

## Ministry of Information & Communications Technology

### Office of the Minister

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#### Press Statement

29<sup>th</sup> November 2024

#### INTRODUCTION OF SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Today, I reaffirm the Government's commitment to addressing the challenges and risks posed by social media platforms in Papua New Guinea. Following my statement in Parliament on 28 November 2024, I wish to reaffirm the urgent need for policy intervention to create a safer, more accountable, and family-friendly digital environment that reflects our values as a Christian democratic nation.

Social media has transformed the way we communicate, connect, and do business. However, alongside its benefits, it has also become a place that has facilitated illegal and harmful activities such as human and drug trafficking, cyber harassment, and the proliferation of explicit and harmful content. Our vulnerable populations, especially children and young people, are increasingly at risk of exploitation and negative influence in unregulated online places.

To address these challenges, my Ministry is proposing a *Social Media Policy 2025*, which will amongst other interventions, propose the following measures:

##### Restricted Access for Children:

- Papua New Guineans aged 16 years and below will be restricted from accessing certain social media platforms deemed inappropriate.

##### Mandatory Digital ID Verification:

- Papua New Guineans aged 16 and above will require a verified SevisPass (Digital ID) to access social media platforms in the country.

##### Platform Accountability:

- Social media platforms operating in Papua New Guinea will be required to:
  - Legally register in-country, ensuring compliance with national laws.
  - Route their traffic through our Internet Exchange Point (IXP).

My Ministry recognizes and commends the recent efforts made by Australia in protecting its citizens on social media platforms. We will engage with the Australian Government to collaborate on best practices and harmonize efforts where feasible.

The draft *Social Media Policy 2025* will be released for public consultation in January 2025.




This consultation phase will involve additional baseline assessments to ensure the policy is evidence-based and aligned with Papua New Guinea's socio-economic priorities.

The policy will form the foundation for introducing new legislation or regulations as required to enforce these measures effectively.

As Papua New Guinea continues its journey toward digital transformation, my Ministry remains committed to balancing innovation with safety, inclusivity, and accountability.

Approved for Release



**HON. TIMOTHY MASIU, MP**  
Minister for Information and Communication Technology  
And Member for South Bougainville

