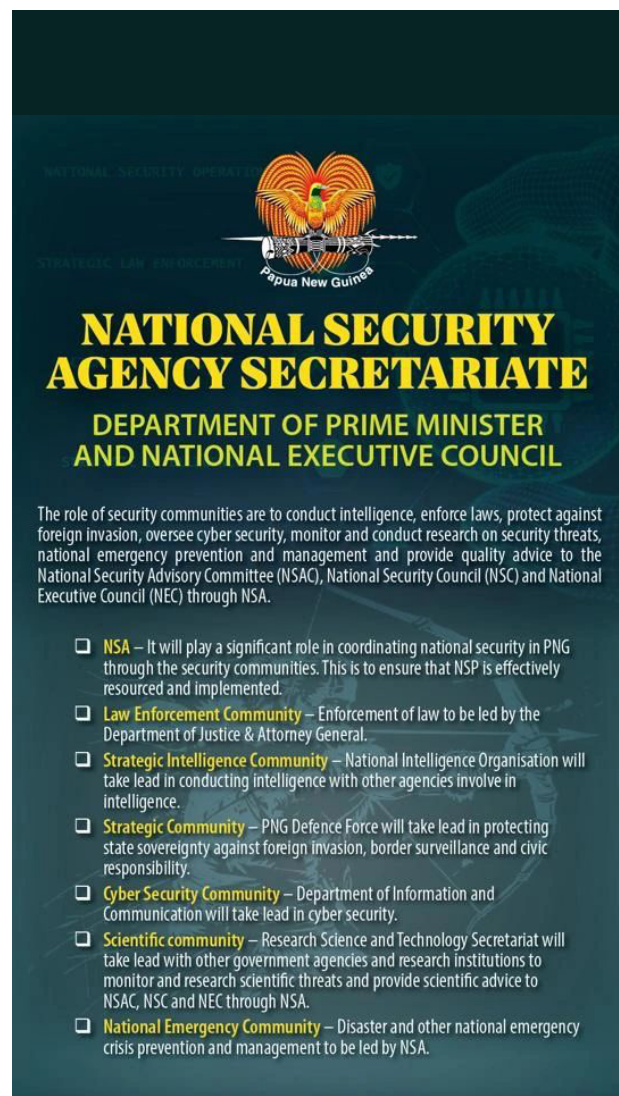
■ 1995-97 Provincial Administrator and Secretary of Western Highlands Provincial Government.

■ 1998-2000 Dept. Head of four Departments: Transport, Works, Civil Aviation and Tourism. Was also, Chairman of National Supply and Tenders and PNG delegate to South Pacific Forum.

■ 2003-05 Consultant and Special Advisor on Southern Highlands restoration to Minister for Intergovernmental Relations - Sir Peter Barter.

■ 2005-08 Special duties attachment to Dept. of prime Minister and NEC: Deputy Chairman of Special Emergencies Task Force, Southern Highlands Province, [SHP] and later as Chairman of Special Police Operations SHP and the Highlands Provinces prior to the 2007 National Elections.

■ 2010 Consultant on the Bulolo/Sepik ethnic clash at Bulolo. Achieved peace between the parties and undertook first repatriation of some Sepiks back home.



New policy defines six security agency functions

THE Revised National Security Policy 2024-2029 (NSP) approved by the Cabinet in 2024 (NEC Decision No. 89/2024) establishes the six security communities in the National Security Sector as stipulated in the Medium Term Development Strategy IV (MTDP IV).

The six security communities are:

1. Strategic (Military)
2. Strategic Intelligence
3. Strategic Law Enforcement
4. Cyber Security
5. Scientific
6. National Emergency

The National Security Agency (NSA), also approved by the same NEC Decision, will be the central (lead) policy coordinating agency of the National Security Sector coordinating and resourcing the implementation of the NSP through the six security communities in the national security sector.

