



THE *PAPUA NEW GUINEA* ECO-FORESTRY FORUM

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Media Release

Forum calls on ANZ not to deny the truth

The PNG Eco-Forestry Forum is challenging the ANZ Bank (PNG) Limited to be honest and not deny the truth surrounding the illegal activities of one of its major client and controversial logging giant Rimbunan Hijau (RH).

The Forum has made this call in response to the claim by the bank in the media that its client, a leading logging company in the country, has been complying with all the legal requirements including social and environmental standards.

“There are clear evidences of human rights abuses and illegal activities labelled against the conduct of RH in almost all its operational sites in the country. And this has become an on-going public issue both in PNG and abroad with concerns being raised over the activities of the multi-national logging giant, “ says the Forum’s Chair, Mr Kenn Mondiai.

According to the Chairman, with the concerns raised, numerous investigations were made into the operations of the logging company in the country by various government authorities and also other local and international independent bodies. In the investigations, reports were made indicating gross human rights abuses and other illegal and inhuman activities including non-compliance of sustainable environmental standards practice. Even recommendations were made by the government’s own Ombudsman Commission for RH to be subject to special scrutiny and further barred from granting of new logging concessions but nothing has been done since.

While responding, Mr. Mondia said that the Managing Director of ANZ (PNG) Limited Mr Garry Tunstall is covering up the truth though he is well aware of the appalling state of the conduct of RH in the country. He said, the Forum in its capacity representing the interests of various concerned environmental NGOs also raised the similar concerns over illegal activities of RH in an earlier letter to the bank. “We also attached in the letter, reports and recommendations compiled by various investigations to substantiate our claim and therefore, Mr. Tunstall’s claim is a mere cover up on the part of the bank to defend its client,” says Mr. Mondiai.

For more Information, contact the Forum on phone 323 9050 or email teff@global.net.pg

Kenn Mondiai
The Chairman
PNG Eco-Forestry Forum
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The *Papua New Guinea Eco-Forestry Forum* supports integrated rural community development and sustainable resource use through a viable and sustainable eco-forestry industry