

## COMMENTS TO THE NICTA REVIEW by Henry Konaka, a private citizen

### 1. DISCLAIMER

I, Henry Konaka provide this a personal feedback and comments to the NICTA Review and does NOT represent the views and position of my employer, Department of Information & Communications Technology

### STANDING TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK AND COMMENTS TO THE NICTA REVIEW.

I feel I have standing to provide views and comments to this review to help strengthen and enhance NICTA, the Act to better serve the ICT sector in Papua New Guinea (PNG) towards an efficient and effective Digital Economy. An economy where the use of ICT as a key enabler for improved service delivery, improved private sector participation and improved livelihoods of the people of PNG.

I have been in the ICT sector for more twelve (12) year and have worked in both the Policy and Regulatory function of the ICT sector in PNG.

My career in the ICT sector started in 2013, contracted as a Financial Management Consultant to the World Bank funded PNG Rural Communications Project, funded by a loan from the World Bank with counter-part funding from Government of PNG. A summary of which is provided below;

- 2013 – Financial Management Consultant, PNG Rural Communication Project under then Department of Communications & Information, the Policy arm of Govt
- 2014-2021 – Financial Management Consultant, PNG Rural Communications Project under the National Information & Communications Technology Authority (NICTA)
- 2023 – current – Manager Sector Funding, Department of Information & Communications Technology (DICT)

Based on the above, I feel I am good understanding and experience on the issues, gaps and opportunities within the sector to positively contribute to a well-coordinated, regulated and managed sector to support the government deliver improved services, support the private sector to participate more effectively and enable citizens to participate meaningfully.

While working in the sector in both Policy and Regulatory arms of Govt in ICT, I see a lot of issues, gaps and opportunities, however this are being hindered by policy, regulatory and implementation/ delivery challenges.

I should encourage the Review Team to consider the findings and recommendations of the ICT Sector Review of 2018 and subsequent National ICT Roadmap 2018. A similar National Review



needs to be done across national and sub-national levels of government, private sector and the citizenry.

The ICT Sector continues to be fragmented and uncoordinated, government cannot achieve full digital transformation, regulatory and wider digital interventions unless a well-coordinated approach is adopted, a high level Ministerial Committee on ICT is established to be supported by the now established Public Service ICT Steering Committee (PSICTSC)

A well- coordinated ICT Sectoral Planning, Budgeting, Resourcing, Implementation, M &E and reporting is required to ensure alignment and resource maximization.

In the above regard, I proposed the below approach as you undertake the review.

1. ICT Sector needs an overarching legal framework
  - a. The Review should now establish the National Information & Communications Technology (NICT) Act 2009 (Revised 2025) as the overarching legal framework
  - b.
2. All enabling legislation be aligned under the overarching legal framework, current legal frameworks like NBC Act, Telecommunications Act, Digital government and all other related act must under consequential amendments to give overarching credence to the revised NICTA
3. Sector needs a clearly demarcated functional areas for current and future agencies designated to each functional area.
  - a. Policy, Standards, Sector Coordination, Sectoral Planning, Sector Resourcing/ Financing, Sectoral Monitoring & Evaluation, Sectoral Auditing & Reporting
    - i. Designate DICT as the agency responsible
  - b. Regulatory Function – Rename the current NICTA, the authority as National Information & Communications Technology Regulatory Authority (NICTRA)
  - c. Implementation or Delivery Function – this is where all agencies responsible for implementation and delivery to be designated under and should include; National Broadcasting Corporation, Telikom PNG, Universal Access Scheme (UAS), proposed Data Management Authority, National Cybersecurity Centre, Managed Services Authority/ Kumul Telecommunications Development Corporation (KTDC) etc.

A key insertion to the Review could also be the inclusion of the six (6) pillars of the National ICT Roadmap 2018 as the pillars of the sector as we move towards a Digital Economy



<b>Digital infrastructure</b>	Telecoms networks, data centres, IXPs, payment platforms
<b>Digital government</b>	eGovernment to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of government services
<b>Digital services</b>	Availability and affordability of digital services, and local online content
<b>Digital skills</b>	ICT literacy to promote take-up of digital services, and support ICT employment
<b>Digital business environment</b>	Support for innovation and R&D, start-ups, and access to finance
<b>Digital safety</b>	Cybersecurity, fraud prevention, consumer rights and data protection

Although I would like to contribute to detailed sectional changes, I do not have time to propose that detailed, section and clause by clause changes.

But the high-level broader changes proposed above can be considered to enable a robust and responsive sector to propel government service delivery, private sector participation and citizens engagement more meaningful and beneficial towards a efficient digital economy.

I commit my above high level strategic input to the consultation process for the NICTA Review.

Thank you for your consideration and look forward to strategic alignment thru the NICTA Review

  
Henry Konaka

72163072/ 76103574

[Henrykonaka01@gmail.com](mailto:Henrykonaka01@gmail.com)

