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## MEDIA STATEMENT

### AG and Finance Department commended

Transparency International Papua New Guinea (TI PNG) is astounded at the alleged depth of corruption in the East Sepik Province as reported in the press today.

It was reported that the provincial administrator and several local level government presidents and administrators had been suspended and referred to either the Ombudsman Commission or the Fraud Squad. However, TI PNG commended the Finance Department and the Office of the Auditor General (AG) for the roles they played in the investigations into alleged negligence and financial abuse by those public officials in the East Sepik Provincial Government and Administration.

TI PNG said that the AG, under the Transparency International National Integrity System is the supreme audit institution in PNG, and is responsible for inspecting, auditing and reporting on the Public Accounts of PNG and on the control transactions with or concerning public monies and the property of PNG.

TI PNG said this was a critical role and that a functional, strong and independent AG will go a long way to restoring integrity to the public agencies of PNG.

TI PNG expects that following from this initial success, the AG will be able to do the same with all other public bodies that are currently exhibiting highly irregular financial processes.

TI PNG reminded the people of PNG that bridges or roads that were damaged and made it hard for them to travel or take their produce to markets to sell, aid-posts, clinics, hospitals and schools that were not operating and were costing lives or resulting in poorly educated people, was a direct consequence of a public official mismanaging or misappropriating public funds.

TI PNG encouraged the AG to continue its good work to help ensure good governance, accountability and transparency.

**Mike Manning**  
Chairman  
Transparency International PNG