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PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM TO BOOST SYNERGY BETWEEN MEDIA AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Monday, 3rd May 2021 Port Moresby - In its efforts to continue to support the role of the mainstream media, Transparency International PNG (TIPNG), through its Promoting Anti-corruption and Integrity Strategies (PAIS) project is now enhancing its engagement with the PNG media and Civil Society Organizations.

Over the course of the next ten months, TIPNG will be facilitating a series of engagements with mainstream media and civil society organizations. These engagements will include investigative journalism skills training for reporters, and number of collaborative engagements targeted at fostering a stronger link between media and civil society organizations, through resource sharing and best practice.

As the first of these formal engagements, TIPNG hosted a Media Event to commemorate World Press Freedom Day yesterday (May 3rd, 2021). With the theme for this year being “Information as a public good,” the event will also coincide with the official launch of TIPNG’s inaugural *2021 Investigative Journalism Awards*.

The goal of the *2021 Investigative Journalism Awards* is to encourage professional journalists to investigate, follow through and expose issues involving corruption and breakdown of governance processes.

“Investigative reporting, is an integral part of journalism and plays a crucial role in bringing corruption to light and fighting against impunity. This makes it absolutely vital to ensuring our government remains a true functioning democracy,” said Mr Aitsi.

“TIPNG is dedicated to supporting the PNG media, as a critical facet of our democracy. To further boost the impact of investigative journalism in PNG we are now rolling out this media engagement series to support capacity building, as well as the establishment of an active coalition on transparent and accountable governance, as well as reliable information networks to compliment the functions of newsrooms around the country,” he said.

The PAIS project is a TIPNG initiative which is funded by the European Union, under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights. The current media engagement program is one of several TIPNG initiatives targeted at supporting the evolution of an independent and empowered mainstream media sector in PNG.

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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.