

EMBARGOED UNTIL 4:01 PNG TIME, 30 JANUARY 2024



TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL (PNG) INC
Lokua Avenue, Boroko, Section 54 Lot 31
PO Box 591 Port Moresby, NCD Phone 323 7517/4917 Fax 323 4317
E-mail: yvonne.ngutlick@transparencypng.org.pg
Website: www.transparencypng.org.pg

PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The 2023 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) highlights PNG is failing to meaningfully address corruption.

30 January, 2024, Port Moresby – Today, Transparency International PNG (TIPNG) released the results of the 2023 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI).

The Corruption Perception Index (CPI) is a report that scores countries and territories around the world that record perceptions of public sector corruption. The scores reflect the surveyed views of economic experts and business people, not the general public. Countries are scored on a scale of 0 to 100. 100 being very clean and 0 being highly corrupt.

On the 2023 Corruption Perceptions Index, Papua New Guinea scored 29 out of 100, which reflects a high perceived risk of encountering corruption in interactions with the public sector in the country.

Whilst presenting the results of the 2023 CPI, TIPNG Chairman, Mr. Peter Aitsi raised concerns that the nation still seemed not to be making meaningful impact on reducing levels of corruption in the public sector. He acknowledged the PNG Government's efforts in tackling corruption as demonstrated through recent interventions including:

1. The amendment of the Proceeds of Crime Act with Unexplained Wealth provisions;
2. The enacting of the Whistleblowers Act;
3. The enacting of the Independent Commission Against Corruption, appointing commissioners and funding operationalization through the national budget;
4. The inclusion of governance within the Medium-Term Development Plan IV 2023-2027.

“These initiatives by Government are aimed at fostering greater levels of transparency, accountability, and restoring good governance. While these are well-intentioned legislative and policy interventions, the breakdown in implementation and enforcement is perhaps where we are weak,” said Mr Aitsi.

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.

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As Papua New Guinea prepares its 2nd cycle Country Report under the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), TIPNG believes that there is an opportunity to strengthen national anti-corruption coordination.

“To achieve meaningful change in 2024, we (TIPNG) are calling on the PNG Government to convene regular meetings of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy Taskforce, co-chaired by the Departments of Justice & Attorney General and Prime Minister & National Executive Council. This can then ensure progress on other key areas requiring attention, notably the Electoral Reforms being led by the Special Parliamentary Committee, Police Reform in line with the recently launched corporate plan, and National Freedom of Information Policy and Legislation,” said Mr Aitsi.

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Authorized by:
Arianne Kassman
Chief Executive Officer

Media contact:
Yvonne Ngutlick
Deputy Director Communications

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