



COMMUNITY COALITION AGAINST CORRUPTION

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THE COMMUNITY COALITION AGAINST CORRUPTION (CCAC) CALLS FOR URGENT, COORDINATED RESPONSE TO ESCALATING EL NINO CRISIS

Port Moresby – 8 September 2026 | The Community Coalition Against Corruption (CCAC) through its membership is raising the alarm on the widespread impact of El Nino across Papua New Guinea. The extended dry weather pattern is threatening a number of provinces and communities, impacting food security, water supplies and the wellbeing of vulnerable communities. The CCAC notes the statements made by the Government on the funding being committed, but these funds need to be released in a proper and coordinated manner to ensure our communities can be prepared should the effects become more severe in the coming months.

"Papua New Guinea is facing national crisis, yet there appears to still be no coordinated plan to protect vulnerable communities from the worsening impacts of El Niño. Every day of delay increases the risk of hunger, water shortages, and suffering for thousands of families. We call on Government to act now by establishing an urgent, coordinated response mechanism and empowering the PNG Council of Churches to lead transparent and accountable relief coordination, ensuring support reaches those who need it most," said CCAC Co-Chair Mr Peter Aitsi.

The warning signs are clear. The PNG National Weather Service's August 2026 Drought Update, issued on 19 August, confirms that El Nino is firmly established and that models predict a strong event which may continue into early 2027. The report further warns that prolonged dry conditions are affecting vegetation and increasing the risk of bushfires. These scientific warnings require immediate national attention, planning and preparedness.

The CCAC calls on the Government to urgently establish and activate a coordinated national response mechanism. The Government must clearly communicate its national response plan, identify the agencies responsible for its implementation and provide regular public updates as conditions change.

The CCAC recommends that churches play a central coordinating role in the distribution of relief assistance. Churches are among the country's most trusted institutions and have extensive networks that reach remote and vulnerable communities. Working through the Papua New Guinea Council of Churches and established denominational networks, they are

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Co-founded by TIPNG and the Media Council of PNG in 2002 with the support of churches, chambers of commerce, the Ombudsman Commission and the office of the Public Solicitor, the Coalition is a collective community network committed to standing together against the evil of corruption.

well placed to support fair, transparent and community-based distribution so assistance reaches those most affected and in greatest need.

All relief funds, donated goods and emergency assistance must be managed through transparent and accountable processes. Information on funding allocations, available relief supplies, responsible agencies, distribution locations, and intended beneficiaries should be publicly reported. Given the proximity of the 2027 National Elections there must be clear and independent oversight backed by proper reporting to prevent relief resources from being misused, politicised or diverted.

The CCAC stands ready to work with churches, civil society organisations and responsible authorities to support public awareness, community monitoring and accountability throughout the response. Timely and coordinated action now is necessary to protect lives, livelihoods and the dignity of affected communities.

Ends...///

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