

# Papua New Guinea National Day Special

## A call to ‘reset’ is sent out as nation looks to bright future

**SAMUEL ABAL**  
AMBASSADOR OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA



Following our Golden Jubilee celebrations last year, Papua New Guinea is now placing emphasis on resetting and building its future as it celebrates its 51st independence anniversary on Sept. 16.

In 2025, Papua New Guinea focused on celebrating its history by reflecting on its progress and how that progress provides inspiration for the next chapter of its journey as a nation

As Papua New Guinea celebrates 51 years of independence, a call sending a message to “reset” is being echoed from the seat of government in the nation’s capital of Port Moresby to every citizen in the country and across international boundaries to its 22 representational offices in 16 countries around the world.

In a country so diverse — with 1,000 tribes united under the national motto of “One People, One Nation, One Country, Papua New Guinea” — the reset call is a huge and challenging one. However, PNG already has in place a clear vision of where it aspires to be in the long term through its Vision 2050 strategy and Medium-Term Development Plan IV. These two policy documents map out the future direction for PNG and reflect the aspirations of the people of PNG to be a smart, wise, fair, healthy and happy society through the identification of the seven strategic focus areas outlined in the MTDPIV.

Achieving the listed aspirations can be challenging without the support, assistance and cooperation of our development and bilateral partners and of international organizations. Japan is one such partner that has been a steadfast friend and a consistent partner.

The government of Japan has contributed to the overall development of PNG across various sectors since its first development assistance in 1974, totaling to more than ¥210 billion (\$1.4 billion).

As PNG drives the reset agenda, our message and appeal to Japan can be found in the words of Prime Minister James Marape during his visit to Japan in 2025. He said, “Come with your skills, knowledge and technology and help us develop our abundant natural resources for a win-win outcome.”



Raggiana bird-of-paradise appears on the flag of Papua New Guinea. GETTY IMAGES

Apart from our abundant resources, PNG’s rich cultural diversity, pristine waters, historical war relics and bright smiles welcome international visitors to Papua New Guinea. Travelers can enjoy a million magical experiences from the highlands to the coast and the islands, departing PNG’s shores with the many unforgettable memories PNG has to offer.

In celebrating more than 50 years of diplomatic relations, PNG has commenced twice weekly direct flights, reducing the flight time to just slightly over six hours from Narita to Port Moresby for businesspeople and tourists alike. The flights also allow travelers to connect to other international destinations, including three in Australia, four in Pacific island countries and another four in Asia.

As we celebrate our independence anniversary, we remain grateful and thank the government and people of Japan for

their generosity, partnership and support in many projects and programs that have contributed to achieving our development priorities over more than 50 years.

The Embassy of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, as the representative office in Tokyo, looks forward to further enhancing, strengthening and deepening the steadfast relationship. We also aim for further collaboration in all areas of cooperation through bilateral mechanisms as we dedicate our combined efforts toward achieving PNG’s development priorities.

God bless PNG-Japan relations and we are happy to celebrate 51 years of diplomatic ties.

*This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.*



The capital of Port Moresby faces the blue waters of the Coral Sea. GETTY IMAGES



Papua New Guinea is home to 39 volcanoes, 14 of which are active. GETTY IMAGES



The seas around Papua New Guinea are home to many coral reefs. GETTY IMAGES



People in Kimbe fish at sunset. GETTY IMAGES

**Congratulations**  
to the People of Papua New Guinea  
on the Occasion of the Anniversary of Their Independence

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**Agon Shu**  
Buddhist association

<https://www.agon.org/>

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Narita-Port Moresby flights on Wednesdays and Saturdays

**Air Niugini**  
Kenzo SHIMADA  
Regional Manager, Japan  
[info@air-niugini.co.jp](mailto:info@air-niugini.co.jp)  
<https://www.air-niugini.co.jp/>

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**ENEOS Xplora**  
<https://www.eneos-xplora.com/english/>

Since 1990, our company has grown and developed alongside Papua New Guinea. We have always been, and will continue to be, committed to contributing to the long-term development of the nation.

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**Marubeni**  
Port Moresby Branch

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Happiness Grows from Trees

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