



TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL (PNG) INC
Lokua Avenue, Boroko
PO Box 591 Port Moresby, NCD Phone 323 7517/4917 Fax 323 4317
E-mail: record.tipng@gmail.com Website: www.transparencypng.org.pg

PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TIPNG Calls on Chief Secretary to Release Full Manumanu Report

Port Moresby, 20 April 2018 – Transparency International Papua New Guinea (TIPNG) has said that the Government must make a report on the Manumanu Scandal available for public scrutiny. This report cost tax-payers K2m. Media outlets have not been given access to the full report into the payment of K46m made to a dubious business entity for land allegedly valued at only K10,000 in Central Province.

“The Administrative Inquiry was tabled on the floor of Parliament last week Friday (13/04/18), and this week the formerly suspended Lands Secretary and the head of the MVIL have gone to the courts to be reinstated to their positions on the basis of this completed Inquiry,” said Lawrence Stephens, Chairman of TIPNG, “this is in addition to Ministers William Duma and Fabian Pok who were also sidelined and subsequently reinstated by the Prime Minister after the 2017 National Elections and before the Manumanu Inquiry report had been completed.”

Since its tabling in Parliament, TIPNG has attempted to obtain the Manumanu Administrative Inquiry Report from the Government Printing Office and been informed that the full report has not been released by the Chief Secretary’s Office as custodians of Commissions of Inquiry.

TIPNG is calling on the Chief Secretary and the Department of PM & NEC to release the full report on their public website as a first step to making it available.

“Now that the report has been tabled in Parliament, the people of Central Province, the general public and media outlets must have access to the findings of the Manumanu Administrative Inquiry and we must reflect on whether it meets its original Terms of Reference,” said Mr. Stephens, “For the Manumanu Inquiry to be complete it must include documents pertaining to the valuation and sale of the land as well as the NEC decision resulting in the K46m purchase with funds from the implicated agencies and leaders. If the report is deficient in any of these aspects it is difficult to see how it exonerates either of the two Ministers or eight Heads of Departments.”

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Authorized by:

***Arianne Kassman
Executive Director***

Media contact:

***Yuambari Haihuie
Institutions & Campaigns Coordinator***

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.