

2ND NATIONAL INTEGRITY SUMMIT

2022



APEC Haus
Port Moresby, NCD



17th - 18th Nov, 2022
From 8am to 3pm

THEME: "BRIDGE THE **INTEGRITY GAP.**"



OUTCOME DOCUMENT



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TIPNG Partnership with European Union



His Excellency Jacques Fradin, Head of EU Delegation to Papua New Guinea with Mr. Peter Aitsi, Chair of TIPNG

Transparency International PNG Inc. (TIPNG) is the national chapter of the global transparency movement and is PNG's leading anti-corruption civil society organization with a mission to empower people in PNG to take action against corruption.

TIPNG with support from the European Union, through the EU Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, is delivering the Promoting Anti-Corruption and Integrity Strategies (PAIS) Project. The aim of the PAIS project is threefold; firstly, to assess levels of national integrity, secondly, to work with agencies to develop anti-corruption strategies and lastly to promote these strategies (and other best practices) with the media and wider civil society.

Intent of Integrity Summit

In the 2021 National Integrity System Assessment (NISA) Report for PNG, a key finding was that while the integrity laws in Papua New Guinea are adequate, practice amongst the integrity pillars was inadequate. There is a need to Bridge the Integrity Gap to strengthen national integrity. The 2nd National Integrity Summit was the final major event under the EU funded PAIS Project and provided an avenue to promote the anti-corruption strategies developed by TIPNG and partner agencies, through the PAIS project. The overall goal for this Summit was to demonstrate how agencies within integrity pillars can take action to bridge the integrity gap.

Using the Outcome Document

This outcome document is intended to inform stakeholders from government, civil society and donors on the proceedings of the 2nd National Integrity Summit. In particular this document will consolidate points of discussion from the Summit that would aid in designing interventions to strengthen PNG's national integrity system. It should be noted that this effort is meant to complement the recommendations in the 2021 NISA which focus on interventions within each of the 14 pillars of national integrity.

Overview of the 2nd National Integrity Summit

In consolidating the discourse from the two days of the Summit, the interventions were clustered in alignment with the PAIS Projects objectives:

- Analysis of existing levels of integrity
- Creation of best practices at the agency-level
- Empowering media, civil society and the ICAC to address corruption

The 2nd National Integrity Summit was held from Thursday 17th – Friday 18th November 2022 at APEC Haus in Port Moresby, NCD. In total there were 112 physical attendees with 50 of online attendees from 25 institutions and agencies across both days of the Summit.

The Summit theme was “Bridge the Integrity Gap” with structured panel discussions and presentations on that objective. In addition to the keynote speakers, there were 5 panel sessions across the two days with 16 panelists in total speaking on areas of national integrity.

On the evening of Day 2 of the Summit, a cocktail reception was held to recognize the winners of the Investigative Journalism Awards and the Integrity Initiatives of Excellence awards, respectively.



Hon. Ambeng Kandakasi, Acting Chief Justice of Papua New Guinea



Mrs. Ruth Kissam-Tindiwi speaking to participants after the panel on Independent from Scrutiny: What expectations of accountability should the public have of Constitutional Offices?



Mr. David Toua, participant asking a question to a panel at the Summit



Ms. Stephannie Kirriwom (CELCOR), Ms. Mavis Tito (Caritas PNG) and Ms. Arienne Kassman (TIPNG)

Overview of the 2nd National Integrity Summit

Analysis of Existing levels of Integrity

NATIONAL INTEGRITY

Legislature

Executive

Judiciary

Public Sector

Law Enforcement

Electoral Management Body

Ombudsman

Procurement

State Audit Institutions

Anti-Corruption Agencies

Political Parties

Media

Civil Society

Private Sector

Foundations

Politics – Society – Economy - Culture

In assessing the levels of integrity in Papua New Guinea, several viewpoints were expressed during the Summit. Mrs. Dorothy Mimiko-Kesenga, Deputy Secretary of the Constitutional and Law Reform Commission expressed that the people have to be as good as the process itself to make it work, continuing that Integrity naturally demands respect and trust, and these are traits that were fast becoming a rare commodity. In the same vein, Acting Chief Justice Ambeng Kandakasi in his Keynote Address was of the view that "We have the best system of law, but following the law is the problem- unfortunately the people behind the system, is the problem." Due to this existing integrity deficiencies, Executive Director of American Chamber of Commerce Coral Sea, Mr. Mauterua Tamarua identified that this impacted PNG's international reputation, and our ability to attract investment into the country, that in turn affects development and a better standard of living for our citizens.

However, a point of distinction was made by Secretary of Judicial Services Commission Mr. Jack Kariko who expressed that effort is being made to do more, such as share information with the public even with barriers of confidentiality through the department's website or reporting.

The integrity of the Judiciary and the high standard of this arm is upheld by meeting the expectations of society halfway as confidentiality barriers prevent full access to information. Mr. Anthony Regan also shared that in his experience, that the PNG National Constitution is recognized globally for its comprehensiveness and protection of citizen's rights, as such the laws are not the issues it is the implementation of the law that is the issue.

These reflections on the adequacy of PNG's National Integrity System were also discussed in the 2021 NISA. The Assessment, when evaluating the Executive Pillar notes that the government does not engage in sufficient efforts to establish an independent civil service and to establish a culture of integrity in public administration. Moreover the 2021 NISA, identifies issues relating to the Executive, specifically, stating that the Executive branch is overstepping its role by progressively disregarding and undermining of democratic norms of Parliamentary procedure. The discussion across both days of the Summit speaks to TIPNG's assessment that there is a palpable "Integrity Gap" between PNG's existing laws and the practices that occur within integrity institutions.

