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**PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **European Union Supports TIPNG for Bougainville Referendum Observation**

*Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2019, Port Moresby* – The European Union has made funding available to Transparency International Papua New Guinea (TIPNG) to conduct domestic observation of the Bougainville Referendum process.

“TIPNG thanks His Excellency Ambassador Jernej Videtič and the European Union Delegation to Papua New Guinea for their continuous support of good governance and democracy in our country. Through their financial support, TIPNG will be able to monitor the conduct of the Referendum polling by officials as well as the freedom of voters to cast their votes without fear or intimidation,” said Ms. Arianne Kassman, Executive Director of TIPNG at the occasion of the signing of the grant agreement.

TIPNG has previously conducted observation of National and Local Level Government elections in Papua New Guinea and will field teams of volunteers to observe polling from 23<sup>rd</sup> November – 7<sup>th</sup> December 2019 which are the gazetted dates of the Bougainville Referendum.

TIPNG has sought and obtained accreditation status as an Observer Group with the Bougainville Referendum Commission (BRC). Following the conduct of the Observation, TIPNG will issue an independent public report on its findings.

Ends...///

*Authorised by:*  
**Arianne Kassman**  
*Executive Director*

*Media contact:*  
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*Deputy Director – Policy and Advocacy*

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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.