



MEDIA RELEASE

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Rule of law and political stability must be improved to boost PNG economy

The Government of Papua New Guinea (PNG) often reiterate its commitments to promote a broad-based sustainable development to boost the country's economy. However, PNG has continued to have weak performance in the rule of law and political stability. This restricts the country from achieving its full potential in development.

The National Research Institute (NRI) Spotlight Volume 15, Issue 12: **“Government must improve rule of law and political stability to boost investment, employment opportunities and revenue”** authored by PNG NRI Deputy Director for Research, Associate Professor Eugene Ezebilo provides a snapshot of how the rule of law and political stability can be improved in PNG.

Rule of law in PNG can be improved by the following:

- Improved effective mechanism for strengthening the independence of the judicial branch of government and law enforcement authorities should be provided so that they can conduct their duties without fear nor favour.
- Capacity of governance and political institutions should be improved by providing them with adequate funding for attracting high qualified personnel, training and purchase of modern facilities.
- Improve capacity of law and enforcement agencies such as the Royal PNG Constabulary by providing them adequate funding for attracting more high qualified personnel, training and purchase of modern equipment.

Put more effort to making customary land secure by developing proper titles to promote property rights to the asset.

Political stability in PNG can be improved by the following:

- Reducing the cost of doing business by addressing insecurity and providing infrastructure such as good road networks, water and electric power.
- Government to provide more opportunities for its citizens to access education at all levels, affordable healthcare and employment.
- Violence associated with elections should be addressed by developing a mechanism that discourages violence and by penalising any political party or candidate implicated in the violence.

Political office holders such as Ministers, Provincial Governors and Open Electorate members of the Parliament should consider implementing projects and policies they inherited from their predecessors. Some modifications can be done to the projects and policies but a total change should be avoided to discourage instability.

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