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## **Where did the Opposition Leader get Fifty Million Kina?**

Draft Release: 19 August 2014

The Prime Minister, Hon Peter O'Neill CMG MP, has raised concerns in relation to accountability on the part of the Leader of the Opposition who claims that he spent 50 Million Kina helping Members of Parliament be elected.

PM O'Neill said an inquiry into the source of this funding is in order.

"The appropriate authorities, like the Ombudsman Commission, should investigate where did he get that 50 million Kina," the Prime Minister said.

"He did not have a substantial business until very recently. He did not have long number of years in business where he can have that kind of funds available to him so he can disperse it as carelessly and freely as he has done.

"We want to know whether he has declared all of this income, whether he has paid taxes for this income that he has been out there distributing around the country."

PM O'Neill said that regardless of the amount of money the Opposition Leader claims to have spent, the people of Papua New Guinea proved that they will not be misled.

"Despite spending record amounts of money the people of Papua New Guinea have spoken, they returned him and his party with only six members.

"That is a clear rejection to me. I hope he understands that the people have spoken."

The Prime Minister suggested that the Opposition Leader should work with the Government to strengthen national policy instead of engaging with people outside the parliament to destabilize the government.

"He should work with government that gave the mandate to the PNC party to lead this country for the next five years. They will judge us in 2017.

"So the more destabilizing activities that he is trying, including using government agencies to try and target myself and other leaders in government, it is not going to work.

"We will continue to enjoy the support of the majority of the Members in Parliament. We will continue pass good legislation, and we will continue to make sure that debated on the floor of Parliament is free and vibrant and engaging, so that our leaders can continue to contribute meaningfully to the nation's development."

The Prime Minister concluded by noting that the demise of the opposition is to be squarely blamed on the Leader of the Opposition and if he does not have a mandate to continue lead the Opposition, he should consider his options.

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