

‘Send skilled workers overseas’: PNG Education Minister  
By Online Editor  
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Seasonal worker in NZ

Papua New Guinea (PNG) does not need to send fruit pickers to Australian farms but skilled workers to work in foreign countries.

Education Minister James Marape said this during the Australia Pacific Technical College graduation ceremony last week

He said PNG and Australia should now be talking about sending skilled people to Australia with many students graduating from foreign programmes every year.

“Skilled professionals are coming out of technical vocational education training programmes that are internationally recognised,” he told 146 graduates. “We should focus on sending our skilled human resources to foreign countries to improve the lives of the people. Not just sending fruit pickers and labourers to work in farms and plantations in Australia,” he added.

He said the government’s focus now was on improving TVet to help develop PNG.

“We will be establishing four regional polytechnic colleges in Rabaul, Port Moresby, Lae and one for the Highlands, either in Goroka or Mt Hagen,” he said.

Mr Marape said he would be tabling a submission to the Australian government at the PNG-Australia ministerial meeting for further assistance into the TVet programme in PNG through the AusAID programme.

Australian High Commissioner to PNG Ian Kemish said Australia would continue to help in PNG’s TVet programme because “training people with life skills is the way forward for development”.

SOURCE: THE NATIONAL/PACNEWS