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Monday, 6th February 2023

The Chairman

Special Parliamentary Committee on 2022 General Elections
PNG National Parliament
Post Office, Parliament House, Waigani

Dear Chairman, Hon. Allan Bird, MP & Governor of East Sepik

SUB: EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO THE 2022 GENERAL ELECTIONS

I, Songo Nore, am a policy researcher working on freelance basis providing independent policy advice services to clients in both the private and public sector, foreign and domestic, and local level governments. I am expressing my strong ardent interest to participate in the subject above.

Currently, I am engaged as a Trade Finance Consultant for the Euro Exim Bank as an independent contractor working on freelance basis to facilitate global trade via issuance of trade finance instruments like Letter of Credit, Export Credit, Factoring, Insurance, Bank Guarantees, Standby Letter of Credit, Offshore Account Opening in three different foreign currencies (i.e. United States Dollar – USD, Great Britain Pound – GBP, European Euro – EURO), Merchant Banking Services, Bond Management Services, and so on. I served in that capacity as a TFC with EEB since September 2022.

In early 2022, I was engaged as a Research Analyst with Abt Associates Australia under its Macroeconomic Stability Program via Economic Governance and Inclusive Growth Partnership whereby I was seconded to work with the **Papua New Guinea Special Parliamentary Committee on Public Sector Reform and Service Delivery**. I worked very closely with the Chairman, Hon. Gary Juffa – Governor of Oro, and the Deputy Chairman, Hon. Allan Bird – Governor of East Sepik. Thus, I am acquainted with you. I was given the office space at the Gordons PNG Special Parliamentary Committee on Public Sector Reform and Service Delivery that belonged to the Deputy Chairman (Hon. Allan Bird), during my short-term contract work with EGIG Abt Associates Australia. During the course of my duty, I attended informal and formal inquiries or public hearings at the State Function Room, Parliament House and was tasked to transcribe the public hearings as part of my report. My main task was to critically delve into the medical drug procurement system in the National Department of Health (NDoH) in which I furnished a report titled “A Critical Look at the Medical Drug Procurement and Distribution System with its Quality Control System in Papua New Guinea”. I submitted the report of my entire work to Mr. David Sode, Head of the Secretariat PNG SPCPSRSD and to Mr. Kyran Curry, Senior Program Manager, EGIG Abt Associates Australia. I also attended Joint-Parliamentary Committee meetings at Holiday Inn consisting of PNG SPCPSRSD and the Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Public Accounts in which I contributed critical views on both the public financial management system and the health system. Furthermore, I participated in joint-panel discussions with international partners (i.e. Forensic Technology International (FTI) Consulting) and local government agency (i.e. Department of Prime Minister and National Executive Council) in regard to public health procurement system.

With respect to addressing the Committee's Terms of Reference here: 1) Firstly, I am very much interested to conduct research and inquiry into the powers, functions, and responsibilities of the Electoral Commission and related matters to assist the Special Parliamentary Committee on 2022 General Elections as this will be an exciting opportunity to conduct research and write about it, and present the findings at the upcoming 2023 PNG Update Conference at UPNG if consent is given by the Chairman, Hon. Allan Bird. My last work report's abstract with PNG Special Parliamentary Committee on Public Sector Reform and Service Delivery in partnership with EGIG Abt Associates Australia was accepted by the Social Protection Panel of the 2022 Pacific Update Conference Organizing Committee at the Crawford School of Public Policy in the Australian National University, to be presented at the University of South Pacific in Suva, Fiji, between 28th – 30th June 2022. However, I formally withdrawn my participation/presentation due to confidentiality issues surrounding my research work with PNG Special Parliamentary Committee on Public Sector Reform and Service Delivery.

2) Secondly, I have actively participated in the 2022 National General Elections including both the regional and open politics in Eastern Highlands Province thus I have some background insight into the problems faced with updating of the common roll or electoral roll, campaigning, voting, the counting, declarations, disputed returns process, and related matters.

3) Thirdly, I have some invaluable insight on economic and fiscal issues in PNG, especially, Public Financial Management Acts (PFMA 1995, PFMA 2016 Amendment, PFMA 2018 Amendment, and PMFA 2021 Amendment) and the Public Procurement System (NPA 2018) as a result of my recent work as a Research Analyst with EGIG Abt Associates Australia and PNG SPCPSRSD. Hence, it will help me in the inquiry into the expenditure of electoral funds and related matters.

