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**PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***Integrity is a cure for Corruption***  
***2018 Sir Anthony Siaguru Walk Against Corruption***

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Port Moresby, 10 June 2018 - Over 150 organizations including schools have registered to participate in the 12th Sir Anthony Siaguru Walk Against Corruption (SASWAC) in Port Moresby.

The Walk was also held in Goroka and Lae on Friday 8/6/18 and Saturday 9/8/17 respectively.

The theme of this year's Walk Against Corruption is "*Walk for Integrity*". Integrity is the quality of possessing high ethical principles or professional standards and keeping those standards consistent throughout all areas of your life - at work, school, church and at home. Having integrity means being true to yourself and not doing anything to disrespect yourself. Integrity can be summed up as doing the right thing, even when no one is looking.

Lack of integrity leads to corruption. integrity is a cure to corruption - if people always acted with integrity there would be no corruption. There would be no need to eradicate this global systemic and systematic problem. Integrity is something that must be commitment by an individual; it must be inherent if it isn't inherent, then it must be learned. Parents and society have a responsibility to live by the values that they espouse, and be strong and positive role models for the young.

Papua New Guinea is going through a challenging time with a shrinking civil space. The most pressing for the nation is the chipping away of civil liberties enshrined within the national constitution. The struggles of fighting corruption and enduring corruption are made worse by the forces restricting civil space and the ability for citizens to participate in nation building.

Exposing corruption takes a great deal of integrity and courage. Both citizens and the media play an important monitoring role and this role needs to be done without fear or intimidation. If corrupt acts are exposed in the media and people are shamed or even face prosecution, it makes others think twice before doing the same thing

The battle for integrity remains to be won. A battle that has to be won preferably first in homes and in schools, and then re-fought again and again on the wider grown-up stage in both the public and private sectors.

The Sir Anthony Siaguru Walk Against Corruption is TIPNGs major fundraising event. The purpose of the SASWAC is threefold: it creates greater awareness about corruption, secondly, it provides citizens an opportunity to peacefully demonstrate their opposition to corruption

***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.

and thirdly and most importantly, it raises much needed funds for TIPNG. TIPNG hosts the Walk to raise money to sustain its operations.

This year 65 corporate teams, 17 civil society organization teams, 10 family teams and 73 school teams participated in the Port Moresby Walk. Total amount raised in Port Moresby is approximately K147,900.

TIPNG acknowledges the support of various organizations and individuals that have shown their support by donating resources towards the event, the registered teams and organizations, the volunteers who have signed up to assist during the event.

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