

Transparency International **PAPUA NEW GUINEA INC.**

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

THE TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL PNG QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



A CALL FOR NATIONAL EFFORT TO COMBAT CORRUPTION AND SUPPORT FOR ICAC

The enactment of the Organic Law on the Independent Commission Against Corruption (OLICAC) was one of our long-standing campaigns. The OLICAC which provides the constitutional basis for the ICAC was enacted by Parliament in 2019. The appointment of Andrew Forbes as the ICAC Commissioner, and Daniel Baulch and Graham Gill as Deputy Commissioners is in line with the OLICAC.

As we did for 23 years lobbying for the OLICAC, we continue to call for all sectors of society to rally their support in a national effort to combat corruption. The commencement of the terms of the PNG ICAC Commissioners should be rightfully celebrated as an achievement of the country in taking a positive step forward in combating the scourge of corruption.

TIPNG's puts out the following calls now that the Commissioners have taken office:

 The Government must ensure adequate funding is provided to the ICAC in the preparation of the forthcoming national budget.

- The ICAC under its constitutional mandate must remain free from influence and interference from political or special interest groups.
- Additionally, the ICAC's mandate must be strengthened through active partnership with existing law enforcement agencies.
- The public to clearly understand their role in reporting corruption to ICAC.

Since TIPNG's establishment in 1997, we have continued to advocate with successive governments for the need for an independent constitutional office to promote national integrity and address corruption. This advocacy has included support for the Government to ratify the United Nations Convention Against Corruption in 2010, and to develop a National Anti-Corruption Strategy which provides an implementation framework for ICAC and other anti-corruption measures.



Dear Members and Friends,

Thank you for taking time to read our third quarter newsletter.

From the pages you will see the work we were engaged in during the quarter. A major activity being the International Day for Universal Access to Information roundtable. We partnered with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), through its PNG Anti-Corruption Program to co-host a roundtable discussion with key actors to commit to a way forward for the development of a Right to Information Policy & Legislation for Papua New Guinea. An outcome statement was released last month to pave the way forward for Papua New Guinea, in developing a Freedom of Information #FOI policy and legislation giving effect to Section 51 of our national Constitution.

As you'll read, we continued to engage with our partners to share our work and expertise. We were also excited to undertaking a new project that will strengthen and further our efforts in building integrity in our national elections.

We acknowledge our corporate members and partner who hosted us to run a lunch & Learn with their staff – thank you NCSL, OilMin Field Services, and the PNG Women's Business Resource Center.

I want to thank the 22 corporate organisations, 2 Institutions, 3 Civil Society Organizations and 8 families and 92 individuals who financially supported our work financially this year through membership. Your contributions do not go unnoticed, you give us the mandate to respond quickly to national governance issues.

Membership for 2024 is now open and I hope you will sign up or renew and be part of our mission to empower people in PNG to take action against corruption.

I am also pleased to announce the new SME Category for membership. It is our hope that Papua New Guineas get behind our cause for the greater good.

Yours in Partnership.

Arianne Kassman, CEO

TIPNG WELCOMES COMMENCEMENT OF ICAC COMMISSIONERS AND CALLS FOR PUBLIC SUPPORT

The appointment of Commissioners for Papua New Guinea's Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) should encourage all sectors of society to rally their support in a national effort to combat corruption. This was the statement issued by Transparency International Papua New Guinea (TIPNG) following the swearing in by the Governor General of the three (3) Commissioners on 4th July 2023.

The Organic Law on the ICAC (OLICAC) which provides the constitutional basis for the ICAC was enacted by Parliament in 2019. The appointment of Andrews Forbes as the ICAC Commissioner, and Daniel Baulch and Graham Gill as Deputy Commissioners is in line with the OLICAC.

"The commencement of the terms of the PNG ICAC Commissioners should be rightfully celebrated as an achievement of the country in taking a positive step forward in combating the scourge of corruption," said Peter Aitsi, TIPNG Board Chair.

"Now the Commissioners have taken office, the Government must ensure adequate funding is provided to the ICAC in the preparation of the forthcoming national budget. The ICAC under its constitutional mandate must remain free from influence and interference from political or special interest groups. Additionally, its mandate must be strengthened through active partnership with existing law enforcement agencies and for the public to clearly understand their role in reporting corruption to ICAC," said Mr. Aitsi.

