Autonomy & Decentralization: A Historical Perspective
The Constitution and the Elusive Goal

- “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)).
Key Decentralised Government Reform Periods

• Prior to Independence: Centralised Colonial Administration


• 2014: District Development Authority

• 2021: 2015 Review and proposed changes
Meet our speakers

Stephen Pokawin
- Former Premier of the Manus Province from 1984 – 1985
- Senior Lecturer at the UPNG School of Law

Chris Banga
- Aspiring Public Policy Analyst and Researcher
- PNG NRI Economic Policy Analysis Post-Graduate.
- Australia-Papua New Guinea Emerging Leaders alumnus
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.
Autonomy Discussions - Framework

1. Political Representation and Institutional Arrangements.
2. Division of Powers and Responsibilities
3. Entrenchment and Inter-Governmental Relations.
4. Financial Regulations/Fiscal Regimes
5. Implementation of Autonomy Government
Selected Recommended Readings


Please go to NRI Project Website for Links to more readings from Database.