



THE *PAPUA NEW GUINEA* ECO-FORESTRY FORUM

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Media Release

Parliament's move against 'Watch Dog' not welcome

The PNG Eco-Forestry Forum does not think the National Parliament's intention to amend the Organic Law on the Duties and Responsibilities of Leadership as reported in the media, is a move in the best interest of the country.

"Such proposals are nothing but a clear move by the government to undermine the ethics of democracy and good governance," says Kenn Mondiai, the Forum's Chair.

He said, we must be proud because we enjoy one of the best forms of democracies in the world with institutions like the Ombudsman Commission, which plays an important role as a watch dog in all matters of public interest. "With an already badly tainted image of PNG politics and bureaucracy with corruption, the move as such would only frustrate the good work Ombudsman Commission has been doing to invert such views about PNG," said Mr. Mondiai.

Mr. Mondiai said, for the government to come up with such a badly conceived idea will also further deter the already disturbed investor confidence in the country and consequently have a negative impact on our socio-economic wellbeing. He said the proposed amendment will do nothing good but only encourage more corruption at higher places.

The Forum is also concerned that for such legislations to be passed, a proper awareness and wider consultation be made to ensure there is input from all sectors and not just by the parliamentarians.

While opposing the proposed bill, the Forum is also calling on the MPs and the public not to support it because of its likely social and economic consequences for the country.

PNG Eco-Forestry Forum

8th May 2006

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