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**TIPNG: Building Tomorrow's Leadership at the Youth Democracy Camp**

Transparency International PNG (TIPNG) is excited to announce that 55 students and out-of-school youths from 14 of PNG's provinces will assemble this week for the second annual Mike Manning Youth Democracy Camp (YDC), to be held in Goroka, EHP from June 29th to July 7th.

The 14 provinces from which the youth come from include the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (ARB), Manus, Western, Western Highlands, Southern Highlands, Chimbu, Eastern Highlands, West New Britain, Central and New Ireland provinces to name a few.

The YDC is being held again to help groom today's young adults to be better leaders and informed citizens who can contribute meaningfully towards ensuring a better society. Programs at the camp will encompass themes such as human rights, women in politics, HIV/AIDS awareness, good governance and anti-corruption.

The YDC involves youths forming their own mock republic and experiencing first-hand the workings of democracy through simulated elections, parliamentary sessions and drafting of laws. The aim is for the lessons instilled during the camp to be spread by the students to their own communities, to encourage wider advocacy and educated participation in civil society across PNG.

Through the Mike Manning Youth Democracy Camp TIPNG is again making efforts to target PNG's future leaders through youth-focused programs. This comes in the wake of the successful Sir Anthony Siaguru Walk Against Corruption (WAC) which encouraged the participation of student teams, and complements the future output of TIPNG's Good Governance & Anti-Corruption in Education (GGACE) project.

This year the Youth Democracy Camp has also attracted interest from Vanuatu, Fiji and the Solomon Islands. Transparency International chapters in these countries will be sending one youth each for the camp, so that the experience of the camp is spread beyond PNG and through the Pacific.

The camp is sponsored by the Papua New Guinea Sustainable development Program (PNGSDP) through injection of K250, 000 over a five year period. This support will ensure the camp goes on for the next five years and beyond. This year's sponsorship is supported by UNDP and AusAID.

Ends.

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