Ladies and Gentlemen

Today's is a very significant day for Papua New Guinea public sector as we look to a better way to deliver services to our citizens more effectively and efficiently in line with the goals of vision 2050.

I 'am pleased to mention that the Intergraded Government Information System (IGIS) network, which our Prime Minister is about to launch this morning is single biggest ICT platform for the PNG public service.

It will fundamentally change the way we provide services and interact with our colleagues across government departments and agencies and also with our citizens.

Intergraded Government Information System (IGIS) is an impact government project that is being implemented in phases.

Today we are witnessing the launching of IGIS *Net (Phase 1) that has been delivered to us by Huawei Technology Company of China.

The Project cost a total of USD 53 million, funded through a concessional loan from loan the EXIM Bank of China.

Following these funding arrangement, the State then signed a Contract with Huawei Technologies Ltd on the 7th of September 2010 to deliver the project.

This funding was expended in delivering the following components of Phase 1, which also sets the foundation of Phase 2 and the National Citizen Identification System.

- ➢ Government Data Centre
- ➢ National ICT Training Centre
- ➢ IP Network Infrastructure
- ➢ Transport Network
- ➢ Office Communication
- ➢ National Civil Registry System
- ➢ Executive Reporting System
- ➢ Managed Services
- ➢ IGIS Project Management Office
- ➢ Government Call Centre

The connectivity and services to forty- seven (47) office sites in the National Capital District and six (6) Pilot Provincial headquarters of Kimbe, Kokopo, Wewak, Vanimo, Goroka and Konedobu are completed.

As we launched today, some of these provincial headquarters are watching us live on the tele-presence facilities which is one of the value added services under IGIS.

The use of video conferencing and VOIP will save Department's time and money and significantly enhance the opportunities to train and support Provincial and District public servants.

Equally important, the Government Data Centre is the key infrastructure, which has the capability to host all other government applications.

Again, I am pleased to say that e-ID is one of these applications that will utilize the Government Data Centre.

At this juncture, I appeal to government departments and agencies to look at the bigger picture of standardizing the provision of e-Government services across the public service on a unified national database, where information can be shared more easily.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Overall, the project is now at 98% complete except for Wewak and Vanimo where optical fibre has to be connected from Telikom office to the provincial administration sites and a number of agencies moving locations.

National Data Centre is operational and implementation of network transport backbone is complete and connectivity is available to all sites.

IGIS is a huge and complex project that government has undertaken.

Whilst we are fascinated by the benefits that the project can offer, there are medium to long term challenges that we must also prepare to face.

Among these are:

> ➢ Sufficient funding to maintain and operate the IGIS system
>
> ➢ Skilled human resources in the public service to <u>mann</u> the network.
>
> ➢ Public servants attitude and acceptance of change driven by this large scale technology project

The need to support the new infrastructure and services for these departments through the Managed services operations is an immediate challenge facing us.

It requires local and global technical experts to maintain the day to day operation of ICT infrastructure and services.

We will need to continue to run extensive level two and three training for Papua New Guinea engineers to enhance build technical skills to present group of engineers.

Finally, Ladies and Gentlemen,

What is IGIS Network Delivering?

- 🕐 High Speed Internet Service through Fibre
- 🕐 Storage of High volumes of data
- 🕐 Free VoIP services between departments and agency
- 🕐 Email services between departments and agency
- 🕐 Email service using Government domain name ***gopng.gov.pg***

Cost

Our recent survey of fifty-two (52) agencies shows that it is costing Government on average of K160 million each year in ICT cost.

Under IGIS, it will be drastically reduced to K40 million, a saving of K120 million Kina annually.

Case in point is that Internet cost for large agencies is around K250,000 per month but under IGIS it will be K36,000 per month.

Migration

- It will be cost effective for all government agencies to ride on this network

- As many agencies are using private ISPs, where National Security and economic affairs of our nation can easily be compromised.

- This network is well secured and protected by firewalls.

Way forward

For National Security reasons, Papua New Guineans must take the lead in operating the network and the National Data Centre.

Sustaining this system is critical and a Submission is now before the cabinet for consideration.

Scoping for Phrase 2, which is connecting the rest of the provinces and the remaining government agencies is in progress as directed by Cabinet.

IGIS the platform to deliver e-Government services, therefore we must take the whole-of-Government approach to address challenges collectively and look at sustainable way of maintaining the operations of the network in the medium to long term.

Ladies and Gentlemen

To conclude, I would like to thank the Government of the People's Republic of China for the Concessional Loan arrangement to complete this Project, the contractor, Huawei Technology Company for completing this project.

I also thank my project Management Team for providing the technical support to my department.

Most importantly, I commend my minister for Communication and Information Technology Hon. Jimmy Miringtoro for his oversight in the implementation of this important project.

At this juncture, I have the pleasure in inviting the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, Hon. Peter O'Neill to launch the network. His address will be carried live by all the sites on the network and the guests at the Data Centre where Minister Miringtoro will unveil the plague on behalf of the Prime Minister.

Thank you.