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PNG Confirms first Case of Coronavirus-COVID -19

PNG Today : Nius Ripota

2 minutes

Papua New Guinea Prime Minister James Marape has confirmed first case of Coronavirus in the country.

This is an imported case, a foreigner of Italian origin who was put on quarantine ealier on in Lae has tested positive after couple of tests. This now puts to rest the long awaited expectation of when PNG would have its first case of COVID-19 on PNG shores.

Prime Minister Marape says, two tests were conducted on a foreigner who had symptoms of the virus. The first test returned negative but the second test on the patient returned positive of coronavirus.

The case is a imported case and the person is a 45 years old Caucasian man who initially travelled from Spain.

He is currently being isolated in Lae while a 3rd test will be done in Melbourne Australia.

Ten other people who came into contact with the man are being monitored and further tests have been carried out.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister discouraged public gatherings which includes schools and churches. It will be made known on Monday if schools will be closed.

.....more updates to come.

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