



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **PNG needs to address settlement issues holistically**

In Papua New Guinea (PNG), the difference between the planned and unplanned squatter settlements is not clear as many of the older planned settlements have spilled over the original boundaries.

Planned settlements are officially sanctioned self-help housing areas that are provided with infrastructure and basic services. Unplanned settlements have not been designated by authorities, and in most cases, are deemed illegal squatters without services.

The National Research Institute (NRI) Issues Paper No. 44 titled: **How can urban housing and settlement issues be effectively addressed in Papua New Guinea** by Senior Research Fellow and Program Leader for Society and Cultural Research Program at PNG NRI, Dr Elizabeth Kopel and Mr Busa Wenogo focuses on settlements and evictions in Port Moresby which have become more frequent over the last decade affecting increasing numbers of settlement dwellers than elsewhere in the country.

A brief outline of the factors that drive increasing squatter settlements explains why settlements in PNG continue to grow exponentially. The authors also highlight the diverging views of settlement dwellers and the challenges of addressing settlement concerns through a comprehensive urbanisation and human settlements policy.

Current policy and public perception of approaches to addressing housing and related concerns continue to mirror the influence of the colonial legacy of housing. These underlying biases have shaped the development of Port Moresby as a city marked by social and spatial inequalities.

Contemporary settlements are important to the city's economy and respect for people and property must prevail in the enforcement of evictions. PNG's policy and planning for housing and settlements must be addressed from a wider perspective of improving living standards and the welfare of the entire country, for all urban dwellers and rural people.

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