



## MINISTRY FOR HIGHER EDUCATION, RESEARCH, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### MEDIA STATEMENT

# Endorsement of the Revised Papua New Guinea National Qualifications Framework

I am delighted to inform ALL institutions offering post-secondary qualifications, relevant Government agencies, industries, stakeholders and the general public that the Government of Papua New Guinea through the National Higher and Technical Education Board (NHTEB) of the Department of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology (DHERST) has in its meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> August 2017 endorsed as mandated under Section 14 (1) (e) of the Higher Education (General Provisions) Act 2014, a revised and improved Papua New Guinea National Qualifications Framework (PNGNQF). This framework as agreed by the NHTEB has come into effect as at the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2017.

The PNGNQF now provides for a coherent, simple to understand, and well-structured system of formal qualifications for post-secondary education in Papua New Guinea. Post-secondary education, also referred to as third stage, tertiary, and third level education, is defined as education that is undertaken after the completion of secondary school education thus institutions offering post-secondary education includes universities, colleges, technical training institutes, community colleges, nursing schools, research institutions, centres of excellence, companies, and distance learning centres.

The revised PNGNQF is now benchmarked against some of the well-developed frameworks in the region and internationally. As a result, qualifications awarded in compliance under the PNGNQF will be recognized internationally and thereby providing greater opportunity for Papua New Guineans in regards to student and employment mobility both regionally and internationally.

One of the most important features of the PNGNQF is the introduction of new concepts to unite and harmonise the programme offerings within post-secondary institutions. This Framework provides an avenue for credit transfer for students from one institution to another thus creating more pathways to reaching various levels of qualifications.

The Ministry through DHERST will work with all post-secondary institutions to implement this unifying policy. I am aware that this may take time thus I encourage all institutions to take ownership of the PNGNQF and work together with the DHERST to implement it for the benefit of our current and future generation and for the social and economic development of this nation.

The PNGNQF can be found on the DHERST website ([www.dherst.gov.pg](http://www.dherst.gov.pg)).

Press Release authorised by Hon. Pila Niningi, LLB, MP  
Minister for Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology