



# PAPUA NEW GUINEA NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ORGANISATION (NIO)

## QUARTERLY INTELLIGENCE REPORT

**Quarter 1 | January – March 2025**

### **Executive Abstract**

In Q1 2025, the PNG National Intelligence Organization significantly expanded its intelligence output—nearly five times higher than the same period in 2024—driven by improved operational capacity, open-source exploitation, and closer interagency collaboration. Joint monitoring and intelligence sharing with security line agencies were critical in managing ongoing security concerns, including tribal conflicts, political instability, and resource-related disputes. Economic pressures, particularly the foreign exchange crisis and rising living costs, were also closely tracked for their potential impact on social stability. Continued integrated intelligence efforts remain essential to address emerging threats and safeguard national security in the coming quarters.



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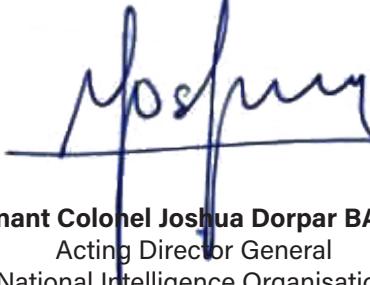
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It is with great satisfaction that I present the Quarterly Report of the National Intelligence Organisation (NIO) for the period Quarter 1 | January – March 2025. This report captures the key operational activities, strategic engagements, and intelligence outputs undertaken during the reporting period, reflecting our continued commitment to safeguarding the national security interests of Papua New Guinea.

Over the 1st quarter, NIO has worked collaboratively with national security partners, provincial stakeholders, and international counterparts to address emerging threats, strengthen intelligence-sharing frameworks, and support Government decision-making with timely, accurate, and actionable intelligence.

While challenges remain in resourcing, operational reach, and adapting to evolving threat landscapes, our officers have demonstrated professionalism, resilience, and dedication to the mission. This report provides a transparent account of our performance, the environment in which we operate, and the strategic direction moving forward.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the commitment of all NIO officers and our security partners who have contributed to the successes of this quarter. I commend their service and reaffirm our resolve to meet the national security needs of Papua New Guinea.

  
Lieutenant Colonel Joshua Dorpar BA, EMBA  
Acting Director General  
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The first quarter of 2025 witnessed a marked intensification in the national security environment of Papua New Guinea (PNG), characterized by heightened socio-political developments, evolving security threats, and expanding intelligence activities. Throughout this period, intelligence production increased significantly to address emerging challenges and support government decision-making with timely and actionable insights.

Key highlights include a near fourfold increase in intelligence output compared to the previous year's first quarter, reflecting expanded operational capacity and analytical focus across socio-political, economic, and general security domains. Critical socio-political issues such as the Vote of No Confidence (VoNC) debates, ongoing developments surrounding Bougainville's autonomy and referendum outcomes, and increasing community unrest demanded concentrated attention. Economic challenges, notably the foreign exchange crisis and its cascading effects on the cost of living and resource sectors, featured prominently in intelligence assessments.

Security concerns remained dynamic and multifaceted, with persistent tribal conflicts in the Highlands, border security issues, drug trafficking, cyber threats, and misinformation campaigns posing significant risks to national stability. The situation around the Pogera mining area remained a focal point for law and order concerns, requiring ongoing monitoring and inter-agency cooperation.

Moreover, PNG's foreign policy continues to emphasize maintaining friendly relations globally while navigating complex geopolitical shifts with a balanced, neutral stance.

Inter-agency collaboration was strengthened during the quarter, enhancing intelligence sharing and coordinated responses across multiple security and governance sectors. This report outlines these developments, assesses ongoing challenges, and provides an outlook for the subsequent quarter, emphasizing the importance of continued vigilance and strategic adaptability in safeguarding national interests.





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This report presents a comprehensive overview of Papua New Guinea's national security and intelligence landscape for the first quarter of 2025. It aims to inform policy makers, security stakeholders, and government leaders of the key developments, threats, and operational responses that have shaped the security environment during this period.

