



Transparency International PAPUA NEW GUINEA INC.

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

THE TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL PNG QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



**SCORECARD
SHOWS LAPSE IN
ACCOUNTABILITY**

PAGE 2



**OGP OPENS DIALOGUE ON
NAP 2**

PAGE 3



**ELECTION AWARENESS
NOW UNDERWAY**

PAGE 4



Participants of the 2021 Bougainville Active Civic Engagement program with their certificates after the official closing of the week-long workshop.

ACTIVE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM HERALDS HOPE FOR A UNITED AROB

The 2021 rollout of the TIPNG Active Civic Engagement (ACE) Program has now signalled a greater hope for unity across Bougainville, with the inclusion and participation of five youths from the Konnou “no-go zone” in South Bougainville.

The week-long program, which was facilitated by TIPNG, in partnership with the Bougainville Youth Federation, Bougainville Partnership and the Australian Government. Was targeted at teaching and reinforcing positive civic and leadership values, and equipping Bougainville youths with tools, skills and strategies for effective civic action and community engagement.

With the participation of over 47 youth representatives from all 13 districts of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (AROB), the inclusion of the five Konnou youth represented the first time that youth from within the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) sanctioned “red zone” had actively engaged with other Bougainville youth since the Bougainville Crisis.

The program also included exposure to formative examples and role models through a roster of inspiring

Bougainvilleans, including ABG Speaker Simon Pentau, ABG North Bougainville Women’s Representative Amanda Masono-Getsi, and renowned filmmaker and artist, Llana Munau, among others. Who took the time out to speak to the participants and share their experiences of governance and leadership.

“The need for civic participation and engagement in both our national and sub-national governance frameworks is just as critical as ever. Our ACE program is specifically designed to moderate the general over-reliance on the government to solve our issues at the community level. By promoting and encouraging greater personal responsibility and teaching young people how to effectively model and implement initiatives, using whatever resources are at their disposal,” TIPNG Chief Executive Officer Arianne Kassman.

“We are proud of our participants, and we hope that they can each take it one step further, by sharing what they have learned under this program with their peers and other individuals within their respective communities,” she said.



FROM THE HELM

Dear Members and Friends,

Welcome to another issue of our quarterly newsletter and certainly one in less auspicious and uncertain times. As the inevitable threat of COVID-19 and the Delta variant have continued to ravage our communities, the need for transparency and accountability in the face of our buckling public health system is now more critical than ever.

As population centres around the country have begun to contemplate plunging into further total lock down, it has become clear that more difficult decisions must be made in the coming weeks, to control the impact on our communities. While our team has continued to closely monitor the National COVID-19 Emergency Response effort, we have also initiated several pre-emptive measures over the course of this past quarter. In an effort to motivate a stronger collective commitment to integrity at both the national and sub-national level.

Despite the ongoing global pandemic, support for initiatives such as our Promoting Anti-corruption & Integrity Strategies (PAIS) project have shown a very encouraging upward trend towards the end of this quarter. As five key national agencies have now signed Memoranda of Understanding with our team, for the development of internal anti-corruption strategies. We also successfully executed our ACE Program in Bougainville, as well as the first in a series of planned provincial outreach deployments under our Anti-Corruption Help Desk and Building Elections Integrity through Partnership projects. We also launched our Accountability Scorecard this quarter. A document which has now prompted greater scrutiny of financial accountability in the PNG public sector, and uncovered a trend of negligence and the need for stronger legislation and enforcement.

While our TIPNG board and management have temporarily suspended all travel for our team due to the general increase in COVID-19 transmissions around the country, we are currently exploring alternatives for physical outreach in the likelihood that travel conditions do not improve. As with everything else, we remain optimistic, but continue to plan for contingencies as we go along.

Yours in partnership,
Arianne Kassman, CEO

SCORECARD SHOWS LAPSE IN ACCOUNTABILITY

As part of our ongoing drive to encourage greater standards of accountability and transparency across the PNG public sector, we launched a new advocacy tool in August, called the TIPNG “Accountability Scorecard.”

