



**PRESS STATEMENT BY THE HON. DON POMB POLYE, CMG, BE(Civil) MBA,  
MIEPNG, MP**

MINISTER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION, RESEARCH, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND SPORT

**Dear Members of the Academic Community, welcome to the  
academic year 2024.**



It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I extend a warm welcome as we embark on the commencement of the academic year 2024. As the Minister overseeing the Universities and Higher Education Institutions of Papua New Guinea, I am honored to address you on this momentous occasion. A special welcome is extended to the Governing Councils, Vice Chancellors, Presidents, Principals, the Department for Higher Education, Research, Science, and Technology, along with all faculty members, staff, students, and our partners

who have joined us in this academic journey for the year 2024.

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Reflecting upon the challenges and triumphs of the previous year, we acknowledge a period marked by adversity for all stakeholders. However, through our collective efforts and remarkable resilience, we successfully navigated numerous hurdles and achieved our predetermined objectives. Amidst uncertainties and disruptions, our unwavering commitment to

advancing higher education, research, science, and technology remained steadfast.

This juncture symbolizes the commencement of a new academic year, bringing forth a fresh array of challenges and opportunities. As we embark on this journey, challenges will inevitably arise, but I hold steadfast in my belief that through unity and collaboration, we possess the capability to overcome any obstacle that may ensue.

Collaboration, cooperation, and unity will serve as the foundation upon which we build our accomplishments during this academic year. By harnessing the immense talents and expertise within our academic community, we shall foster an environment conducive to the pursuit of knowledge, innovation, and academic excellence. Let us remain resolute in our mission to empower our students, enabling them to evolve into the future leaders, thinkers, and inventors of our great nation.

Moving forward, it is incumbent upon us to cultivate an atmosphere that nurtures intellectual curiosity, fosters critical thinking, and stimulates research endeavors. Our Universities and Higher Education Institutions shall serve as epicenters for academic and scientific exploration, where students and faculty actively engage in meaningful research endeavors aimed at addressing the multifaceted challenges confronting our nation and the world.

The transformative power of digitalization in higher education cannot be overstated. It has revolutionized the way we learn, teach, research, collaborate, and access information. Universities and Higher Education Institutions must seize the opportunities presented by digitalization to enhance the quality of education and research. By embracing digital technologies, institutions can create engaging and interactive learning environments, improve access to educational resources, facilitate remote learning, and foster lifelong learning.

Digitalization also enables personalized learning experiences tailored to students' specific needs, promoting innovation and preparing learners for the dynamic, technology-driven world ahead. It is imperative for Universities and Higher Education Institutions to fully harness the power of digitalization and incorporate it into their educational strategies to equip students with the skills and competencies required to thrive in the digital age, thereby becoming digitized citizens of the 21st century.

In the upcoming fiscal year, the Ministry under my purview, along with the Department of Higher Education, Research, Science, and Technology, is poised to allocate increased resources toward the digitalization initiatives within the Higher Education and Research Sector of our nation. Consequently, I extend an invitation to all stakeholders to embrace this transformative opportunity and collaboratively engage in the pursuit of our

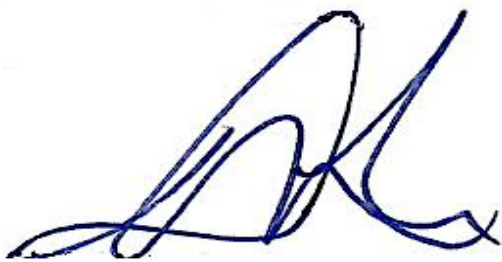
shared objectives. By fostering a collective commitment to digitalize our Universities and Higher Education Institutions, we stand to augment the quality of learning, teaching, and research, while concurrently addressing the imperative of reducing the financial burdens associated with higher education.

Furthermore, let us remain acutely cognizant of the transformative nature of education. By cultivating an educational landscape that is accessible and inclusive, we bridge societal gaps, promote social mobility, and engender an equitable society. To that end, let us strive towards establishing an educational ecosystem that ensures equal opportunities for individuals, irrespective of gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic background, or geographical location.

I extend my sincerest gratitude to each and every one of you for your invaluable contributions throughout the preceding academic year. Together, we exhibited extraordinary resilience, transcended adversities, and achieved greatness. As we embark upon this new academic year, let our commitment to collaboration, innovation, and excellence remain unwavering. Through our collective efforts, we shall undoubtedly fulfill our mission of shaping minds and transforming the future of Papua New Guinea.

Thank you, and once again, I extend a warm welcome to the academic year 2024.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be the initials 'DP' or 'DK' with a stylized flourish.

Hon. Don Poma Polye, MP, CMG, BE, MBA, MIEPNG  
Minister of Higher Education, Research, Science, Technology and Sport