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PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Action must be taken on Manumanu COI Numerous COIs still need to be acted on

Transparency International PNG (TIPNG) calls on the Prime Minister, Peter O'Neill, to honour his promise to carry out the Commission of Inquiry (COI) into the Manumanu land sale.

Chairman of TIPNG, Mr Lawrence Stephens, said TIPNG welcomes efforts to uncover facts and investigate alleged wrong doing. It is in the interest of the people of Papua New Guinea and particularly the people of Manumanu that the investigations be carried out immediately and those that are found to have acted fraudulent to be charged and face the courts.

TIPNG, however, remains appalled by the long list of multiple COI's that have not yet been acted on and individuals named continue to enjoy impunity. TIPNG insists our political leaders to urgently act on the recommendations of these numerous COIs. To date, the outstanding number of CoI findings and the lack of actual enforcement of those findings and recommendations, has impacted negatively on the public confidence in the COI process. Action taken will assist to restore the public confidence in the systems of Government. And where recommended the Police and Public Prosecutor's Office must fulfil their duty and begin proceedings for offences committed.

"Over the years, the Government has assured the people of PNG of immediate actions but have failed to deliver on its promises. And the Manumanu land sale appears to be another questionable deal that has been concocted to enrich certain individuals with public funds" said TIPNG Chairman, Mr Stephens.

TIPNG hopes to see that the blatant injustice in the Manumanu land deal are thoroughly investigated and appropriate action taken against the perpetrators. TIPNG joins the wider community in calling on the PM to honour his word and ensure the people of Manumanu's rights are respected.

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What is TIPNG?

TIPNG is a member of Transparency International a global anti corruption movement committed to fighting corruption. TIPNG is an independent organization in PNG known as a Chapter of the international movement. The PNG chapter advocates against corruption and promotes transparency, good governance, honesty and accountability both in private and public sector dealings. TIPNG tries to assist strengthen the integrity systems of our country such as the police, the parliament, the public services and the judiciary.