The Accountability Scorecard uses the last available report from the Auditor General’s Office to show which public bodies and statutory authorities have been accountable and diligent in submitting their annual financial reports over the years. Shockingly, the data revealed that only seven agencies demonstrated some level of accountability since 2016.

This trend reflects a serious breakdown in public finance management and represents a direct violation of the Public Finance (Management) (Amendment) Act 2016, Section 63 provision on Reports and Financial Statements. Which provides that all government bodies that are subject to allocations and appropriations under the national budget, are required to present annual finance statements and management reports to the Auditor General’s Office. Within four calendar months of after the close of government accounts (i.e., December 31) every year.

Analysis of the data revealed that the decline in reporting among government agencies coincided with an amendment to the former Public Finance (Management) Act 1995, which was passed in Parliament in 2016. This amendment repealed sections in the law, which prescribed penalties for agencies that failed to submit their annual financial reports. Further to the finding published in this Accountability Scorecard, we have also made a number of recommendations which are targeted at further ensuring accountability in the public sector:

- Members of Parliament must ensure Accountability in the management of public finances through robust parliamentary debate and ensuring the work of committees is effective.
- Parliament must keep a regular meeting calendar for Parliament sessions, to ensure all public finance reports are tabled in a timely manner.
- The Auditor General’s office must be provided adequate budgetary support to carry out its constitutional role.
- All executives of government departments, agencies, and SOE’s must be required to provide timely reports under the PFMAA 2016. Which must be tabled in Parliament and mandated to make these reports available online so the information is accessible to the people of PNG.

OGP OPENS DIALOGUE ON SECOND NAP

As we prepare to undertake the consultation and co-creation of Papua New Guinea's second Open Government Partnership (OGP) National Action Plan (NAP), TIPNG, as the national PNG OGP co-chair has now engaged in the successful hosting and facilitation of the OGP national conference.

As an initial stage of the co-creation process, the conference opened up the conversation to the general public and gave the PNG OGP an opportunity to update the public on the progress of the initial 77 milestones and seven core commitments defined under the NAP 2018-2021.

These seven commitments include; 1. Legislation on access to information, 2. Inter-agency communication and sharing of information, 3. Mechanism for storage of information - government open data portal, 4. Giving voice to informal economy participants in PNG, 5. Government is informed on citizens annual planning and budget process, 6. Provision of timely and accessible fiscal data, 7. Support and sustain the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) process.

While some commitments under the OGP NAP 2018-2021 were unable to be achieved during the last three-year cycle, the undertaking and implementation of the current NAP has yielded a number of significant legislative developments for the PNG governance space. Including the Freedom of Information Bill, the EITI Bill and the Digital Government Bill. All three of which have now been drafted and are currently pending presentation to the National Parliament for consideration.

The OGP National Conference from 9th - 10th September presented the opportunity for the general public to make their recommendations on what they believe should be governance priorities under the second NAP 2022-2025. This initiative was taken as a means of facilitating greater public participation in the co-creation process and was well received, as several government agencies, civil society organizations and smaller civic associations attended the event. All of whom were given the opportunity to engage in the discussions and to contribute their ideas on how to progress the PNG OGP initiative.

CSO'S EQUIPPED TO ENGAGE IN NAP 2



Members of our TIPNG Policy and Partnerships team with representatives of other civil society organizations after the CSO session.

In preparation for the National Open Government Partnership (OGP) National Action Plan (NAP) Co-creation workshop in September, we hosted a PNG OGP civil society organization (CSO) session this quarter, to enable greater and more informed participation by civil society stakeholders in the NAP 2 co-creation process.

The CSO session was facilitated with the intent of bringing civil society stakeholders up to speed on the implementation of the first OGP NAP 2018-2021, and to outline opportunities through which they may engage in the consultation, co-creation and implementation of the second OGP NAP 2022-2025.

As Civil Society co-chair to the PNG OGP, TIPNG is responsible for coordinating the participation of CSO's in the work of the PNG OGP and thus ensuring greater representation of PNG citizens in the development of priorities and approaches for the NAP 2.

In attendance was The Voice Inc, the Consultative Implementation & Monitoring Council, the Centre for Environmental Law and Community Rights, Equal Playing Field, Oxfam, the Institute of Engineers, the Port Moresby Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the International Monitoring for Elections Systems Foundation, the PNG Resource Governance Coalition and Bread for the World.

