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PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

European Union Honors TIPNG as Human Rights Champions

Wednesday December 11 2019, Port Moresby - IN what is now its 23rd year of operations in PNG, Transparency International PNG (TIPNG) has been recognized by the European Union (EU) for service in the fight against corruption.

During the EU Human Rights Appreciation Award ceremony yesterday (December 9, 2019), EU Ambassador, His Excellency Jernej Videtič, congratulated recipients of the award and reemphasized the EU's commitment to protecting human rights, and building a global human rights culture.

TIPNG Executive Director, Arianne Kassman, who received the award on behalf of TIPNG, recalled some of the organization's recent successes, including the ongoing push for a PNG Independent Commission Against Corruption, the corruption complaints desk and the Schools Based Civic Education Project.

Ms Kassman also further highlighted the necessity for collective action to support sustainable change in PNG while also thanking TIPNG's members for their continued support.

"I want to add that although TIPNG receives this award tonight, I also stand here on behalf of the many Papua New Guineans who have continued to support our work as financial members. Without whom, our work in the fight against corruption and its impacts on the human rights of Papua New Guineans would not be possible," said Ms Kassman.

"To our allies in the fight against corruption; collective effort has always been the cornerstone for sustainable change. Although the challenges may seem overwhelming at times, our collective commitment to the cause has ensured that threats to our democracy do not go unchecked," she said.

Four other civil society organizations were also awarded for their contributions in championing the human rights of Papua New Guineans in their respective areas of focus, including; Child Fund, City Mission, Tribal Foundation and World Vision.

The EU Human Rights Appreciation Awards presented last night were part of the global celebration of International Human Rights Day, which is celebrated on December 10 every year.

The date was chosen to honour the United Nations General Assembly's adoption and proclamation, on 10 December 1948, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

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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.