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UNDP Releases Human Development Report 2006

Papua New Guinea's Human Development Index Unchanged from 2005

PORT MORESBY, 9 November 2006 — The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) today released this year's edition of its flagship publication, the Human Development Report. The global launch of the report, the Human Development Report 2006: Beyond scarcity: Power, poverty and the global water crisis (HDR2006), took place in Cape Town, South Africa. The Papua New Guinea launch will take place in Port Moresby on Friday, 10 November 2006.

This year, the report takes an in-depth look at the issue of access to water and the profound influence it has on human potential and progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. It includes data from 175 United Nations Member States along with Hong Kong and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

The Report ranks the 177 countries and territories according to their human development index (HDI) which measures long term progress in human development using three basic dimensions: a long and healthy life (life expectancy); knowledge (education), and standard of living (purchasing power parity). Based on its performance, each country is awarded an HDI value between 0.100 and 1.000.

Norway took the top spot with an HDI value of 0.965 while Niger brought up the rear with 0.311.

The Report gives Papua New Guinea an HDI value of 0.523. The country has maintained that same HDI value since 2004. With the HDI value, Papua New Guinea placed 139 th in the overall global rankings.

The new ranking represents a two-point drop from its position in the 2005 Human Development Report 2005 when it ranked 137 th. The change is attributed to improved HDI values achieved by a number of countries that were previously ranked below Papua New Guinea.



Drawing on 2004 data, the Report puts the life expectancy of Papua New Guinean at birth at 55.7 and the country's adult literacy rate at 57.3 per cent.

It also lists Papua New Guinea's combined gross enrolment ratio for primary, secondary and tertiary schools at 41 per cent while the country's GDP per capita, measured in purchasing power parity (PPP), was put at 2,543 US dollars.

The Human Development Report is an independent report commissioned by the United Nations Development Programme and has been produced since 1990 in an effort to put people back at the centre of development.

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