ELECTION AWARENESS NOW UNDERWAY

In an effort to prepare our communities to hit the polls again next year, we began our Provincial Civic/Voter awareness roll out in East New Britain (ENB) this September. While our primary focus was to get boots on the ground in the schools and communities to spread the word as part of the week-long outreach. We also rallied key stakeholders from government and key community institutions within ENB for a one-day information workshop.

The workshop was facilitated with the intention of sharing TIPNG's election awareness information to empower first-time voters on their rights & responsibilities and also emphasize the importance of voters in the 2022 National Elections making decisions for the good of the of the country. In addition to presentations by TIPNG, there were presentations by the East New Britain (ENB) Provincial Election Steering Committee Chair, the Ombudsman Commission NGI Regional Office and the PNG Electoral Commission East New Britain Provincial Office.

The lists of stakeholders who participated in the workshop included, Red Cross PNG, Callan Services, the Catholic Bishops Conference, the ENB Provincial Police Commander, the Baptist Church, the Seventh Day Adventist Mission Church, the Ombudsman Commission, Caritas PNG, Kokopo Business College, the University of Natural Resources & Environment - Vudal, Gaulim Teachers College, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Kabaleo Teachers College, the National Youth Development Association, the Electoral Commission, and the ENB Provincial Administration.

Through our Building Elections Integrity through Partnerships (BEIP) Project, TIPNG will be informing voters about their rights and responsibilities in the lead up to the 2022 National Election. The focus of TIPNG's BEIP Project is to work with partner organizations to ensure voters are able to make more informed choices in free, fair & safe elections for the good of our country.

The BEIP National Civic Awareness program aims to cover all 4 regions and 8 provinces (East New Britain, New Ireland, Eastern Highlands, Jiwaka, East Sepik, Morobe, Central and Milne Bay) and two districts per province.

However due to recent surge in covid 19 cases through the country, provincial outreach has been deferred until the health situation is deemed is safe to travel again.



The TIPNG BEIP outreach team with representatives from over 15 key stakeholder organizations in East New Britain. On the historical Queen Emma Forsayeth steps in Kokopo, during the stakeholder workshop component of our recent provincial outreach to East New Britain.



Market vendors reading one of our BEIP pullup banners at the Kerevat Town Market in the Gazelle District of East New Britain during the Community outreach component of our outreach.

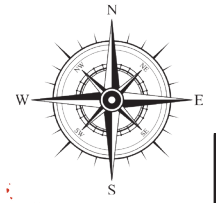
CONSULTATIONS ON FOI COMMENCE

To commemorate the International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI), we released a statement welcoming the announcement by the National Department of Information and Communication Technology, on the commencement of public consultations for the national Freedom of Information (FOI) Policy.

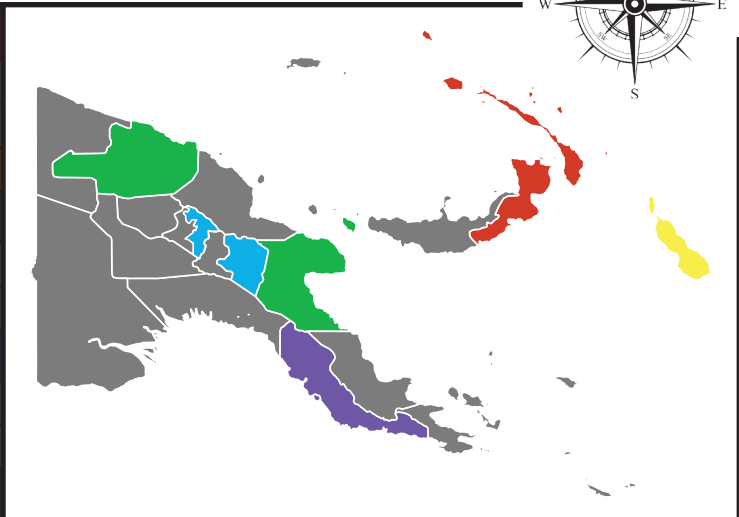
The draft policy is available on the department's website and is the first step toward developing a robust national Freedom of Information law. Which will activate the constitutional rights of all Papua New Guinea citizens, as enshrined in Section 51 of The Constitution.

