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PRESS RELEASE

Transparency International PNG's (TIPNG) fight against corruption will be boosted with Port Moresby Chamber of Commerce (Pom CCI) and the British High Commission (BHC) joining hands to implement the Business Against Corruption Alliance (BACA).

BACA, a brain child of the Pom CCI and TIPNG, will come into existence today when the funds will formally be received by the Port Moresby Chamber of Commerce & Industry at the Pom CCI office in Port Moresby. The BACA secretariat will be administered by the Pom CCI and supported by TIPNG.

The establishment of BACA is made possible by the British High Commission with the funding provided to establish the BACA Secretariat and recruit a Coordinator.

British High Commissioner HE David Dunn said, "Corruption is a human trait that is hugely depleting business and national development all over the world. Fighting it is the responsibility of everyone. The British Government is pleased to support this excellent initiative where PNG business and its employees are taking a stand to say 'no' to corruption and 'yes' to fair, transparent and an open business environment for all."

The BACA is an initiative that will form a coalition of business houses and industry groups under the BACA banner with the aim of reducing corruption within their various spheres of activity.

President of Pom CI Mr Ron Seddon said, "A society that fights all forms of corruption is one that is good for legitimate businesses that see compliance as the norm. This Alliance will be a small start by our members, telling government, investors, suppliers and consumers that we aim to do our business fairly, properly in a non-corrupt manner and most importantly "you can trust us". "

The BACA will review existing codes of conduct and practise within industries and business groups and make it available to TIPNG, Pom CCI and other relevant stake holders. This information will then be used to draft membership criteria for the BACA.

TIPNG Chairman Mr Peter Aitsi said, "Corruption has a direct effect on the cost of doing business in PNG. Corruption, whether it be in the form of outright bribes or inefficient processes, costs companies money. This increased cost of doing business is in most cases passed on the consumer and the unfortunate truth is, in a developing country like PNG, it is the grass roots who suffer as costs continue to increase."

BACA will invite corporations, business groups and state-owned enterprises to become members after stringent criteria and guidelines compiled by BACA have been fulfilled by the respective institutions. BACA membership will provide premium assurance of an organisation's integrity and adherence to quality standards.



BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION



POM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE