



CORRUPTION WORKING GROUP

MEETING

Minutes

Friday 30 March 2023

1.00PM Nauru time

1. **Welcome:** Meg Rudder – Senior Legal Officer, Attorney General Department, Australia

Chair welcomed everyone to the Corruption WG meeting for this year. She mentioned to members that she is sitting in as Chair because of the current Chair is unable to attend the meeting. But all the meeting minutes and discussions will be shared with her when she joined the next meeting.

2. **Present:**

- ii. Bernard Adiniwin – Attorney General, RMI
- iii. Josephine Pitmur -Acting Secretary, Department of Justice and AG Office; PNG
- iv. Janelle Etelagi – Legal Officer, American Samoa
- v. Sasae Walter – Coordinator, PILON

Apologies:

Mariata Pittman – Crown Law Officer, Cook Islands

3. **Minutes from previous Working Group Meeting –**

A motion to approve the minutes of 14 October 2022 was moved by Australia and seconded by PNG.

4. **Matters for Discussion:**

- I. Members update on Corruption related activities in each jurisdiction”

JE of American Samoa shared that their office held an “Ethics In Workplace Training”. This was a result of an executive order signed by the Governor of American Samoa in 2021 which recommended or required for employees of the territory to sign up for these trainings.

The Workplace Ethics Training provides meaningful content intended to educate participants on essential business ethics topics including the law, rules, and regulations, Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct. Covering these topics helps to bring

and keep employers and employees in compliance with applicable statutory requirements.

JP of PNG updated members PNGs the National Anti-Corruption Plan of Action (NACPA) 2020-2025 which was recently endorsed by the NEC. This was designed to support the implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) 2010 – 2030. The Plan of Action, indicated the Government’s commitment to revisiting the Draft ICAC legislation with a view to streamlining it and then establishing the Independent Commission against Corruption (ICAC) to tackle corruption. Pitmur indicated that 3 more ICAC

Pitmur also shared that recently this month, most law and justice sector officials and leaders attended trainings on corruption on the use of digital tools, open-source intelligence, criminal investigation and more to probe corruption. The training was funded by Australia and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime.

There is also work in progress on the drafting of Whistle-blower Bills.

PNG is also progressing their Mutual Evaluation quarterly reports with APG on Money Laundering (ML), specifically on areas of technical compliance and effective ML frameworks.

MR shared Australia’s ...) sorry Meg, can you kindly add on to this)

Update on Working Group meetings and activities for 2023”

MR shared that the WG next activities for 2023 are the two webinars;

i. **Webinar - Gift giving versus Corruption – where do we draw the line?**

In this webinar, the WG will explore and discuss and distinguish between the Cultural Practices of gift giving in the Pacific region and Corruption.

The proposed date is Thursday 22 June 2023.

Josephine Pitmur of PNG agreed that she is available on this date and will be a speaker for this webinar. She will represent the members of the WG in this panel.

Other speakers will be sourced from members of PILON and other relevant stakeholders. Members agreed that the speakers arranged and contacted and will all be briefed before the webinar in late June.

ii. **Webinar - Money laundering in the Pacific –**

MR shared with members that this webinar is scheduled later in the year on Thursday 14 September 2023. Members will be informed of the speakers, in future emails. However, all members have been requested to volunteer if they would like to present as a speaker in this webinar.

5. Other Matters:

Members discussed the recent appointment of Justice Ronald Bei Talasasa as a new Puisne Judge of the High Court of Solomon Islands. Justice Talasasa was the Director of Public Prosecutions, Honiara, Solomon Islands from July 2006 to 5 June 2019. He was also from 7 June 2019 to 31 October 2022, he held the position of the Director of Prosecutions in Nauru. While holding both senior positions, Justice Talasasa, chaired the PILON Corruption WG Meetings.

Members agreed to send Justice Talasasa a letter to congratulate him for his recent appointment.

6. Next Meeting : Thursday 27 July 2023