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Letter to the Editor

New Act, step in right direction

Transparency International Papua New Guinea (TI PNG) applauds the passing of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2005 by National Parliament on Wednesday.

The legislation provides measures against money laundering, forfeiture of property used in connection with the commission of offences, and deprives persons of the proceeds and benefits derived from the commission of such offences and related purposes.

TI PNG sees the passing of this legislation as a step in the right direction to ensuring transparency and accountability in the dealings of – not just public officials – but all people.

The people of PNG know that there have been many dishonest persons who have been found guilty of illegally enriching themselves, members of their family, family companies and associates, and still been allowed to keep that wealth.

This Proceeds of Crime Act 2005 now ensures that those who obtain wealth through fraud and other illegal means - and are found guilty of it - will have that wealth forfeited to the State. Now we need functional, strong and independent public agencies, such as the courts, police, Office of the Attorney General, Office of the Public Prosecutor, and Ombudsman Commission to implement such laws.

TI PNG has said many times that there is nothing wrong with the systems in PNG, but there is a lot wrong with how they are being followed. TI PNG hopes that this law is properly enforced. TI PNG commends those involved in putting together this legislation which will help curb corrupt practices and contribute toward creating a better PNG.

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