



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

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**PRESS RELEASE  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2025**

**Amendments to the Organic Law on Provincial and Local Level Governments (OLPLLG)  
to Address APPR Non-Compliance**

**PORT MORESBY:** The Department of Provincial and Local-level Government Affairs is currently undertaking amendments to the Organic Law on Provincial and Local-Level Governments (OLPLLG) to address non-compliance with Annual Provincial Performance Reports (APPR), says Deputy Secretary- Sub-National Support Services Mr. Larsen Thomas.

“If Parliament convenes next month and passes the amendments, the Minister for Provincial and Local-Level Government Affairs will be empowered to hold key individuals accountable for non-compliance,” Mr. Thomas stated.

He emphasized that under the current provisions of the OLPLLG, the Department has the authority to conduct routine compliance audits at any time—either with or without prior notice to provincial administrations.

Mr. Thomas made these remarks while receiving the New Ireland Provincial Administration’s Section 119 Reports covering the 2023 and 2024 APPRs on behalf of Secretary Philip Leo in Port Moresby today.

For the first time, the New Ireland Provincial Administration also submitted District Development Authority (DDA) Annual Reports for Kavieng and Namatanai, alongside the APPRs.

Deputy Secretary of the Provincial and Local Level Services Monitoring Authority (PLLSMA), Mr. James Agigo, said the Department will analyze the six key priority areas covered in the APPRs—Health, Education, Transport and Works, Primary Production, Law and Justice, and Governance—to assess how government funding has been utilized.

New Ireland’s Acting CEO for Administration, Mr. Ricky Fugonto, cited delayed disbursement of funds as the primary cause of late submissions.

“Late funding disbursements are the main reason we struggle to submit our APPRs on time,” Mr. Fugonto said.

“The earlier we receive funding, the more time we have to implement projects, document progress, and submit reports before the June 30th deadline.”

Mr. Fugonto reported steady progress across all six priority sectors in the 2024 APPR:

## **1. Health**

- Ward-level health facility coverage reached 90%, supporting a 96% childhood immunization rate.
- Maternal mortality declined by 14% following enhanced emergency obstetric care training and faster referral systems.
- Screening for non-communicable diseases doubled, though challenges remain in staffing and supply chains, particularly in remote areas.

## **2. Education**

- Secondary and tertiary enrolment rose to 68%, supported by new scholarship initiatives and school infrastructure improvements.
- The student-teacher ratio improved to 28:1, down from 32:1.
- Primary education net enrolment reached 94%, approaching universal access.

## **3. Transport and Works**

- Of the province’s 1,200 km of roads, only 28% are sealed.
- Maritime transport reliability improved to 82% due to better vessel maintenance and community-managed jetties.
- Upgrades to Kavieng Airport’s runway led to an 18% increase in passenger throughput and improved response time for medical evacuations.

## **4. Law and Order**

- Violent crime decreased by 18%, attributed to strengthened community policing and youth diversion programs.
- Conviction rates rose to 55% following court facility upgrades and improved evidence management systems.
- Road traffic incidents remain high, indicating a need for integrated transport safety strategies.

## **5. Governance**

- Section 119 compliance reached 98%, with most submissions timely and data-driven.
- Budget execution improved to 85%, up from 75%, reflecting enhanced planning and coordination.

With just three days remaining before the submission deadline, New Ireland becomes the seventh province to submit its 2024 APPR to the Department of Provincial and Local-Level Government Affairs.

**Approved for Release**

**PHILIP LEO  
SECRETARY**