The purpose of this document is to consolidate intelligence findings across socio-political, economic, and general security spheres, providing a clear assessment of emerging trends and challenges. It serves as both a record of activities and an analytical tool to support strategic decision-making and policy formulation.

The first quarter of 2025 was a period marked by heightened political activity, evolving security threats, and increasing socio-economic pressures. Notable events included ongoing political debates around governance stability, continued dialogue on Bougainville's autonomy following the referendum, and the persistent impacts of economic downturn on social cohesion and law enforcement.

The report emphasizes the necessity of integrated intelligence efforts, inter-agency cooperation, and proactive risk mitigation strategies to address these complex and interrelated challenges. It also highlights the critical importance of maintaining PNG's neutral foreign policy posture in a fluid global geopolitical environment.

The following sections provide detailed analysis of intelligence outputs, major events, thematic challenges, and policy recommendations to strengthen PNG's security architecture and resilience.



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Papua New Guinea's security landscape in the first quarter of 2025 has been characterized by multifaceted challenges that demand a strategic and coordinated response. The national intelligence apparatus has prioritized the identification, assessment, and mitigation of risks across socio-political, economic, and general security domains to safeguard stability and development.

Key strategic priorities during this period included:

**Political Stability and Governance:** Monitoring political developments and potential triggers of unrest remained a core focus. The government's efforts to navigate constitutional changes, political dissent, and community tensions required close intelligence support to anticipate and manage risks effectively.

**Socio-Economic Resilience:** The ongoing economic downturn, inflationary pressures, and associated increases in cost of living have exacerbated vulnerabilities across communities. Intelligence activities focused on tracking socio-economic grievances, potential disruptions, and the nexus between economic hardship and law and order challenges.

**Security and Public Safety:** Persistent law and order issues such as tribal conflicts, resource-related disputes, and illicit trafficking activities continued to pose significant threats. Strategic emphasis was placed on enhancing situational awareness, threat interdiction, and coordination among enforcement agencies.

**Information Environment and Disinformation:** The rapid spread of misinformation and disinformation, particularly through social and digital media platforms, was recognized as a destabilizing factor with potential to influence public opinion and incite unrest. Strategies to monitor and counter such narratives were integrated into intelligence collection and analysis.

**Bougainville Peace Process:** Continued attention to the post-referendum dialogue and stability efforts in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville was critical, given the sensitivities surrounding independence discussions and associated community dynamics.

**Foreign Policy and Geopolitical Posture:** Maintaining Papua New Guinea's stance as a nation committed to friendship with all and enmity with none remains a cornerstone of strategic positioning. Intelligence monitoring extended to assessing external influences and geopolitical developments with potential implications for national security.

The strategic overview underscores the necessity for a dynamic, informed, and collaborative approach to intelligence and security operations. This report aims to support that effort by providing timely and actionable insights aligned with national security priorities.



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During the first quarter of 2025, Papua New Guinea continued to face a complex domestic environment shaped by evolving social, political, and economic dynamics. These factors collectively impacted the national security landscape and necessitated comprehensive intelligence efforts to understand emerging trends and potential risks.

**Political Climate:** The political environment remained charged, with heightened public interest surrounding governance issues and constitutional reforms. Discussions around the Vote of No Confidence (VoNC), while constitutionally regulated, generated both political mobilization and public discourse. Such developments necessitated ongoing monitoring of potential flashpoints and indicators of unrest or disruptive activity.

**Economic Challenges:** The country's economy faced significant headwinds, including persistent inflation, depreciation of the Kina, and disruptions in key sectors such as mining and agriculture. The socio-economic strain increased pressure on vulnerable populations, which in turn contributed to heightened community grievances and occasional outbreaks of civil unrest. Intelligence efforts focused on tracking these economic stressors and their impact on public order.

**Law and Order:** Security challenges continued, particularly in areas affected by tribal conflicts and resource-related disputes. Incidents in regions such as Enga Province and around resource hubs underscored the fragile nature of community relations and the potential for violence to escalate. Furthermore, rising concerns over illicit activities, including arms trafficking, drug smuggling, and illegal mining, demanded focused attention.

