



TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL (PNG) INC.

A National Chapter of Transparency International,

and a member of the Coalition against Corruption

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MEDIA STATEMENT

Investigate allegations

“The National Housing Corporation (NHC) has proper procedures for the allocation of housing and properties, and these procedures should apply equally to all Papua New Guineans. There should be no exceptions for politicians or their staff,” Transparency International (PNG) Chairman Mike Manning said.

Mr Manning’s comments come after reports of alleged political pressure on the NHC to allocate houses to certain politicians, their staff, and associates.

It was reported that the Minister for Housing Atimeng Buhupe has forwarded a list to the NHC management that contains names of politicians, their staff, and associates, to be considered to live in and eventually purchase these houses. The newspapers quoted specific locations in Port Moresby that were alleged to be about to be allocated to these people.

Mr Buhupe denies these reports and said the allegations about him were not true and made by disgruntled people who have been suspended or terminated.

He said he refers all letters from people wanting to rent or purchase properties to NHC management for processing according to established procedures, and that all citizens had the right to purchase from NHC. However, TI PNG wants to know if the list mentioned in the reports exist, and whether any of the politicians, staffers and associates have received special privileges.

In light of the recent appearance of the NHC before the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC), and the direction of the PAC to the NHC not to dispose of any NHC properties pending the completion of its enquiry into the allegations of corruption and malpractices by officials of the organisation, TI PNG feels this issue must be investigated and calls on the PAC and the Ombudsman Commission to look into the matter.

TI PNG observed that for too often ministers and members of Parliament were elected and moved themselves and their families to Port Moresby, leaving the Constituents behind. This meant that goods and services that should go to their electorates never get there and the rural people suffer as a result.

Mike Manning
Chairman
Transparency International (PNG) Inc.