



Transparency International PAPUA NEW GUINEA INC.

Our Values: Accountability | Fairness & Justice | Patience & Perseverance | Courage & Commitment | Respect

THE TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL PNG QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



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Parliament House in Waigani, National Capital District where Prime Minister Marape promised to table the COVID-19 SOE finance reports in the beginning of June.

Photo Credit: Peddle Thorpe Architects PNG

PUSH TO TABLE COVID-19 SOE FINANCE REPORTS SET FOR PHASE TWO

In response to the rising threat of COVID-19 early this year, we launched an advocacy campaign in May calling for more transparent and accountable management of COVID-19 State of Emergency (SOE) funding by the PNG government.

This advocacy campaign was officially launched with the publication of a funding timeline we created, which indicated public records (on mainstream and social media) of all funding injections made to the emergency response operations since the SOE was officially declared by the National Government on February 23, 2020.

Our call on the government to produce verifiable reports on COVID-19 SOE expenditure was further warranted after allegations of misappropriation of SOE funding surfaced in Parliament, shortly after the declaration of the state of emergency.

As part of this campaign, we have researched, produced and published infographics, press releases, a video and a series of social media posts which highlighted obscure processes and recommendations to improve transparency and accountability in the COVID-19 SOE.

Among other recommendations, we have continued our call on the government to produce and table an audited financial report, clearly showing how emergency funding was spent.

Our recommendation for government to disclose all information on SOE contracts and suppliers was implemented by the government when this information was made available to the public on the National Procurements Commission website. The campaign was also successful in eliciting a commitment from Prime Minister James Marape to table a full, audited financial report on the COVID-19 SOE by the June 2, 2020 sitting of parliament.

However, in response to the government failing to uphold this promise during the June sitting of parliament, we have now stepped up our COVID-19 SOE Accountability campaign to phase two. Which is now targeted at pushing for government to make stronger efforts towards reporting SOE expenditure by the August 24 sitting of parliament.

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Members and Friends,

It goes without saying that this quarter has been a challenging one for everyone in PNG and indeed across the globe, with the incursion of COVID-19. While the threat of COVID-19 has established significant hurdles for any organization operating in PNG, it has also forced us to undertake perhaps a timely review of operational health and safety protocols, as we come to terms with the “new normal.”

While the government sanctioned State of Emergency (SOE) sought to limit the spread of the virus within our borders, the obscurity of a number of SOE procurement protocols have now left us vulnerable to exploitation by corrupt actors. In response, we launched a new advocacy campaign this quarter, calling on the PNG government to implement measures to ensure the transparent and accountable management of SOE funding and to publish a full, audited finance report on the COVID-19 SOE in Parliament.

Additionally, in a bid to raise awareness and garner support for the enabling legislation on the Independent Commission Against Corruption (which was also tabled in Parliament for its second reading in early June), we have released public awareness materials on the legislative process and the permanent Parliamentary Committee on State of Emergency.

On a lighter note, with recruitment completed last month, our “Promoting Anti-corruption & Integrity Strategies” project is now underway and is preparing to undertake its initial National Integrity Systems assessment in early August. Furthermore, our Annual General Meeting in June has now seen to the election of 14 board directors (comprising of a majority of our 2019 board directors, with the inclusion of one new director).

As we position ourselves to tackle the challenges of a new operating environment post-COVID-19, I would like to acknowledge the trust and commitment of our donors, sponsors and financial members. Your support has allowed us to minimize the impact of COVID-19 on our operations, as we continue to fight against corruption in PNG.

Regards,

Arianne Kassman

NEW PROJECT AIMS TO REBUILD PUBLIC TRUST

Following the easing of COVID-19 State of Emergency restrictions, we have now completed recruitment and have initiated one of our most ambitious projects yet; the Promoting Anti-Corruption and Integrity Strategies (PAIS).

The PAIS activity is funded by the European Union and has two objectives, the first being to conduct a National Integrity System (NIS) Assessment and the second to assist national Integrity Institutions to develop and adopt anti-corruption strategies. This will be underpinned by both a National Anti-Corruption Summit and smaller briefings for media & civil society.

The National Integrity System of Papua New Guinea comprises agencies in the executive, legislature, judiciary, the public sector, the main public watchdog institutions (e.g. supreme audit institution, law enforcement agencies), as well as political parties, the media, civil society and business as the primary social forces which are active in the governance arena and will soon hopefully be augmented by the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC).

The primary purpose of conducting a NIS assessment is to:

- a. assess whether there has been any progress over time with regards to the country's integrity systems;
- b. identify specific changes (both positive and negative) which have occurred since the full NIS report was published;
- c. and to identify recommendations and advocacy priorities for improving the country's integrity systems.

