

NATIONAL DECENTRALIZATION COORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION POLICY DRAFTING

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OUR PASTS

WHERE WE HAVE COME FROM AND WHERE WE WANT TO BE?

Main reasons for decentralization since 1975

- ❖ **1975 – 1995** – Political -Unity, peace, harmony and people integration
- ❖ **1995-2023** – Service delivery
- ❖ **2023 and beyond** – Demand for economic growth-
Fiscal autonomy – 22 big economies for PNG

GENERAL BACKGROUND – THE CONTEXT OF DECENTRALISATION IN PNG

Historical background of decentralization

1884-1945-Germany and Great Britain ruled—
No formal government structure

1902-1975: Australia ruled PNG for 73 years

1949-LLGs-The first decentralised government
established in the country

AUSTRALIA RULED PNG FOR 73 YEARS

- **1902.** Australia was formally mandated to rule this country by the League of Nations (United Nations). Two directives:
 - Unify the country and
 - Provide enabling to empower the citizens
- **Australia administered** - Papua and New Guinea Act (1949)
 - Established judicial system,
 - A public service and
 - Local Level Government System throughout the country.
- **Legislation did not cater for:** schools , colleges, universities and health systems establishments
- **Australia did the opposite:** Foreign policy toward Papua & New Guinea *a gradual process of development* .
- This policy effectively suspended all *political, social, economic and infrastructure development* for nearly 63 years (1902 to 1965).

THE IMPORTANCE OF DECENTRALISATION IN NATIONAL CONSTITUTION

1. 1975 - One National Constitution
2. Decentralization is a National Constitutional requirements
3. Powers of the National and Provincial Governments are demarcated by the OLPG&LLG
4. No provincial governments have requested for powers beyond the powers given in the OLPG&LLG except for AROB –
Autonomy
5. Decentralization unified this country
6. Decentralization is here to stay

TYPES OF DECENTRALIZATION PRACTICED IN PNG SINCE 1975

1. **Political decentralization** – Provincial & LLG Governments
2. **Administrative decentralization** – Provincial Administration
3. **Financial powers decentralization** – Provincial budgets, expenditure and investment

NATIONAL DECENTRALIZATION IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

1. Role confusion between state agencies responsible for Provincial Governments – Simply ignorance
2. Implementing straight from the OLPLLG-Very weak monitoring
3. State agencies transfer of powers uncoordinated and disoriented
4. Provincial governments request for powers disorganized
5. Decentralization implementation uncoordinated and unsupervised
6. Unrealistic, unreliable data-social and economic service delivery data.
7. Use of terminologies – autonomy, greater power sharing, creating confusion, ill feelings, disunity, division among the people

NATIONAL DECENTRALIZATION COORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION POLICY DRAFTING

- Sub-national governments request for power process
- State agencies transfers of powers and functions process
- Process of decentralization – Gradation approach
- Transfer of powers and functions in an orderly and transparent manner
- Coordinate, facilitate and institutionalize decentralization
- Establish systematic service delivery monitoring system

2023 Governors Conference Resolutions

- 26 resolutions – fiscal autonomy – growing 22 economies
- IGFA arrangement
- Bipartisan committee – NEC Approved
- Supported by TTT and PLLSMA Secretariat
- Review, Assess the reports, policies on decentralization
- Review of the Organic Law on Provincial and Local Level Governments, Legislations and policies
- Outcomes –(1) Implement the 26 Resolutions - (2) Decentralization Policy Framework going forward into the future

CONCLUSIONS

- Our pasts tell us where we have began as a nation
- Our past mistakes will guide us create a better future
- Transfer of powers and functions disorganized and uncoordinated affecting national development
- Monitoring of decentralization ad-hoc and not good for national development
- DPLGA is developing National Decentralization Coordination and Implementation policy
- Guide use to transfer powers and function in an orderly and transparent manner
- You all will be consulted on the content of this Policy

THE END

**WELCOME QUESTIONS
AND
COMMENTS**