



# THE *PAPUA NEW GUINEA* ECO-FORESTRY FORUM

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## Media Release

### **Politicians must support Kavo and Nene's call**

**“Recent call for transparency on forestry deals by Gulf Governor Havila Kavo and Sohe MP Anthony Nene is serious and should not be taken lightly,” says, PNG Eco-Forestry Forum.**

The Forum said there is an apparent breakdown in upholding principles of fairness and transparency in forest resource development activities and so the MPs call must be seriously taken into account.

“We face problems in most forest development projects because there is no prior informed consent of landowners that is only possible through an open and transparent dialogue for landowners and the different stakeholders involved,” said the Forum’s Chair Mr. Damien Ase. Mr. Ase

In supporting the MPs call, Mr. Ase alerted that it is about time relevant authorities tasked with various responsibilities in the affairs of forestry pull themselves together and undertake proper consultation process regardless of the costs involved.

He said the government has a duty to ensure maximum benefits from forest development projects get to the resource owners. Unfortunately this is not happening in most occasions and the concerns raised by two MPs should be a wake-up call for the various government departments. Leaders have been silent for far too long on the issue of lack of proper consultation. Their continuous silence on this issue only means them legitimizing non-transparent forestry management practises.

The Forum is also concerned that lack of political will to ensure fairness and transparency continue to result in unsustainable exploitation of resources, substandard or no real infrastructure development, and minimal economic returns for resource owners while much of the benefits go to big logging companies.

Furthermore, the local and provincial governments are being left out in most forestry deals consequently missing out on benefits intended for them. This makes it difficult for them to ensure compliance to all terms and conditions in logging agreements in the provinces.

The Forum is therefore calling on politicians at all levels of governments to support the call made by their colleagues and work together to address the issue.

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**PNG Eco-Forestry Forum**

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