While the overall objective of the PAIS Project is to strengthen public trust in state agencies this will be achieved by ensuring that there are formal pathways for addressing corruption both internally, within themselves, as well as externally, through the ICAC, once it is established.

TIPNG's goal for the PAIS Project is not only to develop more intuitive policy and enforcement mechanisms for individual government agencies, but to ultimately build a stronger, more unified coalition against corruption.



(L-R) PAIS Finance Officer Gina Samar, Communications Officer Sosori Borrey, Project Manager Bruno Siare and Project Assistant Daera Ganiga.

NEW NORMAL HEALTH MEASURES SET

With the present threat of COVID-19 looming over us, our Advocacy & Legal Advice Center has now implemented “new normal” health measures for clients wishing to use our Corruption Complaints Desk service.

In what is now set to be the new normal for our Corruption Complaints Desk, walk-in client days have now been scheduled for every Friday, while clients are free to use our 180 6000 to register complaints or set appointments with our officers.

General sanitation protocols such as compulsory temperature checks and washing of hands have also been put in place for all other TIPNG projects and programs to ensure the health and safety of both our officers and clients.



ALAC Coordinator Samson Kandata sanitizing this hands, as required under our new health and safety protocols.

ICAC ENABLING LEGISLATION TABLED FOR SECOND READING

After securing a commitment from Prime Minister Marape earlier this year to pass the enabling legislation for an Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) by the end of the year, we have now launched an advocacy campaign which calls on the government to ensure that a prospective ICAC is fully empowered to investigate and prosecute cases of corruption in PNG.

With the bill tabled for its second reading in the June sitting of Parliament, our core focus in the current campaign has been to generate as much support for the bill from members of Parliament by raising awareness on the importance and the benefits of an ICAC in PNG.

As part of this campaign, we have also sought to provide PNG citizens with a guide to the process of enacting the

ICAC enabling legislation through the publication of a series social media posts, press releases and an infographic explaining the legislative process.

In addition, we have also included a particular focus on explaining the role of the Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Constitutional Laws and Subordinate Legislation. While the ICAC Bill was tabled for second reading in the June session of Parliament this year, our push for the realization of a PNG ICAC has now endured for over 23 years.

For more information on the progress of the ICAC bill so far, please visit our website and social media pages.

**UNCOVER
CORRUPTION
TODAY!**

Call the TIPNG Advocacy and Legal Advice Center on:
180 6000

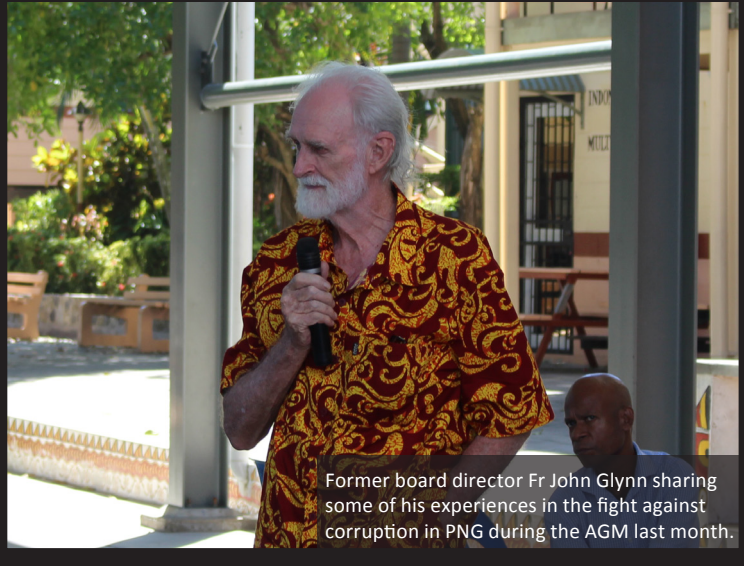
to report corrupt activities and get **FREE** legal information and referral.

LONG-SERVING DIRECTOR STEPS DOWN

As nominations opened for the 2020 TIPNG Board of Directors this year, one of our longest-serving directors, and a staunch advocate for the anti-corruption movement in PNG, Fr John Glynn announced that he was stepping down from the board to focus on his other community commitments.

Fr John Glynn is the founder and Patron of the Youth Against Corruption Association (YACA) and the Foundation for Women and Children at Risk (WeCARE!). He also serves on the board of the Digicel Foundation and assists at the Catholic Parish of the Sacred Heart in Hohola, NCD.

Fr John was first elected to the TIPNG board of directors in 2002.



Former board director Fr John Glynn sharing some of his experiences in the fight against corruption in PNG during the AGM last month.