**Information and Social Media:** The proliferation of misinformation and disinformation posed risks to social cohesion and trust in institutions. Various narratives circulated on social media platforms, sometimes inflaming ethnic or political tensions. Monitoring these trends became essential for early warning and response mechanisms.

**Community Engagement:** Efforts to engage with communities, especially in conflict-prone areas and regions with ongoing political sensitivities such as Bougainville, remained a priority. Constructive dialogue and local-level intelligence collection were recognized as key components in mitigating tensions and fostering peace.

In summary, the domestic environment in Q1 2025 presented a landscape of interlinked challenges requiring an integrated intelligence and security approach. Understanding the socio-political undercurrents alongside economic realities is critical to anticipating risks and supporting government responses.



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The first quarter of 2025 was marked by several significant events that required close intelligence support and coordination to ensure national security and stability. Intelligence operations played a vital role in pre-empting threats, providing situational awareness, and assisting decision-makers across government sectors.

**Vote of No Confidence (VoNC) Preparations:** The constitutional amendment instituting an 18-month grace period after any failed VoNC brought renewed political focus. Intelligence efforts concentrated on monitoring political mobilization, identifying potential persons of interest, and assessing risks of demonstrations or unrest linked to the political climate. Special briefings were regularly prepared to inform policymakers on evolving political dynamics and associated security implications.

**Tribal and Resource-Related Conflicts:** Ongoing tribal conflicts, notably in the Enga Province around Pogera and other Highlands regions, remained a priority concern. Intelligence support included threat assessments of escalating tensions, early warning reports, and liaison with security agencies to facilitate rapid response and containment measures. Monitoring of illegal firearms trafficking and funder networks continued to be critical in managing these conflicts.

**Public Health Intelligence:** Emerging health threats, such as the Metapneumovirus outbreak and associated misinformation, were actively tracked. Intelligence reports highlighted areas of public concern, enabling government communication strategies to counter false narratives and promote accurate health information.

**Economic and Resource Sector Monitoring:** Key economic developments, including fluctuations in the Kina exchange rate, foreign investment trends, and resource sector activities, were closely followed. Intelligence support facilitated understanding of economic vulnerabilities and their potential to impact social stability, particularly in resource-dependent communities.

**Security for Major National Events:** Preparations for upcoming national celebrations and visitations involved heightened security coordination. Intelligence assessments identified potential risks ranging from public disorder to external threats, enabling proactive measures in collaboration with law enforcement and other agencies.

**Information Environment:** The rapidly evolving digital landscape demanded enhanced open-source intelligence (OSINT) capabilities. Tracking of misinformation campaigns, cyber threat trends, and social media sentiment was integrated into intelligence products to inform strategic responses.

In conclusion, intelligence support during Q1 2025 proved essential in addressing a spectrum of security challenges linked to political processes, community conflicts, health concerns, and economic factors. Sustained collaboration and adaptive analysis remained key to maintaining national stability during this period.



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The Bougainville region continued to be a focal point for intelligence and policy attention during the first quarter of 2025. The ongoing political, social, and economic developments there have direct implications for national security and governance.

**Referendum Implementation and Aftermath:** Following the 2019 Bougainville independence referendum, where an overwhelming majority voted for independence, sustained dialogue between Bougainville and the national government remained critical. The focus during this quarter was on supporting peaceful negotiations and ensuring that both sides adhered to agreed frameworks for autonomy and future political arrangements.

**Security Situation:** While major violent incidents have decreased, localized tensions and sporadic unrest still present challenges. Intelligence monitoring concentrated on potential triggers for conflict, including land disputes, resource control, and political rivalries. Efforts to prevent escalation included increased communication with local leaders and community stakeholders.

**Economic Development and Infrastructure:** Economic conditions in Bougainville remain fragile, with high unemployment and limited infrastructure development. Intelligence assessments highlighted the need for sustainable investment and social programs to support stability and community resilience. Monitoring of resource-related activities, especially mining, was ongoing given their potential to both drive economic growth and fuel conflict if mismanaged.

