



**PRESS RELEASE:**

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## **Final Trade Policy Validation Workshop Takes Place**

Honourable Minister Mr Richard Maru, Department of Trade, Commerce and Industry (DTCI), will today open a national workshop in Port Moresby, which will see the final validation of PNG's National Trade Policy before it is presented for consideration to the National Executive Council at the beginning of August. The EU funded Trade Related Assistance Programme - Phase 2 (EU-TRA 2) has been providing intensive Technical Assistance to the DTCI over recent months, working very closely with the officers of the programme implementing agency, Trade Division, to finalise the document.

Until now, PNG has not had a policy to guide the country in its trade negotiations and agreements, and as the trade landscape has become more complex, it needs clearer and more objective criteria to decide which countries to engage, what to engage them about, how to engage them and to assess the value that these trade agreements will bring to ordinary Papua New Guineans. The Policy sets out very clearly the rationale for having a National Trade Policy, setting a clear vision and mission. It also discusses in detail the policies that the Government needs to introduce to diversify the economy and create the internal environment for sustainable growth of PNG's production of goods and services and addresses specific policy measures that the government will implement to support SMEs. The policy will increase employment and opportunities especially through services trade, which is a growing area.

The workshop is taking place at the Holiday Inn, Port Moresby, and will be attended by around one hundred participants from around the country, representing public and private sector, civil society and academia.

The EU-TRA 2 programme, which has components relating to Trade Institutional Reform, Trade Policy and Trade Facilitation, is a four-year programme that runs until 2018 providing Technical Assistance and quality infrastructure and equipment to PNG.

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*The European Union (EU) is represented by the Delegation of the EU to Papua New Guinea. HE Ioannis Giogkarakis-Argyropoulos is the Ambassador of the EU Delegation in Port Moresby. The European Union has 28 Member States including France and the UK, both also represented in PNG.*

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