

## **Required Basic Government Services in Papua New Guinea**

Have you ever wondered what would happen if there were no services at all in Papua New Guinea? Can you imagine people going back to surviving on their own, when most, if not all of our natural resources have been either destroyed or used by modern development? The Government is required to provide services to its people to ease the people's standard of living. This essay will explain how money should be spent on three essential basic services in Papua New Guinea. These services are Education, Electricity, and access to clean and hygienic water supply which, I believe, will benefit the people in the rural area and the community.

Firstly, the Government should spend more on Education in Papua New Guinea because the children of today are our future leaders. Education is up against a lot of problems that affects proper learning for today's children. Firstly, the geographical location of especially local and remote schools, where walking to school is the only option. Sometimes children will have to wake up as early as 3 am to make that long walk to school just to be there on time. The question is will they be fully focused on learning if they have not had enough rest? Even in cities or towns, students still have a distance to go to school. Some must rush to catch a seat on the PMV as there are other commuters that travel on the public transport. Then there are so called 'sugar daddies' that put a lookout on young girls and on the pretext of assisting the female student, they kidnap them and sexually assault them. To prevent such things from happening, more boarding facilities should be built, and all schools should have a school vehicle, whether a 25-seater bus or a big truck. Other factors that contribute to problems affecting Education growth in the country are lack of well-equipped specialist buildings like the Science lab, Library, and Computer technology, insufficient teaching materials and resources, drug trafficking and bullying in school and lack of care in teachers' welfare. This indicates that the government must investigate this service.

Secondly, the Government should spend more in ensuring that there is proper access of electricity in Papua New Guinea. Today, in almost all towns and cities, there is always a period of power outage that sometimes lasts for an hour or as long as two days. People must walk a mile just to charge their torch to use at night in case the outage continues or to charge their phones to enable communication. Power outages are a hindrance as it can invite criminal activities, electrical faults that lead to burning buildings, and where houses have deep freezers that stores food, the outage would cause the food to go bad. We are a developing nation, and electricity is part of that development, therefore the Government must seriously look into this issue. In many provinces, only about 80% of the people have access to electricity and about 20% of the people do not.

Lastly, the Government should spend more money on clean and proper water supply services throughout Papua New Guinea and not only in big cities like Port Moresby. Today, not everybody in the communities in Papua New Guinea have proper access to water supply. Sadly, this is also a case in the city. Lack of proper and clean water supply can lead to all kinds of water-borne diseases, and when health facilities and lack of medicines is an issue it just makes the problem worse. About 60% of the people in rural area lack proper access to clean water while only about 40% of the residents have access to clean water. This is a serious issue that should be addressed by the government of the day as it is an indication of their lack of service.

In conclusion, the Government should take the risk to spend more money on these three basic services in Papua New Guinea. In doing so it would benefit the country and its citizens. Also these developments and provision of basic government services will change the mindset of today's youth, the country's future leaders. Therefore, in my opinion we should start thinking outside the box and improve the basic services in Papua New Guinea. By doing so we would truly develop the country. So, to the government of the day, you do not need to be a university graduate to know the needs of your people, the basic needs like Education, Health, electricity and water. Think and act today for a better tomorrow.

#### NEW IRELAND DAY GOVERNOR'S ESSAY

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