AGM VOTES ON AMMENDMENTS TO ROA

As part of an ongoing evaluation of our organization, a Constitutional Committee of five directors has now completed a review of the TIPNG Rules of Association.

The committee presented a report on recommended changes to the ROA during the AGM, which were then endorsed by our members. Out of 12 total amendments to the ROA, some of the major features are:

- New membership categories for Individual, Corporate, Institutional (Public and Private), Civil Society, Family, Youth (for young people) and honorary membership to a member of merit. New category called “Amerititous Member,” for those who have contributed significantly.
- Membership structure was revised so that once you join as a member; you will remain a member forever. While those

who can provide monetary support will become financial members, all membership is permanent. However, only financial members will be able to vote and be appointed to the board.

- Funds are to be saved in a trust (ad hoc) over the years and carefully accounted for. With the objective of creating a trust for the benefit of the association and create a pathway for the future involving protection of assets.
- In relation to gender balance on the board the number of females was raised from 2 to 4.
- Neutralization of pronouns used.

The changes will become final once the IPA has certified a statutory declaration on them.

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTED



(L-R) Back Row: Richard Kassman, OBE, Paul Barker, Lawrence Stephens, Christopher Elphick, Front Row: Seini Fisi’ihoi, Michael McWalter, OL, Treasurer-Akae Beach, Chairman-Peter Aitsi, Secretary-Michelle Hau’ofa and Mary Udu.

The Transparency International PNG (TIPNG) Annual General Meeting last Saturday June 27, 2020 has now confirmed the re-election of a majority of TIPNG board directors from 2019, as stewards of the anti-corruption agency’s vision over the next 12 months.

2020 Chair - Peter Aitsi, MBE, Secretary - Michelle Hau’ofa and Treasurer - Akae Beach and 11 other directors including; Brian Alois, Lawrence Stephens, Jerome Sesega, Belinda Kanau, Philip Samar, Paul Barker, Mary Udu, Richard Kassman, OBE, Christopher Elphick and Michael McWalter, OL stood uncontested and were duly elected after the number of nominations matched the vacancies on the TIPNG board.

A new inclusion on the TIPNG board of directors this year was Seini Fisi’ihoi, who was also elected by default.

OUR SPONSORS:



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VOTER EDUCATION A HIGH PRIORITY



PNG citizens checking their names on the common roll with election officials during the 2017 PNG National Elections.

After we observed gross violations of voter rights protocols during the 2017 National General Elections, we have now embarked on a new partnership with the Electoral Commission of PNG (ECPNG), in an effort to raise awareness in PNG communities about voter rights and election process as a whole.

Through this new partnership, we plan to roll out a Voter Education Program from 2020-2023, which is when the next general elections are scheduled to take place.

This is to educate public on their rights to vote and also to report any abuse of election process during the election periods.

We have given this partnership with the ECPNG a high priority after our observations of the last general elections discovered numerous instances where citizens were hindered from fully exercising their constitutional rights to vote.

Our 2017 Election Observations Report made it clear that the election process had failed to genuinely represent our country's voters.

And furthermore, that some of the violations that occurred during the last elections were being planned, aided and abetted at the highest levels of government.

Among some of the violations we observed were breaches to the Candidates' Code of Conduct and the hampering of oversight functions such as the Electoral Advisory Committee, which was unable to carry out its mandate because it was not provided with the basic information to assess the integrity of the electoral process.

While a greater portion of our focus has been targeted at promoting good governance, this new partnership will allow us to influence better outcomes relating to the composition of government.

ESA'ALA YOUTH LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP



Youth Integrity Program Coordinator, Dagia Aka (center) talking a group of participants through a team activity.



Deputy Director-Communications, Yvonne Ngutlick presenting one of the sessions on moral dilemmas.

Through an invitation from the National Youth Development Authority (NYDA), TIPNG co-facilitated sessions during a leadership and capacity building workshop for young leaders from the Esa'ala Youth Development Council.

The main goal of the TIPNG sessions was to enrich the work of the Esa'ala Youth Council by offering them the skills and tools to enable them to do their work innovatively.

Our sessions covered innovative ways to solicit the views of the young people to ensure true and proper representation. Our sessions also covered youth participation in decision-making, identifying issues affecting young people in Esa'ala and creating and implementing solutions to address these issues.

"The young leaders were open to learn and it was encouraging to see them grasping the concepts introduced to them. At TIPNG, we have a focus on young people and our goal is to empower a new generation of informed and active citizens. TIPNG is honored to be driving our goal with the young leaders of Esa'ala District," said TIPNG Youth Integrity Program Coordinator Dagia Aka.

We thank the NYDA for the invitation to co-facilitate the workshop and we look forward to working together in reaching and empowering young people.