While the formal ratification of the FOI law still requires political will, TIPNG is calling on our Parliamentarians to support the Freedom of Information Bill, as and when it is presented in Parliament. The adoption of the FOI policy and the hopeful passing of the national FOI law will represent massive strides toward the establishment of a robust freedom of information framework for PNG.

2021 PROVINCIAL OUTREACH



NEW GUINEA ISLANDS REGION
NEW IRELAND
EAST NEW BRITAIN
AUTONOMOUS REGION OF BOUGAINVILLE
MOMASE REGION
EAST SEPIK
MOROBE
HIGHLANDS REGION
JIWAKA
EASTERN HIGHLANDS
SOUTHERN REGION
MILNE BAY
CENTRAL
NATIONAL CAPITAL DISTRICT



(TOP LEFT) TIPNG Deputy Director-Communications Yvonne Ngutlick facilitating a session during our recent Active Civic Engagement Program in Bougainville.

(TOP RIGHT) TIPNG Deputy Director-Partnerships & Policy Yuambari Haihuie giving a presentation to election stakeholders in East New Britain, as part of our BEIP project rollout.

(BOTTOM) TIPNG Anti-Corruption Help Desk Program Coordinator Carolyn Murray taking a complaint during our anti-corruption clinic in Kokopo.



KOKOPO MOBILE CLINIC A SUCCESS

As part of our ongoing efforts to expand public accessibility to our Anti-corruption Help Desk (AnCoHD) facility, we have now rolled out our first in a series of provincial mobile AnCoHD clinics for 2021, starting in Kokopo, East Britain Province.

Held at the Kokopo Primary School in early August, our AnCoHD mobile clinic format is designed to provide an opportunity to victims and witnesses of corruption in the outlying provinces to report their complaints and receive advice on how to seek remedy through the appropriate channels.

Registering 20 complaints and a turnout of people from all

four districts in East New Britain, the one-day clinic gave us an encouraging demonstration of the appetite for anti-corruption and justice in East New Britain.

This supports the purpose of our AnCoHD, which is to create dialogue around issues of corruption and to provide information to affected persons and the general public on avenues through which they can seek remedies (both legal and otherwise) to either stop or prevent acts of corruption in their communities. As a community initiative, the AnCoHD aims to empower PNG citizens to take action against corruption, by providing them the necessary information and support through our referral networks. For more information, call our toll free number 180 6000.

FOUR MOUs SIGNED



National Judicial Staff Services Secretary, Jack Kariko (left) and TIPNG CEO Arienne Kassman presenting the signed copies of the MoU

With the official launch of our 2021 National Integrity System Assessment earlier this year, our efforts to bridge the integrity gap have gained significant traction over this past quarter. Four national government agencies including the National Economic and Fiscal Commission, the Constitutional and Law Reform Commission, the Interim Independent Commission Against Corruption National Judicial Staff Services and the Public Service Commission have now joined the initiative. Each signing an official memorandum of understanding with TIPNG.

With the MoUs signed sealed and delivered, we are now ready to undertake in the consultation and development of a customized integrity strategy to boost the integrity of each agency. Through the development of these integrity strategies, we aim of achieve a number of objectives including the improvement of the integrity of their internal systems and processes, supporting the achievement of their respective mandates and assisting them to better engage with the public.

While the four MoUs signed represent the first four agencies who have put their hand up to support the realization of greater integrity across the PNG public sector so far, we are anticipating a few more to join the initiative as well. With a handful of other agencies already having already expressed their interest to formalize a partnership with TIPNG, through out Promoting Anti-Corruption and Integrity Strategies.

The development of these integrity strategies has been made possible through the continued funding support from our friends and long-time partners at the European Union, as well as the technical expertise and support from our consultant partners at SquareCircle.

MEDIA EVENTS

As part of our ongoing efforts to boost the capacity of newsrooms around country and to build a stronger synergy between media and civil society, we have now initiated several media networking engagements this quarter in collaboration with the Media Council of PNG.

