



Statement from the Office of the Prime Minister:

**Government Remains Concerned over Transparent Management
of Public Funds by PNGSDP – Looking to Court Decision**

Approved for Release: 02 September 2014

Today the Attorney General made a statement to the National Parliament on the Government's ongoing concern about the security of assets now under the control of the PNGSDP.

The assets under the control of PNGSDP are to be used for the sole benefit of the people of Papua New Guinea, particularly the people of Western Province, and the Government is concerned at how these assets are being used and managed.

The Attorney General stated the Government's concern as to what is happening to these assets, particularly as there has been a substantial decrease in value of these assets from end 2012 to end 2013.

This includes a decline of US\$180 million in PNGSDP's total assets and a reduction of PNGSDP's long-term fund by US\$55 million both in 2013. In addition, US\$39 million has been transferred out of the long-term fund in breach of the governing program rules, while figures for 2014 are unknown.

The revenue from Ok Tedi that is held by PNGSDP is to be used for the sole benefit of the People and the government has the responsibility for ensuring transparency.

The ultimate desire of the Government is to see the people of Western Province and their elected leaders in a position where they are allowed to manage these assets to ensure they benefit the people.

While the Chairman has direct personal interest in the case, he is best advised to refrain from dragging this issue down into personal attacks. It is for the Singapore Courts to continue with their hearing of this matter and this office will reserve further comment until relevant decisions are handed down by the Courts.

The Government of Papua New Guinea stands by its decision to seek transparency and accountability in relation to the use and management of this public money controlled by PNGSDP.

**Office of the Prime Minister
Papua New Guinea**