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Parliament for the People or Against the People?

Transparency International PNG (TIPNG) is appalled at the continuous breakdown in parliamentary procedure. We have seen in the recent past, actions taken by parliament whether intentional or otherwise that has raised serious questions and as a result has further eroded the People's faith, trust and confidence in the processes of our Parliament.

TIPNG is compelled to speak out in relation to most recent examples related to the appointment of the Governor General last week. Clearly many of our Parliamentarians were not pleased with the manner in which the vote took place; many members of the public were also confused by what took place.

The governments' actions unfortunately caused confusion and chaos and as a result compromising the election of the representative of our Head of State.; This chaotic set of circumstances could now diminish and undermine the high esteem of the Office of the Governor General as held in the eyes of many ordinary Papua New Guineans.

TIPNG also calls on the parliament speaker Hon. Jeffery Nape to take a decisive leadership in controlling parliamentary sessions in a more democratic fashion rather than making decisions that add to the confusion.

TIPNG says that the heated exchanges between the public and our elected members within Parliament Chambers last Friday is clearly a warning sign that all is not well and the people are genuinely concerned by way decisions are made in parliament.

TIPNG again reminds the government that there have been numerous instances of abuse of parliamentary process which has not gone down well with the people and what we are seeing now with more of our people speaking out is the culmination of the community's frustration.

The government is reminded that this growing resentment has the potential to explode if our elected representatives do not restore some faith and clearly demonstrate a higher level of the integrity in the way they govern this Nation.

As to the legalities or constitutionality of their actions, this as with past decisions will now be a further burden on the courts to decide and to clean up the mess.

However the unfortunate truth is, that we the people (including Sir Paulias) have been let down again by a group of elected representatives who seem to know very little or perhaps more to the point care very little about the process they are responsible to uphold.

The actions by our elected representatives' continue to tear apart the societal fabric that should instead unite us as a nation. They are driving a growing number of communities to question the role of government and perhaps forcing our communities to turn to foresters, mining companies, and LNG operators to be the providers of their services and in some instances forcing our communities to turn to those with enough guns to be their protectors.

We the People have been let down yet again.