



**DEPARTMENT OF PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL LEVEL GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

PRESS RELEASE

Wednesday 11th March, 2026

DPLGA and IOM PNG sign MoU to strengthen response to internal displacement

PORT MORESBY: THE Department of Provincial and Local Government Affairs (DPLGA) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen Papua New Guinea's (PNG) national response to internal displacement and advance safe, dignified and sustainable relocation solutions for internally displaced persons (IDPs).

The MoU signed on the 11th March, 2026 formalizes a longstanding partnership between DPLGA and IOM to strengthen local governance, improve service delivery and support communities affected by displacement and other vulnerabilities across PNG.

DPLGA and IOM has reaffirmed their shared commitment to translating national policy priorities into practical action at provincial, district, ward and community levels.

Cooperation will focus on strengthening institutional capacities of provincial and local-level governments; advancing the implementation of the National Internally Displaced Persons (NIDPP) 2025-2035 and durable solutions for displaced communities; supporting the rollout of National Ward Development Planning and community-based planning approaches for forward development; and collaborating on research and policy related to displacement and local service delivery.

Speaking at the signing, DPLGA Secretary, Philip Leo, stated that the partnership reflects the Government's commitment to strengthening national systems for addressing internal displacement.

"The Government of Papua New Guinea has taken important steps to strengthen national systems for addressing internal displacement. This

partnership builds on that progress by supporting coordinated implementation at provincial and district levels and ensuring that relocation processes are guided by community priorities, strong governance, and respect for the rights, culture, and dignity of our people,” Mr. Leo said.

IOM PNG Chief of Mission David James Arnold, welcomed the formalization of the partnership and reaffirmed IOM's support to GoPNG leadership following the launch of the (NIDPP) 2025-2035 on February 27th, 2026.

"This MoU consolidates our long-standing partnership with DPLGA and supports Government leadership and the operationalization of the National IDP Policy. IOM is honored to support DPLGA in translating national policy into practical, community-driven action that helps displaced families rebuild their lives in safety, dignity and resilience,” Mr. Arnold said.

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Approved for Release

**PHILIP LEO
SECRETARY**