



PRESS STATEMENT

by the

Hon. KINOKA FEO, MP

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

STATEMENT ON THE RECENT INCIDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GOROKA

As the Minister responsible for Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology, I wish to address deep concerns regarding the recent incident at the University of Goroka (UoG) which occurred on Saturday, November 8, 2025. The initial confrontation occurred between students and local youths. Police regained control of the situation however there were many casualties.

As the Minister responsible, I went to the UoG main campus on Sunday, November 9, 2025, together with the Hon. Robert Atiyafa, MP, Member for Henganofi. We met with students, staff, local leaders, law enforcement personnel, and appealed for peaceful resolution. I immediately instructed my Department to closely work with the UoG management, ensuring all arrangements for end-of-year student travels are prioritized. I would like to acknowledge the collective efforts by Provincial Governors, local MPs, Australian Defense Force (ADF) and all stakeholders rendered to assure students' welfare and travels were coordinated.

I want to assure the general public that my Office, the Department of Higher Education Research Science and Technology (DHERST), and the UoG management remain committed to ensuring the academic year 2025 is successfully completed. Key actions were taken by the University in the best interest of academic continuity and student well-being. These decisions reflect the UoG Council's balanced approach, prioritizing both safety and academic integrity.

The incident at the University of Goroka unfortunately is not the only incident involving local communities and students of higher education institutions. While temporary decisions have been made in the past to contain tensions, it is evident that these measures alone are insufficient to address long-standing underlying issues.

Pursuant to Section 152 of the Higher Education (General Provisions) Act 2014, as amended in 2020, an Independent Review Committee has been appointed and will commence on the 28th of November 2025. Based on the Independent Review Committee report, necessary actions will be taken. The Independent Review Committee shall take a deeper and more deliberate approach, garnishing evidence, listening to all voices, and designing a lasting resolution that heals relationships for collective nation-building.

I am aware of the various narratives circulating on social media. While some may be well-intentioned, many are driven by perception, emotion, or misinformation. I urge the public to allow due process to run its course. Truth must be established by facts, not opinion.

I appeal to students, staff, families, and the wider community, to support the Ministry and UoG in concluding this important course responsibly and respectfully.

Challenging situations like this, though painful, present us with critical opportunities for institutional growth and societal reflection. We must work together, Government, Universities, students, and communities, to develop long-term strategies that ensure such incidents are not chronic.

In the year of National Jubilee, let us be reminded that we are One People, One Nation, One Country. Let us build together our Future through higher education.

God bless Papua New Guinea.

Approved for release by

Hon. Kinoka Feo, MP
Minister for Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology, and Sport.