4) Finally, I have witnessed problems encountered by state security personnel (i.e. RPNGC, PNGDF, & PNGCIS) as a result of my active participation in 2022 National General Elections in the Eastern Highlands Province.

I am confident that my personal observations in this 2022 National General Elections including 2017 NGE, when combined with interviews, focus group discussions, international literature reviews, and parliamentary public hearings, will unearth some key findings to find a way forward via strategic recommendations to improve the manner and conduct of the next 2027 NGE by proposing risk management strategies to mitigate election-associated risks, promoting good governance and transparency, and ensure that safe, fair, and free elections is conducted in the future.

My collective professional career working experiences within political environments, academia, private sector, public sector, international financial institutions and organizations, dealings with the business community in PNG as a TFC with EEB, etc. has rendered me with strong engagement skills to be able to interact with a wide range of government, non- government, and donor organizations.

Please peruse my updated CV for more information and do not hesitate to contact me via my email address at songo.nore.pm@gmail.com or via my mobile # 7322 1036. I will be available for interview should my application is successful.

Sincerely,



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Mr. Songo Nore
Applicant

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**2. Personal Profile**

I am a freelance policy researcher. On 21st December 2022, I presented a Public Diplomacy Strategy for Madang Provincial Government 2023 -2027 via online zoom international scientific conference – “Russia and the countries of the South Pacific: Paths to Multilateral Cooperation” which was organized by the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs via Miklouho-Maclay Foundation. Also, I am working on a policy research paper to publish it once I am done; i.e. ‘Gold & Kina: Logical Analysis of Monetary Policy in the Twenty-First Century Papua New Guinea’. Moreover, I presented a research paper via zoom conference on Wednesday 25th May 2022 at the online international scientific conference between Russia and Indonesia within the project “Russia in the South Seas. Practice in preserving historical, cultural, and scientific heritage”. This research paper was published on 14th June 2022 via the website of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow, Russia. (see online link here: (<https://seasia.ivran.ru/book?id=5304&from=1706>) I contributed in pages 160-176). In addition, I was accepted by the Social Protection Panel of the 2022 Pacific Update Conference Organising Committee at the Development Policy Centre in the Crawford School of Public Policy at the Australian National University, to present a research paper (i.e. A Critical Look at the Medical Drug Procurement and Distribution System with its Quality Control System in Papua New Guinea) at the University of South Pacific in Suva, Fiji, on 28th – 30th June 2022. Nonetheless, I formally withdrew my participation due to confidentiality issues surrounding my research work with EGIG Abt Associates Australia. Recently, I submitted a two-year (i.e. 2019 - 30th July 2021) policy research paper for publication via the UPNG Journal of South Pacific Culture & Philosophy; it was peer reviewed by the JSCP Editorial Board consisted of Professor Dr. David Lea, Co-Editor Associate Professor Dr. Peter Yearwood, and Dr. Alan Robson ANU. That paper is titled: ‘A Paradigm Shift: Political Economy Analysis of Exchange Rate System in Papua New Guinea’.

Furthermore, I have participated in contributing critical comments to the notion of kina devaluation in the Development Policy Blog which is based at the Development Policy Centre, Crawford School of Public Policy, in The Australian National University’s College of Asia and the Pacific, by supporting David Lea’s recent monetary research publication (September 2021) which strongly opposes kina devaluation in PNG. On the same note, I have critically rebutted Professor Dr. Martin Davies’s recent monetary research publication on ‘The Path to Kina Convertibility’ (September 2021), specifically, in regard to kina exchange rate and foreign exchange reserve, foreign-held debt, and inflation. I have also participated voluntarily in contributing views on US posture in the South Pacific & PNG via Professor Dr. Deon Canyon on 17th September 2020 which was published via Security Nexus at the Daniel K. Inouye Asia Pacific Centre for Security Studies, Hawaii, USA. On the same note, I have participated in an online google survey in a Political Science PhD Research Project on Corruption in PNG via interview with PhD Research Student Teddy Winn on the 1st-3rd September 2020.

