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PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2017 National Parliamentary Elections not delivered effectively, efficiently and of acceptable quality: TIPNG Election Observation Report

Transparency International PNG reported that the 2017 National Parliamentary Election was not delivered effectively, efficiently and of sufficient and acceptable quality.

TIPNG presented the findings of its election observation today (Thursday 9/11/17) during its Integrity Seminar held to commemorate the organization's 20th anniversary.

TIPNG fielded 313 domestic election observers nationwide to observe polling. The observers covered 536 polling stations around the country to assess if proper electoral processes were adhered to and 1527 individual voters interviewed.

Key findings from voter survey were:

- voters reported that voting rights were taken by others without permission.
- voters said polling officials were responsible for delays in voting that resulted in voters not being able to vote.
- voters interviewed reported threats to voters on polling day, if they did not vote for a particular candidate.
- voters were offered bribes or asked for bribes to vote for a particular candidate on polling day
- there was a lack of secrecy in voting. Regional variation was noted, with Southern and New Guinea Islands Regions generally upholding secrecy.

"The survey results not only show **serious issues**, but that the voters were **too tolerant** of their rights not being upheld. We want to remind all citizens that their core role is not only marking the ballot paper to choose their leaders, but to have the courage to protect the integrity of the elections," said TIPNG Chairman Lawrence Stephens.

Key Findings from Polling Place Survey:

- Often, polling place management and election administration was not carried out according to electoral law
- Lack of Secret Voting
- bribery and intimidation of voters during polling
- security personnel were not impartial
- polling places lacked election materials including security.

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.

TIPNG recommends for major changes in the organisation of the PNGEC and its partners to promote behaviour that will lead to democratic elections. The following areas are recommended by TIPNG for the PNGEC and relevant agencies to improve:

- *Enforcement of existing laws by agencies during the elections*
- *Electoral Roll Update and Verification*
- Security and prevention of election related violence
- Election Awareness.

TIPNG looks forward to working with the government and other institutions to implement the recommendations of its report to help improve PNG's elections.

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