Since its establishment in 1997, TIPNG has continued to advocate with successive governments for the need for an independent constitutional office to promote national integrity and address corruption. This advocacy has included support for the Government to ratify the United Nations Convention Against Corruption in 2010, and to develop a National Anti-Corruption Strategy which provides an implementation framework for ICAC and other anti-corruption measures.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S VOICES MATTER IN THE FIGHT **AGAINST CORRUPTION**



TIPNG's 2022-2023 Legal Intern, TIPNG Board Director and TIPNG Civic Engagement Lead in a group photo with Youths from the Pacific during the meeting in Suva, Fiji.

International Youth Day provides a platform to acknowledge and honor the inherent qualities of young people. Young people are innovative, idealistic, and adaptable than older generations.

Now, more than ever young people in Papua New Guinea are more conscious of corruption because they experience it first-hand through the lack of basic services, the lack of economic development which hursts their job prospects and opportunities.

International Youth Day falls on August 12 and at TIPNG, we recognized the day by celebrating the efforts that young people put into rejecting corruption in their daily lives and helping to build integrity in our societies. Young people are well-positioned to address corruption with the advancement of technology and sharing ideas through networking and mobilizing action.



A discussion between TIPNG's Civic Engagement Lead with Youths around the Pacific

TI PACIFIC CHAPTERS HOST INAUGURAL YOUTH **MEETING**

On the 10th and 11th of August 2023, young people from TI chapters in Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and Fiji, along with youth from the Federated States of Micronesia and Kiribati came together in Suva, Fiji for the 1st TI Pacific youth gathering. The event enabled the country representatives to exchange their experiences in empowering young people in advocating against corruption.

The young people applauded the Pacific leaders for prioritizing anti-corruption, as evidenced by various

reform efforts at both national and regional levels and called for more commitment of adequate funding to be allocated to implement these reforms.

A common sentiment shared by all participants at the event was the appeal for governments to deliberately engage young people in shaping and monitoring progress on anti-corruption at all levels. Participants believe that the current leaders should lead by example in instilling a culture of integrity in the next generation of Pacific leaders.



NEW PROJECT TO STRENGTHEN ELECTORAL REFORM AND INTEGRITY

In August we embarked on a new project to support positive change across key governance policy issues in Papua New Guinea, in particular electoral reform.

Over the next 12 months, we will be expanding our work in building strategies to improve the conduct of National Elections in Papua New Guinea, focusing on promoting transparency and integrity throughout the entirety of the 5-year electoral cycle.

The overarching objective of the Voices for Elections Reform Integrity (VERI) project is to support greater engagement between civil society, as a voice for the people of Papua New Guinea, and the Government of Papua New Guinea to support positive changes in key areas of governance policy.

There are two broad strands through which the project will aim to achieve the objective:

Strand 1: Electoral reform – Electoral reform is among the most important governance challenges facing Papua New Guinea today and has a knock-on effect across a range of other governance issues. The immediate-term

objective of this strand of the project is to empower people in Papua New Guinea to engage in the process of electoral reform and preparation to increase the integrity of those processes. The long-term objective of this strand of the project is to reduce the likelihood of the processes of electoral reform and preparation being corrupted and thereby support better-quality democratic electoral conduct in PNG.

Strand 2: Responsive and opportunistic "policy influencing" activities – This strand will enable TIPNG to respond to potential policy influencing opportunities that might arise across the life of the project. Governance issues are fundamentally challenging issues on which to make progress, and the process by which change happens is often complex and cannot always be anticipated in advance.

The VERI Project is supported by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade (DFAT) through the Building Community Engagement in Papua New Guinea Program (BCEP).

TIPNG'S ADVOCACY ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Freedom of Information (FOI) laws make it easier for the public to scrutinize government activities and hold public officials to account. When public authorities are required to disclose information, it becomes more difficult for them to engage in corrupt practices without being detected. In PNG, we are fortunate that citizens right to access information is guaranteed in our constitution:

- Section 51 (1) of the National Constitution says that "Every citizen has the right of reasonable access to official documents, subject only to the need for such secrecy as is reasonably justifiable in a democratic society..."
- Further on in the Constitution under Section 51(3) it says that "Provision shall be made by law to establish procedures by which citizens may obtain ready access to official information."