In regard to professional experience wise, I am currently engaged as a trade finance consultant for Euro Exim Bank Ltd. facilitating global trade via trade finance instruments. Recently, I developed a Public Diplomacy Strategy for Madang Provincial Government 2023 – 2027, PDS Annual Work Plan and Financial Plan (Budget) 2023 on a consultancy basis. In 2022, I was engaged on a contract basis as a research analyst in a Macroeconomic Stability Program under Economic Governance and Inclusive Growth (EGIG) at Abt Associates Australia in partnership with PNG Special Parliamentary Committee on Public Sector Reform and Service Delivery. My first assignment was to conduct research into the medical drug supply procurement and distribution system in PNG. I completed and submitted this research project titled: A Critical Look at the Medical Drug Procurement and Distribution System with its Quality Control System in Papua New Guinea. In addition, I was tasked to transcribe and review both informal and formal 2022 Health Public Inquiry of the Joint-Parliamentary Committees consisted of SPCPSRSD and Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Public Accounts. I also participated actively in online zoom conferences with international partners like FTI Consulting, panel discussions with other state agencies like the Department of Prime Minister and NEC, etc. Furthermore, I was engaged on a consultancy basis to develop a policy concept framework of township and village enterprises scheme for Ahi Local Level Government in Lae District, Morobe Province between August – December 2019. Previously, I served as the NGO/Foreign Aid Coordinator at the Office of the Governor, Eastern Highlands Province (August 2017 – December 2018). I hold a BA Honours Degree in Public Policy Analysis as well as a Bachelor Degree in Political Sciences at the University of Papua New Guinea’. I have participated in many leadership roles throughout my school life and after school including contesting 2017 National Elections, Henganofi Open Seat in EHP. Furthermore, I served as a policy research officer with the Office of the former Governor for Morobe Province, Hon. Kelly Naru, in August 2015 – April 2017 in which I reviewed Morobe Provincial Government policies such as MPG Tertiary Scholarship Policy, Church Partnership Programme, and conducted research on

Fiscal & Financial Autonomy for Morobe Province. Apart from that, I have undertaken a critical review of the entire Christian Democratic Party's policy document on a consultancy basis in June-October 2016. I am an aspiring scholar and a politician.

3. Work Experiences

Position	Date	Type of Work Executed	Organization
Trade Finance Consultant	Monday 26 th September 2022 till present	Facilitating global trade via trade finance instruments (letter of credit, factoring, export credit, insurance, bank guarantees, SBLC), opening offshore accounts for individual & corporate clients, etc.	Euro Exim Bank Ltd. www.euroeximbank.com .
Presenter/Author	Thursday, 21 st December 2022	Presented Public Diplomacy Strategy for Madang Provincial Government 2023 – 2027 via online zoom international scientific conference – “Russia and the countries of the South Pacific: Paths to Multilateral Cooperation”.	Miclohou-Maclay Foundation via Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. https://mikluho-maclay.org/en/ .
MEL Coordinator (energy sector – off-grid rural electrification, water sector, telecommunications sector, & state-owned enterprise reforms)	Monday, 18 th July 2022	Shortlisted for MEL Coordinator and interviewed by a panel of 3 managers (MEL Manager, HR Manager, and Performance Unit Manager) via phone call video interview.	Economic and Social Infrastructure Program (ESIP) at Cardno International Development, DT Global funded by Australia's DFAT.
Presenter/Author	Wednesday, 25 th May 2022	Presented a research paper via online live zoom conference: A Paradigm Shift: Political Economy Analysis of Exchange Rate System in Papua New Guinea.	Miclohou-Maclay Foundation via Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. https://mikluho-maclay.org/en/ .
Presenter/Author	28 th -30 th June 2022	I was accepted by 2022 Pacific Update Conference Organizing Committee under Social Protection Panel to present my research paper: 'A Critical Look at the Medical Drug Procurement and Distribution System with its Quality Control System' at the University of South Pacific, Suva, Fiji.	2022 Pacific Update Organizing Committee, Development Policy Centre, Crawford School of Public Policy, The Australian National University.
Research Analyst	17 th January 2022 till 3 rd April 2022.	Research, Analysis, and Advisory Roles. Research project completed and submitted: 'A Critical Look at the Medical Drug Procurement and Distribution System with its Quality Control System in Papua New Guinea'.	Macroeconomic Stability Program under Economic Governance and Inclusive Growth (EGIG) at Abt Associates Australia in partnership with Papua New Guinea Special Parliamentary Committee on Public Sector Reform and Service Delivery.
Trainee/Participant	19 th March & 28 th March 2022	Microsoft Excel Software Training Level 1 & Level 2.	Datec Learning Centre in Port Moresby.

