



Australian  
National  
University

## Promoting Effective Public Expenditure in PNG

### 2013 NATIONAL BUDGET FORUM

7 February 2013 | NRI Conference Centre | 9.00am-2.00pm

The NRI and ANU's Development Policy Centre are jointly undertaking a three year project on how PNG allocates its public money and an analysis of the effectiveness of its public expenditure in key service delivery sectors. The objective of the Promoting Effective Public Expenditure in PNG (PEPE) project is to inform PNG's political and bureaucratic leadership, civil society and general public of current levels of service delivery performance, and to influence allocations and expenditure rules to promote better allocations and more effective and transparent expenditure. The PEPE project consists of two inter-related research components.

The first component – **budget analysis** – focuses on understanding how PNG allocates its public resources at a macro level. The approach is to facilitate systematic and ongoing analysis of key aspects of the PNG budget, including the allocation of funding between development and recurrent, between and within sectors, and between levels of governments. The second component – **understanding local expenditure dynamics** – focuses on how a number of key expenditure reforms perform in terms of getting funds / resources to the local level, and the factors that explain the observed performance at this level. The expenditure reform areas proposed for analysis are facility grants to schools, textbook distribution and outsourced drug provision to health facilities. The findings of the PEPE project will be presented at twice-yearly budget forums.

The focus of the **Budget Forum on 7 February** is to support the implementation of the 2013 National Budget so that better outcomes are achieved for the people of PNG. In the 2013 National Budget, expenditure is set to grow to over K13 billion – an overall increase of 23 per cent – with the aim of substantially improving service delivery in the priority sectors of health, education, transport infrastructure, and law and order. However, there is a view held by many people in PNG that large budgets over the last ten years have seen limited impact on the ground with worsening infrastructure and socio economic indicators. At the February Forum, key speakers will explore why previous efforts to improve service delivery in the past were not effective, and identify corrective measures for Government to adopt in order to ensure that the 2013 and future budgets are more effectively managed to realise desired outcomes. The Forum will also include a session on a recently completed PEPE survey of education and health facilities across 8 provinces in PNG. Members of the PEPE survey team will discuss their experiences in the field in relation to the opportunities and challenges faced in frontline service delivery in PNG.

**All welcome to attend, but by prior reservation: Contact Andrew Mako on Email: [amako@nri.org.pg](mailto:amako@nri.org.pg) or Phone: 326 0300 Ext.331**



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