In 2019, TIPNG conducted a survey of 24 Government agencies to assess their ability to provide public information both online and over the counter. One of the findings was that over 90% of State agencies surveyed were unable to give public documents when requested over the counter; however, those same documents were already available online for 54% of requests.

It is clear that in the absence of a law, a culture of secrecy has developed in the public administration of PNG and that needs to be challenged. This is why TIPNG also strongly believes that an effective FOI law should create a new independent constitutional office, an information commission (as has been done in India and Australia) to protect this important citizens' right and change our default culture of secrecy.

At TIPNG, we are supporting the Department of Information, Communication and Technology (DICT) through the PNG Open Government Partnership Freedom of Information Cluster, to ensure the development of an effective FOI Policy and Law for the people of PNG. Our position is that any FOI law or policy must be in line with the Constitution. An effective FOI law will do two things;

- 1. It should compel the government to proactively release information without citizens needing to ask;
- 2.It should not introduce unnecessary barriers when citizens do request information, such as excessive fees or justification for why information is requested.

There is already work being done to make government information public such as the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (PNG EITI) and Digital Government Act 2023, and they would be better supported through an FOI Law. TIPNG had supported Government previously to develop a draft FOI bill in the early 2000's but that was not able to go through Parliament. Freedom of Information is closely linked with freedom of Expression, as it empowers citizens and journalists to collect and disseminate information.



RIGHT TO INFORMATION IN PNG ROUNDTABLE 2023 – WAY FORWARD

International Day for Universal Access to Information - Thursday 28th September 2023 Theme: "The importance of the online space for Access to Information."



Overview

The Right to Information (RTI) can be defined as the right of all persons to access information held by public bodies. It is also referred to as "the right to know " "Freedom of Information" or "Access to Information." Right to Information reflects the principle that all information - except some justified examples such as privacy, national security, or harm to the public interest held by governments and other public institutions is public information and should be available to the public.

Equal and Universal Access to Information is essential to promote human rights and dignity, eradicate poverty, and build inclusive knowledge societies. The International Day for Universal Access to Information aims at spreading awareness concerning the need to expand laws related to information and their actual implementation. The expansion of these laws helps in building inclusive institutions to access the world.

To date, 129 countries have access to information laws (or freedom of information laws) and over 50 constitutions worldwide recognize this as a right, along with much jurisprudence confirming it. Papua New Guineans are guaranteed "reasonable access to official documents" under Section 51 of the National Constitution, which also calls for provision to "be made by law to establish procedures by which citizens may obtain ready access to official information.

This constitutional right to Freedom of Information, is also supported by international, regional, and domestic commitments made by the Government of PNG to enact a Right to Information (RTI) Law, most notably through the Open Government Partnership (OGP) process.

Context in Papua New Guinea

In terms of existing global commitments by Papua New Guinea, Article 19 of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights specifically links the right to seek, receive and impart information to the right to freedom of expression. In fact, in its very first session in 1946, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 59 (I), which states: "Freedom of information is a fundamental human right and ... the touchstone of all the freedoms to which the United Nations is consecrated."

More recently, and closer to home, Papua New Guinea was amongst the first in Asia, and the first in the Pacific to ratify the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) in May 2007. UNCACs Articles 5, 6,

7, 9, 10, and 13 define the obligations of State parties to observe and give effect to the Right to Information within the governance-related framework. This includes the proactive disclosure of information, anti-corruption policies and practices, elections, funding of political parties, public procurement, and management of public

The international commitment to UNCAC was localized in Papua New Guinea through the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (2010-2030) and its corresponding 5-year implementation plans, with the current being the 2020-2025 National Anti-Corruption Plan of Action (NACPA). Enacting a Freedom of Information Act is one of the commitments under the current NACPA, under the Power of Work 1 - Legislative and Policy Framework.