These media networking events, are targeted at establishing a relationship with individual media houses and giving reporters and editorial committees an update on our ongoing Media Engagement program, which was launched in May this year, and how they can engage with us and participate in the upcoming Investigative Journalism Workshops and our Investigative Journalism Awards.

PNG mainstream media are one of our key stakeholders in the PAIS project, and carry the critical mandate of informing PNG citizens on developments regarding our nation and our democracy. As such, our European Union-funded PAIS Project is targeted at supporting their function through the provision of supplementary training on investigative approaches to news reporting and incentivising the publication of more investigative reports in mainstream media.

To date, we have hosted six newsrooms including FM100, Wantok Niuspepa, The National, Post Courier, NBC and TV WAN/LOOP PNG.



(left-right) FM100 News Editor Joshua Arlo, TIPNG Chair Peter Aitsi, ABC PNG Correspondent and PNG Media Council Secretary Belinda Kora, NBC Chief News Chief of Staff and PNG Media Council Treasurer Gregory Moses and TIPNG Deputy Director Yvonne Ngutlick during our inagural media networking event.



(left-right) TIPNG Deputy Director Partnerships & Policy, YUambari Haihuie and Post Courier Chief Editor Matthew Vari during our networking event with the PC newsroom.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- TBA** **ON HOLD** **BEIP: PROVINCIAL OUTREACH**
- TBA** **ON HOLD** **ANCOHD: PROVINCIAL OUTREACH**
- TBA** **ON HOLD** **PAIS: 1ST INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM WORKSHOP**
- TBA** **ON HOLD** **PAIS: 2ND INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM WORKSHOP**
- DEC** **08** **COMMUNITY COALITION AGAINST CORRUPTION RELAUNCH**
- DEC** **09** **PAIS: MEDIA & CIVIL SOCIETY MEETING**
- DEC** **09** **INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY**

THANK YOU LOYAL MEMBERS!

We could not have come this far if it weren't for the concerned individuals, families, and organizations who continue to support our work every year. This year we registered a total of 147 financial members; including 135 individuals, 25 corporate organizations, 1 institution, 6 families, and 4 Civil Society Organizations.

The funds raised through membership go a long way in sustaining our operations. With the financial support we get from membership, we are able to carry our work and continue the mission to empowering Papua New Guineans to act against corruption.

We are grateful to you, our members; despite the challenges amid COVID-19, your continuous support gives us hope that corruption is stoppable. With an annual target of K146,998.26 set at the beginning of the year, we managed to raise K136,772.47 by the end of the 3rd quarter. We take this time to recognize and acknowledge the support of the following organizations that have been with us over the years and showed great financial support to our cause this year:

CORPORATES:

1. Johnston's Pharmacies Ltd
2. ExxonMobil PNG Limited
3. Oil Search Limited
4. PNG Ports Corporation Ltd
5. Credit Corporation (PNG) Ltd
6. NASFUND PNG
7. Kenmore Group of Companies
8. Total Waste management
9. Dentons PNG
10. Steamships Trading Company
11. Monian Ltd
12. Mineral Resource Authority
13. Newcrest Mining Ltd
14. Investment Promotion Authority
15. Hastings Deering (PNG) Ltd
16. South Pacific Brewery Ltd
17. Island Mobile Hire Cars
18. Constantinou Group of Companies
19. PNG Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
20. Melanesian Trustee Services Limited
21. Bank of Papua New Guinea
22. Airswift
23. Pascoe Promotions
24. Niunet PNG Limited
25. Tohouwa (PNG) Ltd

INSTITUTION:

26. Catholic Bishop Conference

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS:

27. Center for Environmental Law & Community Rights
28. Institute of National Affairs
29. Melanesian Inc.
30. Catholic Arch-Diocese of Mt. Hagen

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR 2021 SUPPORTERS:



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 PROGRAMS:

- Anti-Corruption Help Desk
- Policy and Advocacy
- Mike Manning Youth Democracy Camp
- School Based Civic Education Project
- Sir Anthony Siaguru Walk Against Corruption
- Promoting Anti-corruption & Integrity Strategies
- Building Elections Integrity through Partnership

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