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PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TIPNG NIS ASSESSMENT PAVING THE WAY FOR ICAC

Tuesday 22, September, 2020 - In anticipation of the establishment of a PNG Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), Transparency International PNG (TIPNG) is now undertaking a National Integrity Systems Assessment (NISA).

As a precursor to a fully functioning PNG ICAC, the NISA will undertake a review of internal policies within public offices in order to identify recommendations, which would allow for more streamlined implementation of anti-corruption strategies across the three arms of PNG Government.

As the first of two phases in TIPNG's new Promoting Integrity and Anti-corruption Strategies (PAIS) project, the NISA will be focused on;

- Assessing whether there has been any progress made over time with regards to the country's integrity systems,
- Identifying specific changes (both positive and negative) which have occurred since the full NIS report was published in 2003,
- And identifying recommendations and advocacy priorities for improving the country's integrity systems.

An induction workshop hosted by TIPNG at the Lamana Hotel today, was the first step towards solidifying a partnership with government and statutory agencies. The event was attended by more than 10 representatives from different government agencies including European Union Ambassador Jernej Videtic, Department of Justice and Attorney General Secretary Dr Eric Kwa and TIPNG founding director, Richard Kassman.

Mr Kassman, during the event today highlighted the importance of strong collaboration between all stakeholders as critical towards achieving more effective and sustainable outcomes.

"TIPNG remains very optimistic about the possibility of a fully empowered PNG ICAC in the near future. It has been a recommendation which we, as an organization, have been advocating for the better part of the last 23 years," said Mr Kassman.

"However, we are also fully aware that an effective ICAC cannot function in isolation. Raising the integrity of governance in PNG has to be a collaborative effort. And our current joint efforts with other government agencies through the NISA and the PAIS Project as a whole, are targeted at mitigating this risk."

"The overall objective of the PAIS Project is to strengthen public trust in state agencies. The project will achieve this by ensuring that there are formal pathways for addressing corruption both internally, within themselves, as well as externally, through the ICAC, once it is brought fully online," He said.

With funding from the European Union, the entire project has been developed to include heavy consultation with agencies in areas of government including the; Legislature, Executive, Judiciary, Public Prosecutor, Law Enforcement Agencies, Electoral Management Agency, Ombudsman, Supreme Audit Agency, Anti-Corruption Agency, Political Parties, Media, Civil Society and businesses.

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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.