In addition to these existing international & domestic obligations, the Government of Papua New Guinea through the Open Government Partnership (OGP) process, has also committed to enacting RTI legislation, in line with Section 51 of the Constitution. The OGP is a mechanism for government and civil society to co-create an agenda for reform to increase civic engagement in government processes to support development aspirations. Since commencing engagement with OGP in 2014, and following the first PNG OGP National Action Plan in 2018, the government has had a cluster of commitments to deliver an effective Freedom of Information legal and policy framework for Papua New

Despite these substantial ongoing international and local commitments, the Right to Information law in PNG is still to be enacted. In 2019, Transparency International PNG (TIPNG) conducted a survey of 24 Government agencies to assess their ability to Figure 1 Participants 2023 International Day for Universal Access to Information Roundtable provide public information both online and over the counter. One of the findings was that over 90 % of State agencies surveyed were unable to give public documents when requested over the counter; however, those same documents were already available online for 54% of requests. This points to a culture of secrecy that has developed in Papua New Guinea over 48 years since Independence due to the absence of right to information legislation.

The Digital Transformation agenda has given new impetus to the discussion on Freedom of Information. through processes such as automated proactive disclosure, artificial intelligence, machine learning and social media, there have never been more avenues to produce, store and disseminate information to the

Roundtable Discussion

It was with PNG's context in mind that to mark International Day for Universal Access to Information, TIPNG, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), through its EU-funded PNG Anti-Corruption Program, co-hosted a roundtable discussion to bring together key stakeholders to commit to a way forward for the development of a Right to Information Policy & Legislation for Papua New Guinea. The roundtable discussion was convened on Tuesday. 26th September 2023, at the Gateway Hotel, Port Moresby, with the following organizations participating in the dialogue:

- United Nations Development Program
- Department of Information and Communication Technology
- PNG Open Government Partnership National
- Transparency International Papua New Guinea
- Media Council of Papua New Guinea

Commitments to Way Forward

The roundtable speakers shared their views on the status of accessing public information and also identified how to overcome challenges that may impact the development of the RTI Policy and Law. The following commitments were made during the roundtable discussion:

- Department of Information and Communication Technology will commence public regional consultation on the draft National RTI Policy in October 2023 with the support of UNDP.
- Once the consultation is completed and feedback is incorporated, the Department of ICT aims to finalise the policy for cabinet endorsement in Quarter 4 of 2023.
- Following the development of the Policy, the Government is committed to commence drafting of RTI Legislation for Papua New Guinea in Quarter 1 of 2024.

To ensure follow through with these commitments expressed during the roundtable, it was also discussed that International Day for Universal Access to Information in 2024 will be used as an opportunity to provide an update on these commitments.











.EARNS-SHARING O

At TIPNG, our work is underpinned by two principles: Transparency and Integrity. While we engage more closely with civil society partners, young people, professional groups, marginalized groups and our financial members, we want to ensure that voices for the common good are heard and that our communities are well aware of our

work so that they continue to support us and give more voice to anti-corruption.

In the third quarter, we were grateful to engage with our communities in the business and SME sector when we facilitated lunch & learn information sessions with them.

PNG WOMEN'S BUSINESS RESOURCE CENTER

On 19 July, we were invited to facilitate an information session on our work with members of the PNG Women's Business Resource Center (PNGWBRC).

The PNGWBRC was formed in 2016 and assists women in establishing and strengthening their businesses. The PNGWBRC is an entrepreneurial information and resource hub established to encourage an inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystem that allows women of all backgrounds in PNG to access vital resources for economic empowerment.

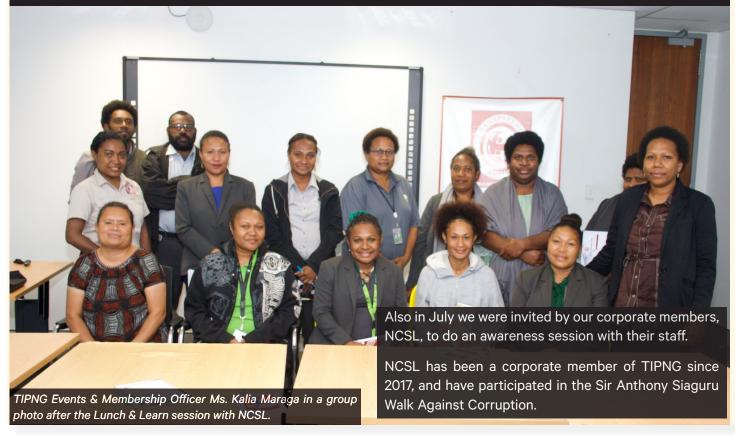
We carried out a lunch & learn session with PNGWBRC's members on the scope of our work and our recent campaigns in electoral reform.

