



Ministry of Information & Communications Technology

Office of the Minister

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Keynote Speech
for Hon. Timothy Masiu, Minister for ICT
on the Occasion of
Innovation PNG 2023
10th December 2023

Good morning, esteemed guests, innovators, business leaders, and cherished members of our community.

I am happy to stand here at Innovation PNG 2023 as the representative of the Government.

Despite the challenges we face, I continue to be encouraged when I see initiatives and events such as this where we can facilitate collaborative efforts with Industry and Government to promote innovation for the nation's progress.

For us as a government, our pursuit of a digital nation isn't merely about implementing technology.

It's about creating an ecosystem where innovative minds can collaborate and thrive, leveraging technology to drive our development agenda forward.

I would like to affirm that for the last four years the Government has been leading the way in setting appropriate policies and legislative framework to drive digital transformation and innovation.

The Digital Transformation Policy in 2020 laid the foundation, establishing a vision.

The Digital Government Act of 2022 established a legal framework for delivery and provision for a wide range of critical digital government services including the Government Cloud, the Secure Data Exchange Platform, Public Internet Payment Gateway, Digital ID verification, and a suite of eGovernment Portals.

Further to this, the Digital Government Act 2022 now provisions for the establishment of an Innovation Hub.

This isn't just a facility; it's the embodiment of our belief in collaboration, in the potency of pooling our collective expertise, and in the promise of what we can co-create.

The Digital Government Plan 2023 – 2027 and more broadly the Medium-Term Development Plan 2023 – 2027 anchors an investment plan to support the delivery phase.

Today, I wish to share a significant update: The Department is in the final stages of establishing a Government Cloud Account for the whole of government.

The Government Cloud isn't just centralizing our digital resources, ensuring efficiency, security, and scalability for all government-related digital activities.

At the heart of it, is about creating and leveraging on cloud-based innovation to solve not just public service machinery challenges but also driving business innovation solutions for the private sector.

As such, I am excited to announce that as we prepare to announce and launch our Government Cloud, this same Cloud Platform will also serve as the foundation for an **'Open Innovation Platform'**, set to launch on January 2nd, 2024.

I will be signing an MOU today with the Ministry of Public Enterprise to which my Department and PNG DataCo will be partnering establish the 'Open Innovation Platform'.

This platform is specifically designed for our budding start-ups, allowing them to harness the power of cloud capabilities.

We envision this as a space where start-ups can propose, develop, and test innovative solutions tailored for government needs.

It's a call to action for our brightest minds to partner with the government, using cutting-edge technology to shape our nation's future.

To our innovators, entrepreneurs, and partners in development, our message is unequivocal: The government is not just an observer or beneficiary in this era of innovation.

We are collaborators, facilitators, and most importantly, believers in what we can achieve together.

I am pleased to further announce that on November 22-24, the Government will be hosting its inaugural Digital Government Workshop aimed and seeking alignment with our delivery for innovation.

The Government looks forward to partnering with the private sector for solutions and capacity building amongst other areas.

In the meantime, my department has put out a few Requests for Information (RFI) announcements for interested solution providers in respective areas of innovation we are pursuing.

We are encouraging our best minds in the industry to submit their interests.

Please visit our website for more details and see my Secretary and Department staff who are here, should you have any specific questions.

Let's unite in this endeavour. Let's co-create, innovate, and harness the potential of technology and human ingenuity.

Thank you. Together, let us set the stage for a groundbreaking era of innovation and transformation for Papua New Guinea.

Hon. TIMOTHY MASIU MP

Minister for Information and Communication Technology