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PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Empowered and ready to take action!

Youth Democracy Camp a success

Fifty five young people completed the 10 day Mike Manning Youth Democracy Camp (MMYDC), run by Transparency International PNG (TIPNG) at the Correctional Services College in Bomana, Port Moresby.

The camp now in its 11th year, ended on a high noted with participants expressing how privileged they were to be a part of the camp and how much they learnt throughout the event. Positive feedback was also received from parents and family members of participants through social media who commented that they have witnessed a change in their children's attitude and character.

Participants also had the opportunity to meet representatives from various government, civil society and non-government organizations who facilitated sessions that were informative and engaging. They also took part in a simulation that required them to form political parties, create a constitution and hold parliament sittings where bills were passed, in the Republic of Bomana – a country in crisis. A highlight of the camp was a mock parliament session held in the State Function Room during a full day visit to the national Parliament House.

Camp coordinator, Elizabeth Aribi expressed her gratitude to the Camp sponsors, the US Embassy Port Moresby and Exxon Mobil PNG for their funding support to the camp.

Participants at the camp came from 24 schools and 5 church and community based organizations throughout the country.

TIPNG through its Youth Integrity Program (YIP) has been running the camp with the aim to inform, educate and empower today's young leaders on democracy and good governance.

After this camp, TIPNG hopes that the students that pass through the camp will be able to participate more actively to advocate for a less corrupt society and explain and teach others about how governments should work.

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Pix Caption: *MMYDC Participants during their visit to parliament.*

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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.