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## MEDIA RELEASE

# Safer Internet Day 2025



**T**UESDAY 11th February 2025, on the occasion of Safer Internet Day, the Government of PNG under the leadership of my Ministry for Information and Communications Technology together with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) and the National Information and Communications Technology Authority (NICTA) acknowledge and highlight the importance of Safer Internet Day (SID). Safer Internet Day aims to create both a safer and positive use of the internet, where everyone is empowered to use technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively. This campaign marks a significant milestone in our nation's commitment to ensuring online safety for our people.

The internet is full of positive opportunities, learning and creativity when used wisely. It can also be an overwhelming and unpredictable place for everyone. The campaign aims to reach out to children and young people, parents and carers, teachers, educators and social workers, as well as industry, decision makers and politicians, to encourage everyone to play their part in creating a better internet. This year's theme for Safer Internet Day is "Together for a better internet" and is a reminder to everyone that creating a better internet is a shared responsibility.

With a global, community-led approach, Safer Internet Day encourages everyone to come together and play their part. There are many ways to do this:

- Children and young people can help to create a better internet by being kind and respectful to others online, by protecting their online reputations (and those of others), and by seeking out positive opportunities to create, engage and share online.
- Parents and carers play a crucial role in protecting children from online predators, cyberbullying and exposure to inappropriate content by taking an active role in their online lives to be more involved, aware and proactive.



- Teachers, educators and social workers can help to create a better internet by equipping their pupils and students with digital literacy skills and by developing their critical thinking skills, which will allow them to better navigate the online world. Promoting open communication, setting clear boundaries and practicing empathy can also make a positive difference and contribute to their resilience online.
- Industry can help to create a better internet by creating and promoting positive content and safe services online, and by empowering users to respond to any issues by providing clear safety advice, a range of easy-to-use safety tools, and quick access to support if things do go wrong.
- Decision makers and politicians need to provide a culture in which all of the above can function and thrive - for example, by ensuring that there are opportunities in the curriculum for children and young people to learn about online safety, ensuring that parents and carers have access to appropriate information and sources of support, and that industry

is encouraged to self-regulate its content and services. They must also take the lead in governance and legislation, and ultimately ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people through effective child protection strategies for the digital world.

- This Safer Internet Day, let us all commit to making the internet a better place for everyone. We can all promote the positive by being kind and respectful to others and by seeking out constructive opportunities to create and connect. We can all respond to the negative by reporting inappropriate or illegal content and behavior online.

In commemoration of Safer Internet Day 2025 today, it also gives me great pleasure to also announce on behalf of the PNG Safer Internet Committee (PNGSIC), the release of the Parents Guide 'Help Children to be Safe Online'.

The said Guide is intended to provide advice to parents of children of all ages as part of engaging families on the importance of online safety. Download your copy from the PNG Safer Internet Committee Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pngsaferinternetcommittee>

Further, I commend and encourage the collaborative efforts of both local and international key stakeholders, facilitated by NICTA through the PNG Safer Internet Committee (PNGSIC), in localizing and carrying on the all too important work of promoting a more responsible use of and safer internet for the benefit of our communities.

Happy Safer Internet Day and God bless Papua New Guinea!

**Honourable Timothy Masiu, MP**  
Minister for Information and Communications Technology and Member for South Bougainville