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## MEDIA STATEMENT

### **Leaders must support Leadership Code ...Pacific Island countries highly regard PNG LC model**

Ombudsman Peter Masi has asked leaders in Papua New Guinea to support the Leadership Code and the purposes for which it was established.

"Leaders must make the Leadership Code work to its full limit and must support the Ombudsman Commission to enforce it," Mr Masi said.

Mr Masi said the Pacific Island countries are modelling their leadership codes according to that of the PNG model and that shows the high regard they have for it.

He said the Leadership Code must be fully supported here in the country before asking for support from the Ombudsman or Human Rights Commission offices in other Pacific countries.

Mr Masi participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Savenaca Siwatibau Memorial Speech on Good Governance at The University of the South Pacific (USP) in Suva, Fiji, last month.

He said a concept he picked up there was merging the basic elements of human rights with the education syllabus.

"This would be a good concept for PNG to adopt in that we teach our children at an early age to respect human rights.

"This would greatly assist and promote the ideals of good governance into the future," Mr Masi said. He said there is also a need to introduce compulsory good governance courses in higher learning institutions in PNG.

The Australian National University (ANU) in consultation with all Pacific Island governments, Ombudsman offices, and Human Rights Commissions, should coordinate with these higher learning institutions to ensure the effective implementation if this course, he said.

Mr Masi said the ANU field of study called the Asia Pacific Studies would be in a good position to coordinate such a concept.

The courses could be named Certificate, Diploma and Degree in Ombudsman Studies or in Human Rights Studies and would be particularly useful for top bureaucrats such as chief executive officers and managing directors, he said.

"Those wanting to become future leaders could take up this area of study which will go a long way in ensuring that they provide sound leadership for the future," he said.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Savenaca Siwatibau (pronounced Sav-en-eetha and See-wot-im-bow) Memorial Speech is in recognition of the former Vice Chancellor of USP, Savenaca Siwatibau and allows leading advocates of good governance who are Pacific people from Pacific countries to visit other Pacific countries and give speeches which promote good governance.

Mr Masi travelled to Suva, Fiji, and Apia, Samoa, and delivered a speech titled 'The realities facing the Pacific Forum countries governments and the public service machineries on the issues of governance: The Leadership Code in Papua New Guinea - A law designed to improve governance.'

His tour was facilitated by Transparency International (PNG) Inc. The Speech was coordinated by USP in association with Transparency International Fiji and supported by Transparency International New Zealand together with New Zealand AID and the Pacific Chapters of Transparency International in partnership with the Ombudsman Commission of PNG.

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