



## THE UNIVERSITY OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

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### Office of the Vice Chancellor

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**TO: Staff**

**Covid-19 – Thursday 2 April 2020**

#### ***National Developments...***

At the national level, the National Parliament will be meeting this afternoon to discuss the way forward on its measures in managing the Covid-19 virus. We will bring a summary of what the decision is going to be in tomorrow's message.

In the meantime, the Government continues to receive support from our Bilateral Partners, Aid Agencies and the Business Community in its fight to stop the spread of COVID-19 in the country. In the last two days, notable contributors have been received from Korean Association in Papua New Guinea (K71,000.00), the Government of the People's Republic of China (USD\$300,000) and the Kumul Petroleum Holdings Limited (K1,000,000). All these contributions will go to assisting the various operations in the management of the Covid-19.

#### ***Institutional Developments...***

At the institutional level, a contingency plan has been put in place to cater for the University's response to the Government's decision today. We have identified 4 different scenarios that we could find ourselves in and outlines what we would do to manage the affairs of the University, especially the tenability of the academic programs. It also outlines what the academic staff need to do in the event that the State of Emergency is extended. The plan will now be discussed with the University Council Covid-19 Oversight Committee and then make a decision on how we move forward. In all the scenarios discussed yesterday, it was highlighted that the safety of students and staff was regarded as paramount.

On the issues of environmental hygiene, the Cleaning Management Group in Student Services has procured all the necessary cleaning materials and distributed them to the students to use in cleaning the halls of residence on campus. Students have been encouraged to visit the Students' Services and request for these additional materials to keep the living area clean and hygienic. Could I also encourage all of us to clean our living areas to stop the spread of the virus here at the University?

We are still receiving reports that there is a small group of students who are going off campus, consuming alcohol, returning and causing disturbance through the playing of loud music and noise. If you do communicate with your students, please discourage them of this practice and remind them of the University's ZERO TOLERANCE policy and consequences that may have to deal with when caught.

Stay safe, stay home and save lives...stay blessed always!

*And the daily repeat of a very important message...Please make sure you...*

- ...activate your UPNG email account if you have not already done so – this is the means by which the University will stay in touch with you.
- ...practise social distancing by keeping at least 1.5 metres between you other people.
- ...wash your hands as often as possible and use hand sanitiser when it is available.
- ... cough or sneeze into your bent elbow – not into your hands
- ...avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- ...try to avoid social gatherings and crowded place

*The University is taking steps to make sure that Environmental Hygiene is practised to ensure the health and safety of those remaining on campus.*

With best wishes,



Professor Frank Griffin  
Vice Chancellor