



Government of Papua New Guinea

National Information & Communications
Technology Authority

MEDIA STATEMENT

NICTA MARKS CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS MONTH 2026

CYBER SECURITY MONTH 2026

THINK PROTECT REPORT

“Do not make it easy for them”



Tuesday, 13th October 2026, Port Moresby

The National Information and Communications Technology Authority (NICTA) joins the international community in observing Cyber Security Awareness Month this October under the theme **“Don’t Make It Easy for Them.”**

For Papua New Guinea, this message is timely: as we expand connectivity and embrace new technologies, we must also strengthen the knowledge and habits that keep our people safe online.

Through licensing and regulation, NICTA is enabling emerging technologies, including Low Earth Orbit satellite services and the introduction of 5G mobile services. These developments support the Government’s Digital Transformation Agenda and create opportunities for education, business, public services and economic participation.

Consumer protection must advance alongside connectivity. People need to understand both the opportunities technology offers and the risks they may encounter when using it.

For Papua New Guineans using Facebook, WhatsApp, online banking and mobile money, those risks can appear in familiar forms: a fake account claiming to be a relative, a message promising a cash prize, a “lucky win” link requesting banking details, or a payment demand to release supposed winnings. Fraudulent investment schemes and illegal online gambling offers can also expose users to financial loss and misuse of their personal information.

Artificial intelligence adds another challenge. A photograph, recording or video can be manipulated to impersonate someone, solicit money or damage a person’s reputation. AI-generated

intimate images and other abusive content can cause serious harm to individuals, families and communities. A familiar face or voice is therefore no longer enough to establish that a request is genuine.

This year’s theme calls on every individual, business and organisation to make these forms of abuse harder to carry out. NICTA urges everyone to practise four essential habits:

1. **Secure your accounts.** Use long, unique passwords, consider a password manager, and never share passwords, banking PINs or one-time verification codes.
2. **Turn on multi-factor authentication.** Enable an additional verification step wherever available, especially for email, social media and financial accounts.
3. **Pause and verify before clicking, paying or sharing.** Check unexpected requests through a trusted contact number or official service. Do not enter personal or financial details through unsolicited prize links or download unfamiliar attachments.
4. **Keep devices and applications updated.** Install security updates promptly to reduce exposure to malware and other attacks.

Responsible online behaviour also means respecting other people’s privacy, dignity and consent. Do not create or circulate malicious deepfakes, intimate images or content intended to threaten, humiliate or exploit another person. Seek consent before posting someone else’s personal images, and take particular care with children’s information and photographs.

Businesses and public institutions must also protect the people who use their services. Strong access controls, staff awareness, secure payment processes and clear incident-response



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procedures are essential. Consumer vigilance must be matched by responsible service providers and effective regulation.

If you suspect fraud, contact your bank or mobile money provider immediately. Secure affected accounts, preserve relevant messages and transaction details, and report suspected criminal conduct to Police. Report harmful accounts and content through the platform's reporting tools.

Our goal is a connected Papua New Guinea where people can use technology confidently, responsibly and safely.

NICTA is committed to service not only enabling connectivity but ensuring Papua New Guineans are safe through policy intervention.

NICTA has been working closely with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) and other stakeholders to strengthen PNG's legal and regulatory framework for the digital economy. As part of the Government's digital transformation agenda, three priority digital Bills are currently being progressed: the Data Governance and Data Protection Bill, the Cybersecurity Bill, and the Verifiable Credentials and Trust Services Bill.

These reforms will establish stronger protections for personal data, improve national cyber resilience and critical infrastructure security, and provide a trusted legal framework for digital identity, electronic credentials and secure online

transactions.

Together, these Bills will help create a safer, more secure and more trusted digital environment for all Papua New Guineans as the country embraces new technologies and digital services.

The proposed legislation will complement NICTA's ongoing consumer awareness and enforcement efforts by providing modern legal tools to address emerging online threats, including cybercrime, identity theft, misuse of personal information, and harms arising from artificial intelligence and digitally manipulated content. These measures are intended to support public confidence in Papua New Guinea's growing digital economy while ensuring innovation is matched by appropriate safeguards and accountability.

NICTA will continue to regulate ICT services, promote consumer protection and provide practical online-safety information.

Protect your accounts. Verify before you trust. Respect others online. Don't make it easy for them.

Approved for Release



Polum Lume
Chief Executive Officer, NICTA