Creation of best practices at the agency-level



Panel discussion on Private Sector & Public Money: To what extent does Corporate Governance strengthen public sector integrity in PNG?

While there were many concerns expressed during the Summit on inadequacies of PNG's National Integrity System, there was also sharing of best practice to bridge the integrity gap. Mr. Sidney Waingut Executive Manager Strategy & Program Kumul Consolidated Holdings stated in the panel on Private Sector & Public Money, that in State-Owned-Enterprises (SOE) there are currently - several initiatives that are undertaken to improve governance standards. These reforms include, the training of women directors, assessing the performance of SOE boards, refinements to their procurement policies and their up to date audit reports being made available online. These reforms were saluted by Economist Anthony Yaueib in the same panel, airing that, There is still much work to be done, but this is a movement in the right direction, in particular the enactment of the Whist-blower Act.

In day 2, the Roundtable Discussion which had 5 agencies heads speak in turn about how they had collaborated with TIPNG to develop internal anti-corruption strategies. Lessons learned from the roundtable included CLRC Deputy Secretary Mimiko-Kesenga's insight that the biggest challenge for the Constitutional & Law Reform Commission was setting a standard to improve

the level of integrity of leaders entering the government. Secretary Kesenga sentiment was echoed, by the Chairman of the Interim ICAC Office, Mr. Thomas Eluh who reiterated that everything rises and falls on leadership. Mr. Patrick Painap, Chairman and CEO of the National Economic and Fiscal Commission (NEFC), also pointed to the publication in newspapers of public funds allocated as an outcome of the NEFC's anti-corruption and integrity strategy.

A key commonality shared by all the agencies represented on the panel was it was vital that changes be made to the current system and the practices to Bridge the Integrity Gap. In addition to the development of the agency-level anti-corruption strategies, specific areas shared by panelists during the Summit that were shared included ethical leadership, workplace culture and technology. When discussing best practices, panelists identified that this would require more specialized funding and better coordination through mechanisms such as the National Anti-Corruption Strategy Taskforce (NACSTF). Majority of speakers in their remarks also indicated that it would be important to continue events like the Summit to continue, as a point of focus.



A participant from the National Research Institute asking a question at the Summit



Mr. Julian Whaymann (EU PNG Partnership) and Dr. Philip Mitna (Royal PNG Constabulary)

Empowering media, civil society and the ICAC to address corruption

In addition to empowering state agencies, a key point of discussion was how the media and the civil society could also strengthen national integrity. On Day 2, Mrs. Ruth Kissam-Tindiwi made the observation that CSO's are helping the government carry out policies and strategies and as such CSO's need to be aided "help us we help you "and this was reiterated by other speakers such as Mr. Wilson Onea of the FASU who stated that there needs to be good relationships between the CSO's and the government because CSO's stand for a cause in aligning government institutions with these respective causes it allows these institutions to stay on a straight path as well, he further referenced TIPNG as one of these CSO's.

In empowering the Media, Mrs. Ruth Kissam-Tindiwi shared her view that the media is an important component in bridging the integrity gap, the Media engages with the public and shares information with the public to bring about change that needs to be made so the systems work. Richard Whitchurch, Deputy Clerk of Parliament, echoed his sentiments saying it was important



Panel discussion on The Case Against Corruption: How can PNG's Law & Justice Sector do more to deter the corrupt?

to be proactive in sharing information, and pointed to the efforts of the National Parliament in sharing information online and on social media.

These statements further bolster the 2021 NISA, which found that the lack of transparency and accountability among political institutions and leaders are the primary challenge of PNG's NIS. This is due in large part to state-society relations being weak and the government not depending on citizens in a meaningful way. Related to this, Parliament is relatively weak in relation to the Executive and the Constitutional separation of powers is not respected.

The efforts to strengthen PNG's National Integrity System must, therefore, focus in the coming years on bridging the gap between strong legislation and weak implementation by engaging citizens in governance. This will create favorable conditions for greater transparency and accountability of the system's main institutions and their effective operation.



Panel discussion on We the People: The Future of Elections & Integrity Reform

Actions to Bridge the Integrity Gap

Drawing from the consolidated points from the 2nd National Integrity Summit, the following key actions that the State & State Agencies, Development Partners and the Civil Society & Media should consider will Bridge the Integrity Gap and strengthen the national integrity system in Papua New Guinea.

State & State Agencies

- Regular meetings of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy Taskforce are required to provide high-level continuity and alignment of actions
- Agencies must be supported and motivated by the State to develop agency-level anti-corruption and integrity strategies to create links between their mandate and the ICAC proper

Development Partners

- Development support on Anti-Corruption should align with the existing National Anti-Corruption Strategy so as to reinforce and sustain interventions
- The National Integrity System Assessment identifies specific actions across the integrity pillars and key linkages that need to be supported to address corruption

Civil Society & Media

- There is a need to continue National Integrity Summits, so as to consolidate best practice and to promote innovation in integrity
- National Integrity Summits can be more focused with reference to the 14 Pillars of Integrity outlined in the National Integrity System Assessment
- Journalists require specialized training for investigative journalism and sustained access to resources



Roundtable Discussion on the Anti-Corruption & Integrity Strategies with the five (5) MoU Partners: Mr. Jack Kariko, Secretary, National Judicial Staff Services, Mr. Partrick Painap CEO & Chairman National Economic Fiscal Commission, Ms. Dorothy Kesenga-Miminko Deputy Secretary Constitutional Law Reform Commission, Mr. Terence Tupi, Secretary Public Service Commission and TIPNG Moderator Mr. Yuambari Haihuie