The Revised NSP clearly defines the six security communities' functional roles and responsibilities and their interaction with the NSA to strategically manage complex security threats in the uncertain security environment. By early 2025, NSA will do more awareness on how the national Security system will function in a coordinated fashion.

The new PNG national security system (or the national security architecture) is designed to read signals (warnings), adapt to change in complex environment and proactively respond to surprises (threats).

The Revised NSP 2024-2029 has been officially released by the Department of Prime Minister and National Executive Council to all government agencies.



WHAT IS THE NIO ACT 1984

THE NIO is the intelligence agency of Papua New Guinea.

It was established by the National Intelligence Organization Act, an Act of Parliament in 1984. As defined by the Act, the Organization's functions are to "collect, collate and process intelligence information", and provide the authorities with "timely, accurate and impartial assessments, forecasts and reports in respect of-

(a) matters affecting the maintenance of good order in the country; and

(b) the combating of seditious enterprises, espionage and sabotage and the provision of warning of potential military attack, armed incursions into the territory of Papua New Guinea or the use of military pressures against Papua New Guinea; and

(c) the preservation of national sovereignty and the detection of any attempts by a foreign power or person to engage in political, military or economic activities contrary to Papua New Guinea's interests; and

(d) the prospects for world and regional, political, economic and social stability insofar as these could have implications for, or could affect, Papua New Guinea; and

(e) future trends of the availability of resources and of prices as these could have implications for Papua New Guinea."

The NIO is headed by a Director-General of Intelligence, appointed by the Head of State (the King, whose duties are exercised by the Governor General), who appoints him or her acting on the advice of the Prime Minister, after consultation with the Leader of the Opposition.

REVIEWING THE ACT

THE law that governs the National Intelligence Organization is being reviewed as the country sees a rise



Director General Lieutenant Colonel Joshua Dorpar, is bringing together representatives from key government agencies to address the nation's pressing national security needs. In December of 2024, The National Intelligence Organization (NIO) commenced a pivotal two-day symposium at APEC Haus in Port Moresby, aimed at reviewing the NIO Act of 1984, a law that has remained untouched for 40 years.

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In December of 2024, The National Intelligence Organization (NIO) commenced a pivotal two-day symposium at APEC Haus in Port Moresby, aimed at reviewing the NIO Act of 1984, a law that has remained untouched for 40 years.

The symposium, spearheaded by Acting Director General Lieutenant Colonel Joshua Dorpar, is bringing together representatives from key government agencies to address the nation's pressing national security needs.

The event also coincides with broader legislative reforms, including the recent passage of the Counter-Terrorism Act 2024, signalling a comprehensive approach to tackling issues like terrorism, organized crime, and cyber threats.

Lt. Col. Dorpar opened the symposium with a call for urgent

legislative updates to modernize the NIO's role in addressing current and future challenges.

"Given the wide-ranging security threats the country is facing, it is imperative to expand the organization's mandate, power, and functions," he stated.

The proposed amendments aim to align the NIO's framework with PNG's Medium Term Development Plan 4 (MTDP 4) under Strategic Priority Area 6: National Security, National Security Policy, Defence White Paper and Foreign Policy White Paper.

The NIO symposium comes on the heels of the passage of the Counter-Terrorism Act 2024, a landmark piece of legislation that strengthens PNG's ability to combat terrorism and related crimes.

Prime Minister James Marape hailed the act as a "monumental step" in safeguarding the nation's sovereignty as it approaches its 50th anniversary of independence.

The law addresses a range of issues, including domestic terrorism, cyber-enabled crimes, money laundering, and the escalating use of firearms in tribal conflicts.

Police Commissioner David Manning noted that the legislation empowers law enforcement agencies to act swiftly and decisively against threats.

"These reforms are essential for addressing modern security challenges, from kidnapping for ransom to organized criminal activities," Manning said. PNG is focusing on operational improvements within its security agencies. Lt. Col. Dorpar emphasized the need for adequate manpower, specialized training, and resources to support the NIO's expanded mandate.

