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PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Forging the Next Generation of Principled Leaders + Pix

Friday 6th February 2026, Port Moresby – Immersing young professionals in anti-corruption work will forge a generation of high-principled leaders whose commitment to integrity will serve as the bedrock for a better Papua New Guinea. This is the goal of Transparency International PNG’s (TIPNG) internship programs.

At the formal closing of its 2025-2026 Internship Program, TIPNG farewelled six promising students that undertook a comprehensive 13-week practical program in the front-lines of governance work. This year’s cohort represented a multidisciplinary front:

- Legal Interns from the University of Papua New Guinea School of Law: Miss Rhoda Baisiro, Miss Vanessa Boga, and Mr Chris Marpena.
- Communication Intern from the University of Technology, Communication for Development: Miss Alexandra Manu.
- Accounting Interns from the University of Papua New Guinea: Miss Mercy Waingi and Mr Newman Lerry.

The Legal and Communication Interns contributed significantly across various organizational functions including research, updating and reviewing of campaign briefs, drafting policy briefs, including event planning and coordination, photography, media monitoring, stakeholder engagement, minute-taking and supporting the function of TIPNG’s Anti-Corruption Help Desk.

The Accounting interns were given the full experience of financial operations, payroll and HR support, and audit readiness.

A hallmark of the 2025-2026 program was the Speaker Series, which provided the interns with direct mentorship with the legal leaders of Allens, Dentons and the PNG Law Society; International partners such as the Ambassador to the EU Delegation in Papua New Guinea, Her Excellency Erika Hasznos. Inspirational sessions were also held with leaders in the business and finance sector from Deloitte and the Financial Analysis & Supervision Unit of the Bank of PNG, including media partners - Impact Media.

“At TIPNG, our internship program is not just a work-experience placement. Our mission is to empower a new generation of high-principled professionals. In an environment where the temptation to compromise can be high, we provide these interns with the moral compass and practical skills necessary to resist corruption. They leave us not just as better lawyers, accountants, or communicators, but as stronger citizens who will serve as the bedrock of PNG’s national integrity for decades to come,” said TIPNG CEO, Ms Arianne Kassman.

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.

From this cohort, TIPNG has taken on its 9th cohort of the Legal Interns, affirmed through a Memorandum of Understanding with the UPNG School of Law. The program intake also highlights TIPNG's expanding impact, incorporating its third communications and second accounting cohorts to foster integrity across diverse professional fields.

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Picture Captions:

1. **IMG 1:** *Interns with TIPNG Board Director during the closing.*
(Left – right) Accounting Intern, Miss Mercy Waingi, Accounting Intern, Mr Newman Lerry, Legal Intern, Mr Chris Marpena, Legal Intern, Miss Rhoda Baisiro, Legal Intern, Miss Vanessa Boga, Communications Intern, Miss Alexandra Manu and TIPNG Board Director, Mr Richard Kassman.
2. **IMG 2:** *The 2025 – 2026 TIPNG Interns*
(Standing, Left to right) Accounting Interns, Mr Newman Lerry, Miss Mercy Waingi, and Legal Interns, Miss Rhoda Baisiro and Mr Chris Marpena.
(Seated, left to right) Communications Intern, Miss Alexandra Manu and Legal Intern Miss Vanessa Boga.

Authorized by:

Arianne Kassman
Chief Executive Officer

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Yvonne Ngutlick
Deputy Director Communications

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