



TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL (PNG) INC
Lokua Avenue, Boroko, Section 54 Lot 31
PO Box 591 Port Moresby, NCD Phone 323 7517/4917 Fax 323 4317
E-mail: melissa.wokasup@transparencypng.org.pg
Website: www.transparencypng.org.pg

PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MP's must follow resignation laws for transparency

Wednesday 1st May 2019, Port Moresby – Members of Parliament when resigning from their political parties must do so through the prescribed processes, especially if they are joining a new party, and not just through media conferences as has been happening recently says Transparency International PNG (TIPNG).

The local anti-corruption group is also calling for the constitutional body responsible for registering political parties, the Integrity of Political Parties and Candidates Commission (IPPC), to clarify to the public which parties Members of Parliament belong to before Parliament sits this month.

“There have been public statements through press conferences by Members of Parliament that they have resigned from their political parties in recent days, and yet almost all have not shown how they have done this formally through the IPPCC,” the Board of TIPNG said in a recent media release, “It is paramount to preserving Papua New Guinean democracy that an MP ensure that their electorate and the country knows they have duly registered their political affiliation as an elected representative.”

“The IPPCC is the enforcer of the Organic Law on the Integrity of Political Parties and Candidates (OLIPPAC), with the power to de-register parties if they do not follow the laws. In the public interest, and before the Parliament sits, the IPPCC should release an updated list of Members of Parliament and the political parties to which they are registered. This will ensure that the constitutionally enshrined process of political party representation is not devalued for short-term benefits or self-interest,” said the Board of TIPNG.

The OLIPPAC is not without its challenges, following a successful Supreme Court challenge in 2008 which resulted in Sections 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 69, 70, 72, 73(1)(b), and 81 being declared unconstitutional. There are proposed amendments to the OLIPPAC that will seek to address these areas, but they are yet to be brought to and deliberated by Parliament.

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Authorised by:
Arianne Kassman
Executive Director

Media contact:
Melissa Wokasup
Communications Officer

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.