



*"Advancing Good Governance, Social Justice, and Sustainable Development for Simbu"*

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## **PRESS STATEMENT**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **Launch of the Simbu Province Development Front (SPDF)**

**13 December 2025 – APEC House, Port Moresby**

The Simbu Province Development Front Inc. (SPDF) is proud to announce its official launch on 13 December 2025 at APEC House, Port Moresby — marking a bold new chapter for transformative, citizen-driven development in Simbu Province.

Established in October 2023 and headquartered in Kundiawa, SPDF is an independent think tank and development catalyst dedicated to breaking cycles of under-development, governance failures, and law-and-order challenges that have long held back one of Papua New Guinea's most populous and resilient provinces.

Registered as a non-partisan, non-profit NGO under the IPA Act, SPDF brings together local expertise, research capability, and community engagement under one mission: to empower Simbu communities with the tools, knowledge, and platforms they need to shape their own future.

#### **A Vision for a Better Simbu**

SPDF envisions a peaceful, united, and prosperous Simbu Province where communities thrive in harmony, uphold justice and equity, and build a sustainable future for generations to come.

#### **A Mission Rooted in Empowerment**

The organization is committed to strengthening local leadership, promoting law and order, advancing social equity, and driving sustainable development initiatives throughout the province.

## **Strategic Pillars Driving Change**

### **1. Policy Innovation Think Tank**

SPDF will operate an evidence-based research and policy unit producing alternative policy briefs, budget analyses, and innovative service-delivery models to support the Simbu Provincial Government.

### **2. Gap-Filling Project Implementation**

Where government systems have failed or stalled, SPDF will partner with reputable international and local organizations—including Oxfam, World Vision PNG, UNICEF, DFAT, MFAT, and PNGSDP—to deliver impactful, community-driven projects such as:

- Library and e-library support for schools
- Solar-powered WASH projects
- Sanitary pad distribution and training programs for women and girls
- Mental health, child protection, and counselling services
- GBV, SARV, alcohol, and drug abuse awareness
- Guidance programs for students
- Climate change and environmental advocacy
- Community-based law-and-order initiatives

### **3. Social Advocacy & Community Justice**

SPDF will spearhead province-wide campaigns against sorcery accusation-related violence (SARV), tribal fighting, and gender-based violence. It also plans to support legal-aid services and establish a 24-hour toll-free crisis hotline in partnership with existing safe house operators.

### **4. Transparency & Accountability Watchdog**

Through the Simbu Open Budget Initiative, SPDF will publish quarterly People's Scorecards assessing DSIP and PSIP fund usage across Simbu's six districts — promoting accountability, performance auditing, and responsible governance.

## **Governance and Funding**

SPDF is led by a seven-member board comprising respected Simbu professionals. Beginning in 2026, annual financial audits will be conducted by one of the Big Four accounting firms and made publicly available.

Funding will be entirely grant-based, supplemented by one major annual fundraising ball. Full-time staff and volunteer teams will be established in the new year 2026 following the election and commissioning of the inaugural Board of Trustees.

### **A Call to Action**

The launch of SPDF is more than a ceremony — it is a turning point. It signals a united commitment by Simbu professionals, communities, and partners to reclaim their province's future and champion a development model that is inclusive, transparent, and community-led.

SPDF invites government agencies, development partners, civil society organizations, and Simbu citizens everywhere to join this movement for change.

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Approved for Release.

**Billy O. Gigmai**  
**Chair – Board of Trustees**

**Simbu Province Development Front (SPDF)**

**Independent Think Tank. Development Catalyst. Community Voice.**

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