



TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL (PNG) INC.
A National Chapter of Transparency International,
and a member of the Coalition against Corruption
5th Floor Mogoru Moto Building, Champion Parade
PO Box 591 Port Moresby, NCD Phone 320 2188 Fax 320 2189
E-mail: communications.tipng@daltron.com.pg
Website: www.transparencypng.org.pg

Wednesday 18th April 2007

MEDIA RELEASE

TI PNG APPALLED AT PAC FINDINGS

Transparency International PNG (TI PNG) is outraged by the findings in the final report of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) and urges citizens of Papua New Guinea to seriously consider the future of our nation in view of this year's general election.

In commending the efforts of the PAC, TI PNG agrees with the report that the nation has suffered far too long at the mercy of corrupt public servants and politicians because of their illicit practices for personal gain.

TI PNG Chairman, Mr Mike Manning said it was revealed by Governor and former PAC member Mal Kela Smith that the Government may have lost more than K3 billion every year as a result of misappropriation and poor accountability within the public sector.

"If even half of this is true, it is a scandal of monumental proportions!" Mr Manning said.

Mr Manning agreed with the PAC that these activities have continued to lead to a breakdown in the provision of basic services due to a failure to enforce transparency and accountability in processes and systems in the public sector.

"The PAC has been addressing the same issues of transparency, accountability and good governance in the same departments for the past five years, yet more and more public servants are dipping their hands in the government till to get their own share of the people's money.," Mr Manning said.

"Now is the time for the people of Papua New Guinea to reevaluate the decisions they made in 2002 and vote for honest leaders in 2007 - especially those who will represent them in Parliament and not resort to the corrupt wantokism we have seen in some of our current leaders," he said.

"It is appalling that almost half of our public funds are blatantly stolen and misused by our leaders and public servants every year. The people of PNG must not sit idly by and let our newly elected government do the same thing. It's time for a change and the people of PNG must use their votes to make that change in 2007," Mr Manning said.

Chairman	Mike Manning
Secretary	Richard Kassman
Treasurer	Paul Nindipa
Board Members	Peter Aitsi Iva Kola, Aiva Koisen, Anne Kerepia John Nonggorr Mel Togolo Ian Tarutia Leon Buskens, Lawrence Stephens, Sisa Kini, Mick McWalter Kible Bonga
Executive Officer	Emily Taule

The PAC's report reinforces the messages which TI PNG and the Papua New Guinea Electoral Commission [PNGEC] have been communicating to citizens over the past six months. These messages emphasise the importance of knowing who citizens are voting for and ensuring that candidates uphold the values of honesty, transparency and accountability.

Mr Manning also encouraged voters to be more future-minded when casting their votes this year and to vote for leaders who are courageous enough to 'buck the trend' of corruption and make radical changes for the good of PNG.

"As always, TI PNG fully supports the establishing of an Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) as part of the National Anti-corruption Strategy, as recommended in the PAC report," Mr Manning said.

"The ICAC is crucial in this point of time and the people of Papua New Guinea must put pressure on our government to fully commit to the proper implementation of anti-corruption measures and the enforcing of our laws which are designed to protect us," he said.

TI PNG is a non-government organisation which independently advocates for good governance, transparency, honesty and accountability in Papua New Guinea.

Ends../..

Media contact:

Joyce Mark-Sabbath

Public Relations Officer

Transparency International PNG Inc.

Ph: 320 2188/82

Fax: 320 2189

Email: communications.tipng@daltron.com.pg

Chairman

Mike Manning

Secretary

Richard Kassman

Treasurer

Paul Nindipa

Board Members

Peter Aitsi Iva Kola, Aiva Koisen, Anne Kerepia John Nonggorr Mel Togolo Ian Tarutia
Leon Buskens, Lawrence Stephens, Sisa Kini, Mick McWalter Kible Bonga

Executive Officer

Emily Taule

Chairman	Mike Manning
Secretary	Richard Kassman
Treasurer	Paul Nindipa
Board Members	Peter Aitsi Iva Kola, Aiva Koisen, Anne Kerepia John Nonggorr Mel Togolo Ian Tarutia Leon Buskens, Lawrence Stephens, Sisa Kini, Mick McWalter Kible Bonga
Executive Officer	Emily Taule