TIPNG is a partner of PNGWBRC having signed an



MoU with the Center of International Private Enterprise (CIPE) in the first quarter of 2023, allowing us to share information and expertise to realize our shared values.

NASFUND CONTRIBUTORS SAVINGS & LOANS SOCIETY (NCSL)



WORK WITH OUR COMMUNITIES

OILMIN HOLDINGS LTD

OM Holdings Limited's core expertise lies in providing skilled and unskilled manpower and expert supervision for onshore seismic acquisition surveys, construction of remote camps, management and catering services, civil construction projects, and remote logistics services.

OM Holdings Ltd joined TIPNG as a corporate member in 2022 and has been an engaged member. In this quarter, Oilmin organized a lunch & learn session for its staff members, particularly key personnel in finance and logistics. TIPNG facilitated an interactive information session on understanding corruption and common acts of corruption, transparency, and our anti-corruption help desk, a community service TIPNG offers for people to seek free legal assistance if they encounter corruption.



TIPNG Deputy Director Communications Ms. Yvonne Ngutlick during her presentation to the OilMin staff.

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TIPNG Events & Membership Officer Ms. Kalia Maraga in discussion with NCSL staff members after the L&L session.



TIPNG Deputy Director Communications Ms. Yvonne Ngutlick listening to corruption encounters from OilMin staff member in their line of duty.



TIPNG Digital Communications Officer Mr. Semie Mansu asking members of the PNGWBRC to raise both hands if they have been affected by corruption.



TIPNG Events & Membership Officer Ms. Kalia Maraga presenting to the NCSL staff members about our work, impacts of corruption and how individuals can support the work of TIPNG.

FAMILY: BODGER LOLOWA FAMILY

WHY DID YOU BECOME A MEMBER OF TIPNG?

We registered as a family with the hope that through this experience, we would be able to mentor our two teenagers, who are the future of our beautiful country.

WHAT TIPNG ACTIVITIES HAVE YOU PARTICIPATED IN/VOLUNTEERED FOR?

In 2008, we participated in the annual Sir Anthony Siaguru Walk Against Corruption (SASWAC). Then in 2009, Natasha was a volunteer planner for the Walk Against Corruption. We organized volunteers to mann water stations, along the route and with the help of our families, we also got volunteers from the PNG Power Public Servants team and their families to participate in the 2009 SASWAC.

Our teenage son and daughter have always been part of the TIPNG activities. They are very aware of the effects of corruption in our country. It is our hope that through this affiliation into the TIPNG family, we will continue to instill the good values in them, and see this investment as a way forward for a better Papua New Guinea.

WHY IS STOPPING CORRUPTION IN PNG **IMPORTANT TO YOU?**

We want to see our children grow up in a safe, free and prosperous Papua New Guinea.

WHO SHOULD BE A MEMBER OF TIPNG?

We encourage everyone to be a member of TIPNG and learn more and support the good work they do in the community.



Volunteers manning the water station during the 2009 Sir Anthony Siaguru Walk Against Corruption.



CORPORATE: OILMIN HOLDINGS LTD



WHAT IS THE NATURE OF YOUR **BUSINESS?**

Oilmin Field Services specializes in delivering comprehensive camp management, camp catering, and camp construction services. We are a prominent provider of these essential support services to various industries, including the oil and gas sector, in Papua New Guinea (PNG). Our commitment to operational excellence and sustainable practices underscores our role in ensuring efficient and reliable support for remote operations.

WHAT TIPNG ACTIVITIES HAVE YOU **PARTICIPATED IN?**

Oilmin joined TIPNG in 2022 and renewed its support in 2023. Recently, Oilmin invited TIPNG to run an information session with its staff about the work of TIPNG.