**Dialogue on Independence:** Discussions surrounding the timeline and modalities for Bougainville's eventual independence continued to be sensitive. Intelligence inputs focused on gauging public sentiment and the political landscape within Bougainville to anticipate challenges and opportunities in the transition process.

**Disinformation and Influence Campaigns:** There were ongoing concerns about misinformation affecting public opinion and the political environment. Intelligence efforts included tracking narratives that could undermine the peace process or exacerbate divisions within the community.

Maintaining peace and progress in Bougainville remains a strategic priority. Continued engagement, transparent communication, and socio-economic development initiatives are essential to support stability and foster a positive transition in line with national interests.



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In the first quarter of 2025, intelligence production saw a dramatic increase compared to the same period in 2024. Total outputs rose from 14 to 69 products—a nearly fivefold jump—driven by large gains in Special Briefs, Threat Assessments, and the introduction of 15 OSINT reports where none existed the previous year. This growth reflects a significant boost in operational tempo, analytical capacity, and the breadth of coverage across key intelligence areas.

The Socio-Political Desk moved from limited, sporadic reporting in 2024 to comprehensive coverage in 2025, addressing high-priority topics such as the Vote of No Confidence, Bougainville's political process, disinformation campaigns, and public protest risks. OSINT was used to track community sentiment, reactions to government policies, and signs of political mobilization. The Economic Desk also matured significantly, producing strategic-level analysis on foreign exchange shortages, kina depreciation, tax reforms, green finance, and the impact of economic hardship on communities.

General Security intelligence became far more robust in 2025, with detailed reporting on tribal conflicts, public health concerns, civil unrest, and cross-border criminal activities. OSINT inputs provided early warning on arms trafficking sentiment, illegal mining, and misinformation trends. Overall, 2025 marked a shift from reactive assessments to proactive and forward-looking intelligence, with closer alignment to national security priorities and stronger coordination with senior decision-makers.



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Despite the significant expansion and improvements in intelligence operations during Q1 2025, Papua New Guinea continues to face a range of persistent and emerging challenges that impact national security and socio-economic stability.

## Security Threats

**Cyber Threats:** The increasing reliance on digital infrastructure exposes critical systems to cyberattacks, misinformation campaigns, and data breaches. Capacity building in cybersecurity remains a priority to protect government networks and public services from adversarial interference.

**Pogera Conflict:** The ongoing tribal conflict around the Pogera mine area remains a significant security concern. Violence disrupts local communities, hampers economic activity, and requires sustained mediation efforts to restore peace and stability.

**Autonomous Region of Bougainville (AROB):** Sensitivities surrounding independence discussions continue to require careful management. Ongoing dialogue between Bougainville leaders and the national government is essential to avoid escalation, maintain peace, and support a smooth political transition.

**Misinformation and Disinformation:** The proliferation of false information, especially via social media, poses risks to public order by influencing perceptions and fueling unrest. Effective countermeasures and public awareness campaigns are necessary to mitigate these effects.

## Socio-Economic Challenges

**Economic Downturn and Recovery:** PNG's economy continues to face challenges stemming from global market volatility, commodity price fluctuations, and pandemic-related disruptions. The resultant inflationary pressures contribute to a rising cost of living, adversely affecting vulnerable populations and exacerbating social tensions.

**Law and Order:** The economic hardship contributes to increased criminal activity, including theft, tribal fighting, and illicit trade. Maintaining law enforcement effectiveness and community engagement remains critical to addressing these issues.

## Geopolitical Context

Papua New Guinea remains committed to a foreign policy of maintaining friendly relations with all nations and avoiding alignment that could compromise its sovereignty. In an evolving global geopolitical landscape, this balanced approach supports national interests but requires vigilant diplomatic and security coordination to navigate external pressures.



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During the first quarter of 2025, the PNGNIO worked closely with other security line agencies to strengthen national intelligence coordination and operational effectiveness. This collaboration provided a platform for the timely exchange of intelligence, joint operational planning, and the integration of capabilities across multiple security domains.

