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**Action will be Taken Against Businesses Involved  
in the Financing of International Terrorist Groups**

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National intelligence agencies are investigating the activities of individuals and companies with alleged links to international terrorist organisations. The allegations are of a financial nature and there is no evidence to suggest that there are risks to the safety of people in Papua New Guinea.

Following news reports today, the Prime Minister, Hon Peter O'Neill CMG MP, confirmed that intelligence agencies are undertaking the investigations, and confirmed the Government is taking action to rid Papua New Guinea of people with terrorist links.

"We will not tolerate people with links to terror organisations in our country," the Prime Minister said.

"If these allegations of terror links are true, these people will be charged under existing laws and their businesses shut down.

"The important point for Papua New Guineans to know is that there is no evidence of activities by groups or individuals that could lead to terrorist incidents on our soil.

"In saying that we continue to be vigilant and monitor suspect individuals and organisations that seek any association with Papua New Guinea.

"As part of our ongoing planning for major events such as the Pacific Games and APEC, and frequent visits by foreign heads of state, Papua New Guinea's counter-terrorism capacity is being upgraded.

"Our intelligence agencies are working with security partners in other countries to deal with this cross-border issue. This includes the sharing of intelligence relating to suspect activities and taking part in joint training activities."

The Prime Minister said there are concerns that some of the individuals currently under investigation have links to extremely dangerous groups in the Middle-East.

"The world has been sickened by the depraved actions of the terrorists of the Islamic State that has spread in Iraq and Syria.

"The murder of American journalist James Foley is another example of the barbarity of these terrorists.

"The prospect that businesses in our country could be involved with financing of these deplorable groups is alarming.

"Every country in the global community must do what it can to stop these terror groups and Papua New Guinea joins with our partner nations to do what we can in this fight."

The Prime Minister said he was being cautious in releasing too much specific information as investigations of this nature are delicate and agencies are still conducting inquiries.

"I made a statement to Parliament on this issue that provided public assurance, and we will release additional information when this is appropriate and action is taken."

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