Autonomy & Decentralization;
A Framework for Analysis and Discussion
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 particulary the case in rural areas where most people live”

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.
Areas of Research and Analysis

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

• Literature Suggests Five Main Areas to Frame Discussions and Considerations for Decentralisation/Autonomy Issues. Call for Papers Contributing to Discussions at National Conference.
Historical and Current Issues

To be covered through fortnightly Seminar Series.

1. **11th August;** - Historical Perspective of Decentralisation of Government in PNG.

2. **25th August;** - Performance of the PNG National Parliament, Provincial Assemblies, LLG Assemblies (Legislative and Executive at Different Levels)

3. **8th September** – Institutional Arrangements for Basic Services – Health.

4. **22nd September** – Institutional Arrangements for Basic Services – Roads and Bridges.
Contribute to the Conversation; Share your Views and Experiences with Others

• Radio Talk Shows

• Letters to the newspapers

• Interact with us on our Facebook page; Autonomy and Decentralization Research Project
Autonomy Discussions - Framework

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

1. Representation of People to the National Level and to Local Levels – Provincial and Local Level Government Authority

2. Legislative, Executive, Judiciary

3. Electoral System – West Minister/Presidential or mixed. Also Direct or Electoral College
Division of Powers or Responsibilities

1. National Responsibilities/Functions.

2. Provincial (Local) Responsibilities Functions

3. Shared Responsibilities/Functions
Entrenchment and Inter-Governmental Relations

1. Established under Constitution or National Legislation

2. Inter-Governmental Relations. - (Institutions and Processes)
Financial Regulations or Regimes

1. Financing Arrangements (Transfers)
2. Taxation
3. Regional Economic Activities and Incomes
Implementation Issues

1. Critical Phase. Otherwise is just Constitutional Law indicating agreements.

2. Plan for Implementation. What challenges are expected and how can these be dealt with.

Importance of Framework

1. Focus Discussions on Important and Pertinent Areas

2. Areas for Structuring Discussion at National Conference

3. Also provides framework for Conference Report
Thank you
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