



NATIONAL ENERGY AUTHORITY

## MEDIA STATEMENT

### FROM VISION TO POWER: PNG EMBRACES SOLAR WITH STAR-C CENTER MOU SIGNING AND LAUNCHING

Papua New Guinea, through the National Energy Authority as the focal point for the International Solar Alliance, is poised to revolutionize PNG's energy sector with the signing of a Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between NEA, Don Bosco Technological Institute and the International Solar Alliance (ISA) on Wednesday the 24<sup>th</sup> of September 2025, at the Hilton Hotel, Port Moresby.

This significant partnership aims to establish a "Solar Technology Application Resource Centre" (STAR-C) at Don Bosco Technological Institute, which will build local capacity and skills in solar energy development, improve product and service quality/standardization, support policy and regulatory framework, stimulate innovation and enterprise and enhance climate change resilience and energy independence.

The STAR-C programme is a multi-country initiative of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), an intergovernmental organisation established by India and France to address energy needs in solar-rich countries, especially those located in tropical areas. Papua New Guinea is a member of the ISA and joined as a founding member in 2018. The ISA's STAR-C programme aims at enhancing capacity for deployment of solar energy applications and research, development, innovation, standardization and testing in solar energy to contribute to the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions through increased access to modern, reliable and affordable energy.

In PNG, the STAR-C Centre will play a crucial role in promoting solar energy adoption, supporting remote/rural electrification, and contributing to Papua New Guinea's sustainable development goals as well as Papua New Guinea's energy targets of 70% electrification by 2030 and 100% by 2050 through renewable energy sources.

The Energy Minister, Hon. Peter Isoaimo in his opening address, expressed his deep appreciation for the collaboration and how this was important for the energy sector. He lamented the challenges we face as a country, rural electrification access. Solar energy is transformational, and it is what the country needs at this juncture." Speaking at the ceremony, Hon. Peter Isoaimo, MP, Minister for Energy, emphasized the importance of localized capacity building: "The STAR-C in Papua New Guinea will empower local technicians, entrepreneurs, and policymakers with the skills and knowledge needed to drive solar adoption and energy resilience."

DBTI Rector President Fr. Ariel Macatangay, expressed enthusiasm for the institute's role in hosting the STAR-C: "We are proud to be part of this transformative initiative. DBTI will ensure that the centre becomes a beacon of solar innovation and technical excellence for PNG and the Pacific region."

National Coordinator of the STAR C, Mr Raymond Unasi, also expressed enthusiasm for the Centre and how timely this is for PNG and the region as well considering the opportunities and educational values it will provide to everyone.

In his closing remarks, the Managing Director of the National Energy Authority, Mr Ronald Meketa amplified the same message "I would like to express my deepest gratitude to our esteemed partners for their unwavering support and collaboration, in particular the Governments of India and France that established the International Solar Alliance of which PNG is a founding member. The establishment of this Solar Technology Application Resource Centre or STAR-C in PNG is an important milestone for our country. It also marks a pivotal moment in PNG's educational progress, where we progress beyond fifty years towards raising the standard and quality in educational opportunities, aligned with transformative technologies,".

Mr. Meketa also highlighted the strategic alignment with PNG's national energy goals and how it will assist the country towards accelerating its renewable energy targets under the country's NDCs under the Paris Agreement. He further thanked Expertise France which supported the MOU signing event through the European Union-funded Forestry-Climate Change-Biodiversity (EU-FCCB) Programme.

This historical achievement reflects Papua New Guinea's commitment to harnessing solar power as a driver for inclusive growth, climate resilience, and energy access and security. It is also a reflection of our commitment to give back to the country and communities across PNG. These tradesmen and tradeswomen who will be graduating from DBTI in the coming years will be working across rural PNG connecting electricity and accessing people to renewable energy sources; an impact which we envisaged to be transformative.

Where health workers helping mothers giving birth do not have to rely on torch lights; where a child has lights where they can study and do their homework under, where critical services do not need to be shut down because of fuel shortages.

It is all about leaving no one beyond, but more so leaving no child behind because the next fifty years will be theirs.

  
Ronald Meketa  
Managing Director  
National Energy Authority



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