



Ministry of Information & Communications Technology

Office of the Minister

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21 December 2021

Kila Gulo-Vui

Chief Executive Officer
National Information and Communications Technology Authority
Office of the Chief Executive Officer
P O Box 8444
BOROKO 111
National Capital District

Dear Mr. Gulo-Vui,

RE: APPROVAL TO PROPOSED UNIVERSAL ACCESS AND SERVICE (UAS) PROJECTS FOR 2022

I confirm receipt of your letter dated 8 December, 2021 which accompanied a Report from the Universal Access & Service (UAS) Board in accordance with *subsection 108(3)* of the *National Information and Communications Technology Act 2009*, (Act) in which potential UAS Projects were identified, developed, indicatively costed and ranked in order of priority.

Subsection 108(5) of the Act requires me to mandatorily review the UAS Project Report and determine from the list which UAS Projects will be implemented within the proposed aggregate budget and notify this decision to the UAS Board and NICTA, within sixty (60) days of receipt of the UAS Project report.

I have used the liberty to calculate 60 days commencing 8 December 2021 (including weekends and public holidays) and confirm that I have until 6 February 2022 to fulfil the subsection 108(5) ministerial mandate.

Office Location: Level 2, Tisa Ruma, Lot 03, Section 427, Hohola (Islander Drive), Port Moresby, National Capital District, Papua New Guinea

Subsection 108(6) of the Act stipulates that if I fail to observe subsection 108(5) of the Act by 6 February 2022, then I am taken, at the end of 6 February 2022, to have rejected all UAS Projects identified in the UAS Project report.

Subsection 108(7) of the Act stipulates that it is mandatory that I provide to NICTA my reasons for the rejection of any UAS Project identified in the UAS Project Report.

Subsection 108(8) of the Act stipulates that NICTA shall publish my reasons on its public register.

Subsection 108(9) of the Act stipulates that a failure on my part to select a particular UAS Project for implementation does not preclude the UAS Board from re-evaluating and re-submitting the UAS Project at a later date to me in accordance with section 108(3) of the Act.

I have considered the proposed projects in the UAS Board's Report and I have stated my decision and the reason below, in accordance with the exercise of my mandate consistent with *subsection 108(5) of the Act*.

Project 1: Mobile broadband network expansion (indicative cost PGK 11 million)

Decision: Rejected

Reason: There seems to be more than one project from one province alone. Is this a discrepancy? Kindly explain the criteria used to arrive at this decision.

Project 2: Community and institutional broadband networks (indicative cost PGK 3.5 million)

Decision: Approved

Project 3: ICT platform for future growth project (indicative cost PGK 1.0 million)

Decision: Approved

Project 4: Extension of broadcasting network coverage (indicative cost PGK 1.0 million)

Decision: Approved

Other Projects: (indicative cost PGK 1.5 million)

Decision: Approved

Please proceed and implement all UAS Projects listed in the Report for 2022, except for Project 1.

Otherwise, I look forward to receiving either an explanation or reevaluation and resubmission of Project 1 forthwith.

Yours Sincerely,


Hon. Timothy Masiu, MP
Minister for Information and Communications Technology
& Member for South Bougainville

