



THE NATIONAL
RESEARCH INSTITUTE
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

33rd EPAC Graduation Ceremony

PNG NRI Campus, Waigani, NCD, 27 October 2023

Closing Remarks PNG NRI Director, Dr. Osborne Sanida

Hon Allan Bird, Governor for East Sepik, our Guest of Honour for today's EPAC Graduation; PNG NRI Council Chairman, Mr. Wilson Thompson; Members of PNG NRI Council; EPAC 2023 Graduates and employers/sponsors/family/friends; EPAC Lecturers; EPAC Coordinating Team; NRI Staff; the media; and Ladies and Gentlemen.

I want to acknowledge and thank Hon Governor Bird for accepting our invitation to grace us with his presence and deliver the keynote address for the Graduation.

I thank the NRI Council Chairman, Mr. Thompson and Council members for their oversight and strategic direction for the Institute as a Public Policy "Think Tank". PNG NRI's key mandate is to conduct applied social and economic research into the PNG economy and society and disseminate the findings for informed decision-making in order to improve the welfare of our people.

To Graduates of the EPAC 2023, a massive congratulations on your achievement today. You have successfully completed an 8-week intensive Program. Well done!

I want to thank everyone involved in the Program's success. Thank you to the sponsors, employers, families and friends of the students for your support over the last 8 eight weeks. Thank you to the EPAC Course Coordinator team, Dr. Francis Odhuno for successfully coordinating the Course and the Lecturers for imparting your knowledge to the students. Thank you to various NRI staff, who worked hard to ensure the success of the program (finance team, communications team, logistics team, and the grounds staff).



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Finally, to the Graduates, today marks the end of what has been a demanding but rewarding 8 weeks of the 2023 EPAC. I am confident that you have learnt a lot during your time here at PNGNRI and are now equipped with the tools to design good policies, analyse/evaluate policies, and effectively implement policies to make a positive change to the lives of those who will be affected by policies.

With the analytical tools you have learnt, I encourage you to conduct good *inquiry* (research and analysis), *inform* and *influence* policy making, and implementation of the policies for improving the welfare of our people, wherever you will be after graduation. Finally, we hope that you will act as NRI ambassadors out there, providing positive role models for those thinking of studying the EPAC at PNG NRI.

Congratulations to the Graduating EPAC Class of 2023!

Thank you and may God Bless you all.