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**PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## TIPNG Calls for Immediate Actions to be Taken in Readiness for 2027 Elections

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> August, 2022, Port Moresby** – In their preliminary findings drawn from their observation of the 2022 National General Elections (NGE), Transparency International PNG (TIPNG) has described the accumulated failures in the preparation, conduct, delivery and conclusion of the Elections as being a severely flawed process. The local civil society organization had 340 observers deployed during the polling period. TIPNG has released a Summary Paper outlining its initial assessment of the 2022 NGE drawing from these findings, TIPNG is calling for a genuine commitment from all stakeholders to undertake major reforms of our electoral process and systems to avoid similar problems in 2027.

“The PNG Electoral Commission and the Government must not be complacent, the numerous problems experienced during 2022 should be a wake-up call for our nation’s leaders and administrators to take action. In launching its Summary Paper on the 2022 National General Elections TIPNG highlights provides detailed recommendations for consideration in improving the electoral process. This will require a structured intervention to restore public trust and demonstrate greater levels of competency,” said Peter Aitsi, TIPNG Board Chair in a media statement.

“There is a five-year electoral planning cycle and that must be properly supported on an annual basis. The issues of 2022 will not be resolved through quick fixes, which run the risk of further depleting limited public funding for this essential democratic process. In undertaking post-election analysis, all stakeholders should focus on structured long-term interventions that will promote transparency and integrity in PNG’s National Elections,” said Mr. Aitsi.

Key issues TIPNG identified during the 2022 National General Election were; frequent instances of roll inaccuracy, lack of enforcement against election offences, non-compliance with Constitutional requirements, disturbances in the conduct of the ballot counting, confusion on the declaration of seats; and widespread election-related violence. These issues will be further discussed in the full TIPNG 2022 Election Observation Report to be launched in November 2022.

In its preliminary assessment, TIPNG recommended interventions includes;

- developing a 5-year PNG Electoral Commission (PNGEC) communications plan to empower voters and electoral partners,
- prosecution of electoral officials that were alleged to have engaged in corruption during the 2022 NGE and
- developing a public complaints process and an internal anti-corruption strategy within the PNGEC prior to the 2027 NGE.

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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.