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PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Clarify Political Party of MP's for Accountability

Friday 30th August 2019, Port Moresby – The public needs to be informed on the political party affiliation status of Members of Parliament (MP) says Transparency International Papua New Guinea (TIPNG). In a media statement TIPNG called on the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties to publish in the media a list of all MPs in Parliament and the current political party with which they are registered.

“Leading up to the election of Prime Minister James Marape by Parliament, and the more recent movement of MPs across the floor of Parliament, there is a distinct lack of clarity on membership of political parties by MPs. This weakens the ability of citizens nationally and within electorates to hold their Members of Parliament accountable on their campaign platforms and policies. This lack of political accountability is further worsened when the distinction between Government and Opposition is blurred, with members of the same political party seating in both camps,” said the Chairman of TIPNG, Mr Peter Aitsi.

To aid the public in using political parties to hold leaders in the current Parliament accountable, the office of the Registrar of Political Parties must make public the following information:

- What party does each MP belong to?
- How many MP's does each party currently have?
- Who is the Parliamentary leader of each party with an MP?
- Have all MP's that have resigned from a Party in the last 3 months followed the legislated process for resigning from a Party?
- Have all Parties with an MP submitted their financial reports for 2019?

In a statement earlier this year calling for the Marape-Steven government to strengthen governance through legislation, TIPNG said that amendments must be made to ensure that the Organic Law on Political Parties and Candidates (OLIPPAC) is both constitutional and effective.

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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.