



Treasurer Ian Ling-Stuckey meets with MCC CEO, Alison Allbright. She is also the daughter of the late Madeleine Allbright, former US Secretary of State, who visited Port Moresby in 1998, on a brief stopover and held a bilateral meeting at Jacksons airport, where I and several Ministers of state had the privilege of meeting her.260923

MINISTER FOR TREASURY

P O Parliament House
Waigani. NCD
m: +675 71111777

LINKING REFORMS TO PRODUCTIVE ECONOMIC GRANTS.

"The Millenium Challenge Corporation (MCC) can provide PNG with hundreds of millions of US dollars in grants (over a billion Kina), but only after going through a stringent pre-qualification process.

I was pleased to meet with the head of the MCC, Alison Allbright, during my recent visit to Washington.

There was then a follow-up meeting with members of her team including Managing Director Daniel Blarney, on the details of accessing the program. This is all part of the innovative Marape-Rosso Targeted Grants Strategy (TGS), where we are seeking to move from loans to more and more grants to support PNG's own economic reform program" stated Treasurer Ian Ling-Stuckey.

"The MCC pre-qualification process is a demanding one. Currently, PNG is a long way from qualifying. It will take several years to improve on enough indicators to get access to the potentially large grants available. If we do qualify for a "compact" program, there will be a PNG committee formed to administer the grants under MCC guidelines. Projects will be based on an assessment of how best to support PNG's economic growth. Any

funded projects must go through a rigorous cost-benefit analysis. Competitive international procurement will be required. All tough, but all elements of good governance.

"While it may be several years away, it is important to fully understand the options and begin the journey now. Development is a long and hard process for better jobs and incomes. Partners such as MCC could assist. PNG also wants to move more towards grants and away from loans. This is especially the case as we start repaying our debt from 2027 when our budget is planned to return to a budget surplus" stated the Treasurer.

Hon. Ian Ling-Stuckey, CMG. MP
Minister for Treasury
29 September 2023