Trainee/Participant	25 th March 2022	Safeguarding Training – Child Protection and Preventing Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment.	Abt Associates Management Services.
Trainee/Participant	26 th January 2022	Fraud and Corruption Awareness Training	Abt Associates Management Services.
Participant	September 17 – November 1 2021	Participated on monetary and exchange rate policy debates by contributing critical comments to the notion of kina devaluation in support of Professor Dr. David Lea’s research publication as a counter-argument to Professor Dr. Martin Davies research publication: “The Path to Kina Convertibility”.	Development Policy Blog, based at the Development Policy Centre, Crawford School of Public Policy, in The Australian National University’s College of Asia and the Pacific.
Author/Independent Research	2019 – 30 th July 2021	Publication of an academic Research Paper: ‘A Paradigm Shift: Political Economy Analysis of Exchange Rate System in Papua New Guinea’. This paper was peer reviewed formally and critically by JSPCP Editorial Board consisted of Co-Editor Associate Professor Peter Yearwood, Professor Dr. David Lee, and Dr. Alan Robson.	UPNG Journal of South Pacific Culture & Philosophy
Participant/Interviewee	September 17 th , 2020	Contributed views/opinions on US posture in the South Pacific via Professor Dr. Deon Canyon. Two papers published from this discussion were: 1) Is the US Relationship with Australia Detrimental to Strategic Relationship with Papua New Guinea; 2) Perception of US Posture in Papua New Guinea.	Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Centre for Security Studies, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA.
Participant/Interviewee	1 st – 3 rd September, 2020	Undertaken Online Google Survey for Political Science PhD Research Project titled: ‘Investigating Corruption in Papua New Guinea through the Patron-Client Structure’. Interviewed by PhD Research Student, Teddy Edwards Winn.	James Cook University, Australia.
National Consultant	29 th July, 2020	Shortlisted for National Integrity System Assessment Consultancy and interviewed by 3-men panel through video phone call interview.	Transparency International, research consultancy project funded by European Union.
Policy Research Consultant	21 st August 2019 – December 2019	I have conducted an in-depth case study policy review of Township and Village Enterprises sector in China as a	Stephen Ahi & Consultants, Certified Practising Accountants (CPAs), Company

		role model of economic development for Ahi Local Level Government in Lae District, Morobe Province.	Secretarial, Tax and Business Advisors
NGO/Foreign Aid Coordinator	1 st August 2017 to 31 st December 2018.	I have developed a five-year strategic development plan 2018-2022 and a one-year action plan 2018 concomitant with financial plan (budget) for the Foreign Aid Office, EHPG. I have also communicated and submitted the plans to Mr. Christopher Gibson, Second Secretary for Australian High Commission.	Office of the Governor, Hon. Peter Numu, Eastern Highlands Province
Research Officer	1 st September 2016 – 20 th April 2017	I have conducted an in-depth research study on fiscal and financial autonomy for Morobe Province and have submitted a report (findings of the study) to Chief of Staff and Governor for Morobe.	Office of the Governor, Hon. Kasiga Kelly Naru, Morobe Province
Trainee Research Officer	31 st August to 31 st December 2015	I have reviewed Morobe Provincial Government Tertiary Scholarship Policy (Gerson Solulu Scholarship)	Office of the Governor, Hon. Kasiga Kelly Naru, Morobe Province.

4. Educational Background

Year	Institution	Level of Qualification
2019 – 2021	UPNG Journal of South Pacific Culture & Philosophy	Post-Graduate Research & Publication: Political Economy Analysis
2014 – 2016	University of Papua New Guinea	BA Honours Degree Public Policy Analysis
2010 – 2013	University of Papua New Guinea	Bachelor of Arts Degree Political Sciences
2008 – 2009	Goroka Secondary School	Grade Twelve Certificate
2006 – 2007	Goroka Secondary School	Grade Ten Certificate
2000 – 2005	West Goroka Primary School	Grade Eight Certificate

5. Referees

Name	Title	Contact Address
A. Mr. David Sode	Head of the Secretariat, Special Parliamentary Committee on Public Sector Reform and Service Delivery.	Mobile No. 7203 0051 Email: david.sode@spcpr.gov.pg or david.sode@gmail.com
B. Dr. Alan Robson (PhD)	Research Fellow, State, Society, & Governance in Melanesia Program, Department of Pacific Affairs, Australian National University (ANU),	Mobile No.: +675 7394 6045 Email: alan.robson@anu.edu.au (New Zealand) (+64) (0) 2902001072
C. Mr. Mala Ahi	Principal of Stephen Ahi & Co. and Chief of Staff to former Morobe Governor.	Mobile No.: +675 7301 8897 Email: malaahi@yahoo.com

6. SUBMITTED BY: SONGO NORE



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APPLICANT