GOVERNMENT TO TABLE COVID-19 SOE FINANCE REPORTS IN PARLIAMENT

FROM PAGE ONE

As we move into phase two of our COVID-19 our focus is to prompt the government into ensure that the promised audited finance reports are tabled in the August sitting of parliament.

Any further failure by the government to present the audited finance reports by September 8, 2020 will constitute of breach of the Emergencies Act, which provides that finance reports must be tabled in parliament no more than three months after the SOE expires.

In a recent development however, the COVID-19 SOE Controller, Police COMmissioner David Manning and Police Minister Bryan Kramer have now announced that the the audited finance report has been completed and will be presented to Prime Minister with recommendations, before being presented in Parliament.

Stay tuned to our website and social media pages (Facebook, Twitter) for further details on phase two.



Emergency personnel offloading emergency supplies from AusAid. Our research has shown roughly about K105 million was donated to the SOE response operations in PNG from external parties.



TIPNG Chair, Peter Aitsi, MBE, meeting some of the participants during the 2019 Mike Manning Youth Democracy Camp.



Facilitators and participants after one of the last sessions of our first ever Bougainville Youth Democracy Camp in Central Bougainville last year.

NEW LOOK FOR YOUTH PROGRAM

As Papua New Guinea comes to terms with the “new normal” of COVID-19, the Youth Integrity Program (YIP) is laying the foundation for a “new look” for its activities and approach in working with young people.

Acknowledging the importance of continuous improvement and change, YIP will now be working toward Reaching Action through Partnerships (RAP!). The activities will target young people who have formerly attended programs run by TIPNG such as the Mike Manning Youth Democracy Camp, youth who are passionate about supporting the mission of TIPNG and likeminded Youth Organizations.

A variety of activities have been planned such as Alumni Seminars, the production of a Community Leaders Resource Kit and the creation of the YIP blog which will be called the RAP Kona.

To kick-start this exciting new phase for the YIP a survey will be launched on International Youth Day which falls on the 12th of August 2020 to learn from young people and youth organizations throughout the country what they would like to see in a YIP produced resource kit.



Receipt #:

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

(Please indicate by ticking) ☐ New Member ☐ Renewal

| | |
|--|---|
| Date: | |
| Title: | <input type="checkbox"/> Mr <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs <input type="checkbox"/> Ms <input type="checkbox"/> Dr |
| Name: | |
| Employer/School: | |
| Postal Address: | |
| Telephone #: | Fax#: |
| Mobile #: | |
| Email Address: | |
| Gender: | |
| Age range: | <input type="checkbox"/> 13-17 <input type="checkbox"/> 18-34 <input type="checkbox"/> 35-49 <input type="checkbox"/> 50 and above |
| Additional Information: <i>If you have any skills, qualifications, knowledge, specific interests that you are able to offer to assist with things such as ideas, research, monitoring, leaflet distribution or just being able to get out and about to speak to people in your area, please make mention in this space.</i> | |

MEMBERSHIP AND FEES:

Join TIPNG and help fight corruption. Supporting our members is expensive. Each new member will receive a membership certificate and a pledge card. Your Membership will entitle you to contribute to decisions taken at the AGM and other information of interest to you. Membership is an annual subscription. Corporate membership will receive additional recognition.

(Please indicate membership category by ticking the appropriate box)

INDIVIDUAL:

☐ K10 +

CORPORATE:

☐ K1,000 +

FAMILY:

☐ K100+

ASSOCIATION:

☐ K200 +

PAYMENT METHOD AND BANK DETAILS

Payment can be made in the form of a cheque, bank transfer or direct deposit to:

Account Name: Transparency International (PNG) Inc.
Account: 1000038232
Bank: Bank South Pacific
Branch: BSP Haus
BSB Number: 088950

WHO WE ARE:

Transparency International PNG is a chapter of transparency international, a global non-profit, NGO dedicated to empowering people to take action against corruption. TIPNG was formed in 1997 with the aim of combatting corruption in PNG and promoting openness, honesty and accountability in private and public dealings. TIPNG is a membership-based association, guided by voluntary Board of Directors who are leaders in the respective sectors in which they work.

OUR MISSION:

To empower people to act against corruption.

WHAT IS CORRUPTION?

Corruption is the abuse of entrusted power for private gain, it hurts everyone whose life, livelihood or happiness depends on the integrity of people in a position of authority.

OUR SERVICES:

- Advocacy and Legal Advice Center
- Policy and Advocacy
- Mike Manning Youth Democracy Camp
- School Based Civic Education Project
- Sir Anthony Siaguru Walk Against Corruption
- Promoting Anti-corruption & Integrity Strategies
- Youth Integrity Program

CONTACT US:

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