What is the problem/Issue?

1. Basic Services delivery systems and capacity have deteriorated. CLRC and DPLGA Final Report (2015); “Despite improved service Delivery being one of the objectives of the Organic Law, service delivery has deteriorated over more then 20 years. This is particualry the case in rural areas where most people live”

2. Weakening of National Institutions – Governance and Oversight.
The second National Goal and Directive Principle

• “for all citizens to have an equal opportunity to participate in, and benefit from, the development of our country” (PNG National Constitution, s.2);

• “the creation of political structures that will enable effective, meaningful participation by our people in that life, and in view of the rich cultural and ethnic diversity of our people for those structures to provide for substantial decentralization of all forms of government activity” (ibid; s.2(2)).

• “for every citizen to have equal access to legal processes and all services, governmental and otherwise, that are required for the fulfilment of his or her real needs and aspirations” (ibid; s.2(4)).
Objectives of the Research Project

To facilitate an informed national conversation with dialogue and information sharing between academics, policy practitioners, political leaders and civil society on issues and challenges to autonomy and decentralised governance arrangements in PNG with a view to improving access to basic services for the whole community as envisioned in the National Constitution.
Objectives of the Research Project (cont)

Through this process, key policy decision makers will have increased knowledge on options for autonomy and decentralisation in PNG enabling them to consider specific legal and technical arrangements emanating from a National Forum for follow up actions through GoPNG departments and processes.
Two Areas of Planned Activities

1. Research and Analysis.

2. Communication of Information from Research and Analysis in order to start up, stimulate and inform the Conversations.
Areas of Research and Analysis

Analysis of Current PNG Situation – Short Papers and Discussions at NRI fortnightly Seminars.
  a. Historical Perspective
  b. Current Issues.

Analytical and Discussion Papers for presentation at National Conference Planned for end of September 2021.
  • Papers to cover four main areas of Autonomy Issues Framework.
  • Final Conference Report to Government.
The Framework

• Political Representation and Institutional Analysis.
  Representation and Institutions. The Institutional design of autonomy constitutes its Framework and includes the representation of the regional population at the national level as well as rules of political representation within the autonomous region(s).

• Legislative and Executive Powers.
  Division of Legislative and Executive Powers and Responsibilities. Division of powers and functions between the central state and the autonomous region(s).
The Framework (cont)

- **Entrenchment and Revision Procedure.**
  - Entrenchment and Inter-governmental Relations. Constitutional Laws and Institutions for managing relations between the central state and the autonomous region(s).

- **Financial Regulations and Regional Economic Reserves.**
  - Financial Regulations and Regional Economics. Financial Transfers from the Central Government, taxation and sharing of revenues, regional economic activities.
Communication of Research Information

• Communication Strategy to Guide Communication Activities.
  
  • Simplify complex concepts by research report formats and presentation styles.
  • Identify Different audiences and use variety of mediums.
  • Database for researchers and other interested persons.
Communication (cont.)

- Two events. Fortnightly Seminars and National Conference
  - Mainstream Media Support.
    - Engagement with all print, radio and television
    - NBC to broadcast nationwide through national and provincial services.
  - Zoom Audience
    - Youtube (audio and video) from NRI Website.

- National Conference – Facilitate robust discussion by all of PNG.
- Conference Report for Consideration by Government.
Outcome

Informed, robust discussions leading to adoption of appropriate legislative and administrative governance framework that allows for accountable government framework that is responsive to the needs of people and ensures effective delivery of essential basic services to the people of Papua New Guinea.
Thank you