"Today's threats require a proactive and well-coordinated response. We need to ensure that intelligence and law enforcement agencies work together effectively to protect the nation," Dorpar said.

Key Achievements in 2024

NIO Director General Lt Col Joshua Dorpar has led the Organization for several months with PNGNIO successfully producing over 145 intelligence products from April 26, 2024 to December 31, 2024.

This is a huge jump with NIO producing between 10 to 15 products within the same period in previous years.

From January to March of 2025, NIO has already produced a total of 69 products. This comprehensive outputs underscores PNG NIO's renewed commitment to national security and its role as a key contributor to the national security discourse Lt Col Dorpar said.

In the NIO Act 1984 review, the reform is in line with the Government of PNG's developmental plan MTDP 4- SPA 6 (legislative reform- Table 2.2) that is to review and amend the outdated NIO Act. In 2025, the review will see an internal consultation conducted in April with an activity plan set and includes:

1.External Consultation –May

2.Public Consultation – June

3.Final Consultation – July

4.Submit for Legal Clearance – August and September

5.Presentation of Bill to Parliament – October to December

NEW ACT PLANS

Following the completion of these consultations, a major organizational restructuring will be implemented to accommodate the objectives outlined in the new Act and to ensure alignment with the updated Corporate Plan. This strategic approach underscores PNGNIO's commitment to enhancing its operational effectiveness and responsiveness to contemporary security challenges.

The intention is that once the revised Act is enacted by Parliament, it will serve as a guiding framework for the comprehensive design of the Organization's new structure, tailored to meet the demands of the current national security environment.

Subsequently, all other internal policies will be updated to reflect this new organizational framework. This strategic approach aims to enhance operational effectiveness and ensure that PNGNIO is well-equipped to address contemporary security challenges.

2025-2028 PNG NIO CORPORATE PLAN

Currently NIO are developing the corporate plan that will capture the organisations vision, mission and values that will set the foundation of the organization going forward.

With recently released National Security Policy (NSP) 2024-2029, the organisation is setting a benchmark to align its strategic vision with the NSP and MTDP 4 to enhance its capacity and capability to ensure PNG NIO, is postured and operability focused to provide its core duties and responsibilities to the Government of PNG thru strategic intelligence.

Internal Governance System: PNG NIO has never had internal governance systems and we are going thru a complete overhaul to have in place the governance system that will provide guidance and check and balance for the organization to function align with relevant PNG Government laws and regulations.

PNGNIO Website
Launching of PNG NIO Website -
www.pngnio.gov.pg

NIO PARTNERSHIP IN PICTURES



PNG National Intelligence Organization (NIO) is part of the planning for PNG's 50th Independence Anniversary celebrations and related activities. In a preliminary meeting on Monday January 06 2025, the discussions centred around the planning and execution of the activities throughout the year. PNGNIO involvement in this meeting is because of the expected arrival of world leaders in September which will involve intelligence and information sharing between the 30 world leaders own security teams and PNG. PICTURE BY PM MEDIA.



NIO Director General Lt Col Joshua Dopar stands with officials during the '2024 GCCD Papua New Guinea Cybersecurity Capacity Building Program' held on the 3rd to 6th September, 2024 Stanley Hotel, Port Moresby.



NIO continues to partner with PNG's bilateral partners as seen here at the The 10th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM10) will be held in Tokyo from July 16 to 18, 2024.



NIO Director General Lt Col Joshua Dorpar (blue jacket) stands with other PNG delegates from Foreign Affairs and NSA at the recently the recently concluded 16th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Inter-Sessional Meeting on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (ISM NPd) in Manila, Philippines in March of this year.



NIO Director General Lt Col Joshua Dorpar and Director of the National Security Advisory Agency Dr Francis Hualupmomi recently visited Porgera Mine. Seen here is Lt Col Dorpar speaking to mine employees.