WHY IS STOPPING CORRUPTION IN PNG **IMPORTANT TO YOUR ORGANIZATION?**

As a PNG company operating in country for the past 31 years, the fight against corruption in PNG holds immense significance for Oilmin Field Services. Several reasons emphasize our commitment to this cause:

• Sustainable Development - Corruption distorts fair competition and undermines transparent business practices. As a responsible corporate entity, we recognize that sustainable development is only achievable in an environment where corruption is minimized. Our commitment to social and economic progress aligns with the need to create a level playing field that benefits both our organization and the broader society.

- Ethical Standards Upholding ethical standards is integral to our organizational culture. We believe in conducting business with honesty, integrity, and accountability. Corruption erodes these principles and damages the reputation of our industry. By actively participating in anti-corruption initiatives, we demonstrate our dedication to preserving the highest ethical standards within our operations.
- Investor Confidence Transparency and a corruption-free environment are vital for attracting investments, fostering partnerships, and maintaining the confidence of stakeholders. Oilmin Field Services recognizes that an environment marred by corruption can deter potential investors or clients and hinder growth. By supporting anti-corruption efforts, we contribute to a more favourable investment climate that benefits our organization and the PNG economy as a whole.
- Long-Term Viability A corrupt environment poses risks to long-term business viability. It can lead to volatile market conditions, regulatory uncertainties, and operational disruptions. Oilmin Field Services is committed to ensuring our operations remain sustainable over the long term. By actively participating in anti-corruption activities, we mitigate risks and enhance our operational stability.

Oilmin Field Services is dedicated to the fight against corruption in PNG. We believe that through collaboration with organizations like TIPNG and our unwavering commitment to ethical business practices, we can contribute to building a business landscape that is conducive for growth across all industries in PNG.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2024 TIPNG Membership Opens Membership & 18 SASWAC Launch **International Anti-**09 Ш **Corruption Day Exhibition in Lae.** 09 **Morobe Province** Release of the **TIPNG Quarter 4 Newsletter Mike Manning Youth Democracy** Camp

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR **MEMBERS - AN UPDATE ON THE 2023 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**

We have reached the end of the 2023 annual membership period and next month in October 2023, the 2024 membership drive kicks in.

This year our membership target was K196,124.35. Support from members contributed to raising K90,059.03 to help TIPNG's operations. We acknowledge that, financially, a lot of organizations were rebuilding after the COVID-19 pandemic phase but we are grateful for the 22 corporate organisations, 2 Institutions, 3 Civil Society Organizations and 8 families and 92 individuals who financially supported our work this year.

New SME category!! At our Annual General Meeting in June this year, members proposed and endorsed the SME category for membership and we look forward to engaging more in this sector.

2024 Membership will be open in October, please contact us on how you can be a member.



92INDIVIDUALS

CORPORATES

FAMILIES

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

INSTITUTIONS

THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 SUPPORTERS!





















































TOHOUWA (PNG) LTD





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.

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:

- Building Elections Integrity Through Partnership
- Anti-Corruption Help Desk
- Active Civic Engagement
- Mike Manning Youth Democracy Camp
- Campaigns and Coalitions
- Sir Anthony Siaguru Walk Against Corruption
- Promoting Anti-corruption & Integrity Strategies

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JOIN US!

MEMBERSH IS NOW OPE

CONTACT US FOR A MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM TODAY! info@transparencypng.org.pg



SCAN QR CODE TO DOWNLOAD THE **MEMBERSHIP FORM**

WE OFFER



Voting rights at the Annual General Meetings (Financial Member = 1 vote)



Eligible to be on the TIPNG Board upon being a Financial Member for more than a year



Invitation to attend TIPNG events



Access to all TIPNG publications and resources



Recognition of company logo on the TIPNG Website and publications (for corporates, institutions and CSOs)



Receive regular members update

HERE'S WHAT TO DO:

Fill out the membership form with the required details and make payment for the membership fee.

Your membership application is submitted to the TIPNG Board Directors for approval on a quarterly basis

Upon approval by the

Board. A

membership certificate for the financial year of membership is issued. This certificate will be posted in the mail or you will be notified to collect it in person from our office.

OUR MISSION IS TO EMPOWER PEOPLE IN PNG TO ACT AGAINST CORRUPTION

Our mandate comes from our members - people and organizations in PNG that oppose corruption and want to see Transparency and Accountability within the rule of law. Your support ensures that our movement is financially sustained and governed to a high standard.