



DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & RELIGION

SAMBRA HAUS, Kumul Avenue, Waigani, P.O. Box 7354, BOROKO, NCD, PAPUA NEW GUINEA
Phone: (675) 301 0252, (675) 301 0247 or (675) 325 5199, Facsimile: (675) 325 4270

Office of the Secretary

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PRESS RELEASE

KOKOPO HOSTS LAUNCHING OF NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

East New Britain Province was privileged to have a New and very important National Government Policy launched in the province through the Department for Community Development and Religion.

“This is a milestone for this country and Kokopo as the host for this very important occasion.”

Minister for Youth, Religion and Community Development, Hon. Delilah Gore made this opening remark in her keynote address at the Launching of the National Child Protection Policy at Kokopo Primary School, ENB Province.

The Policy was launched on the 13th of April by Minister Gore in what was also her last official duty travel to an outside province before the Issuing of the Writs for the National Elections.

Present to witness the launching were Department Secretary – Ms Anna Solomon, Head of Unicef in PNG – Mr Olushola Ismail, ENB Provincial Administrator – Hon. Wilson Matawa, Member for Rabaul – Hon. Dr Allan Marat, members of the ENB Provincial Executive Council, members of the ENB District Development Authority, representatives from the ENB Provincial, District and LLG levels, other invited guests and students of host school Kokopo Primary.

While thanking the Government and the Department for choosing East New Britain as the host for this important launching, Provincial Administrator Hon. Wilson Matawa in his welcome and opening remarks highlighted the importance the Policy when dealing with child protection.

“This policy will specify different roles and responsibilities to you and I as care givers and furthermore, specifies the penalties if we fail to provide for our children,” said Mr Matawa.

The Child Protection Policy compliments the Act as a guideline or implementing document that outlines the way forward on how best work can be better coordinated and implemented to respond to the issues of violence and others faced by children in Papua New Guinea.

In her keynote address, Minister Gore thanked the East New Britain provincial government for accepting the invitation to host the launching of the first ever Child protection policy while she pointed out that the province was chosen because statistically, the province leads the way in reporting violence against children.

Not only that, as East New Britain was also part of the many consultations that took place and contributed to the development of this policy, according to Minister Gore.

“The Launch of this Policy will go a long way and having it launched in Kokopo, East New Britain province will go down in the history of this country as the first ever Child Protection Policy launched in Kokopo.”

“The fundamental legal framework of this policy will of course protect all the children from all sorts of exploitation and the policy itself will provide the basic guidance to develop child protection programmes through all levels of government through the Lukautim Pikinini act,” said Minister Gore. Meanwhile, Minister Gore also highlighted that the 2017 year has been marked as the year to rollout the Policy and Act by way of trainings for child protection officers that will cover the four regions in the country.

The first training of child protection officers will be conducted in the National Capital District for child protection officers from NCD, Motu-Koita and central, with Alotau to host training for Southern Region, Kokopo to host training for the Niugini Islands and Lae for Momase region.

The Lukautim Pikinini Act was Legislated and passed by Parliament in 2015 which also marked another milestone achievement for the Department under the leadership of Minister Gore through the National Office of Child and Family Services. It was a significant achievement for the Minister as Members of Parliament voted for the Act with a majority of 76-0 votes.

This clearly indicates the importance of having such important Legislation for the benefit of the children in Papua New Guinea.

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE BY

Ms Anna Solomon

SECRETARY

Department for Community Development & Religion