Such cooperation was instrumental in monitoring and responding to key issues of national significance covered in Q1. These included the protection of major national events, the management of emerging security threats, and the maintenance of stability in sensitive regions. Continued interagency collaboration, monitoring, and intelligence sharing remained critical, particularly in addressing ongoing security issues of concern, ensuring that potential risks were identified early and effectively managed.



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### Summary

The first quarter of 2025 demonstrated a significant expansion in intelligence operations and analytical output in Papua New Guinea. The marked increase in intelligence products reflects a heightened operational tempo and a deeper analytical focus across the socio-political, economic, and general security sectors. Key events such as political developments surrounding the Vote of No Confidence, ongoing tribal conflicts, and public health challenges have underscored the evolving security landscape.

The inclusion of Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) as a core component has enriched the analytical framework, enabling timely monitoring of public sentiment, misinformation, and emerging threats. Inter-agency collaboration has played a pivotal role in strengthening national security responses through coordinated intelligence sharing and joint operational planning.

Despite these advances, Papua New Guinea continues to face enduring challenges. These include complex tribal disputes, socio-economic pressures exacerbated by economic downturns, cyber security threats, and the sensitive political discourse surrounding Bougainville and Autonomous Region of Bougainville (AROB) independence. Misinformation remains a critical factor influencing social cohesion and public trust.

### Outlook

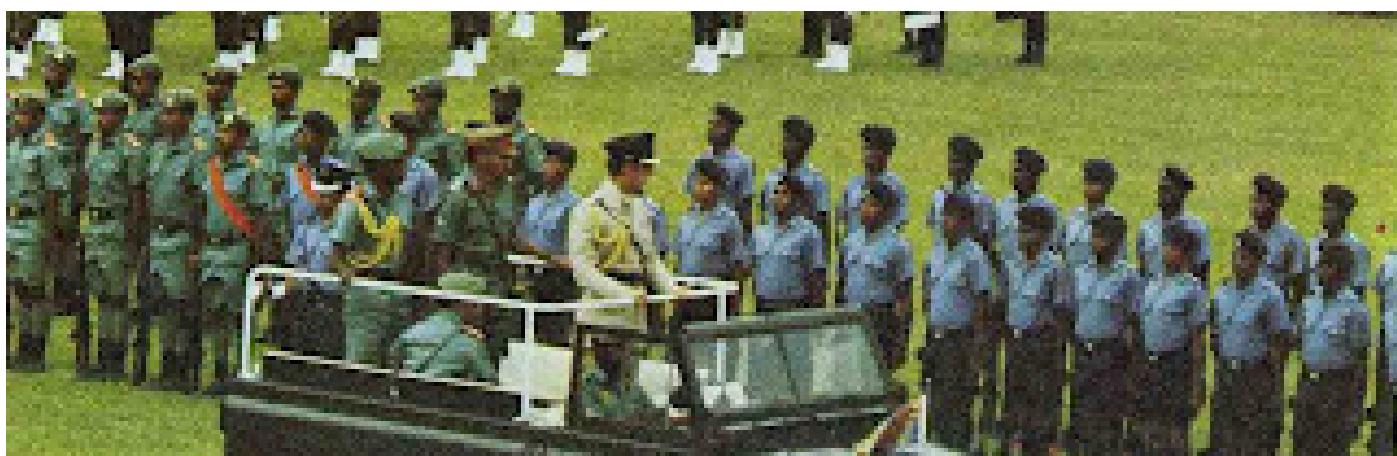
Moving forward, efforts will focus on:

- Enhancing intelligence capabilities, including expanding OSINT and technological assets.
- Strengthening inter-agency cooperation at all government levels to ensure cohesive responses.
- Addressing socio-economic drivers of instability through integrated policy and security initiatives.
- Maintaining Papua New Guinea's balanced geopolitical stance, fostering constructive international relations.
- Proactively managing the information environment to counter misinformation and disinformation.

The intelligence community remains committed to supporting government priorities by delivering timely, accurate, and actionable intelligence to safeguard national stability and promote sustainable development.

*End of Report Prepared by:*

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