



Commission of Inquiry Act, 1951 (Chapter 31)

**ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES
FOLLOWED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA IN OBTAINING
THE OFF-SHORE LOAN FROM THE UNION BANK OF SWITZERLAND AND
RELATED TRANSACTIONS**

PRESS STATEMENT

No 14 of 2020


Further to Press Statement No. 13 issued on 24 August 2020, the Chairman today announced the following:

1. That the appearances before the Commission today at 9:30am of some 18 witnesses for mention/ directions, are further adjourned to **28th September August 2020 at 9:30am.**
2. The main reason for the adjournment is that ten applications for admission, of overseas counsel (3) and solicitors (7) from the firm of MinterEllission Solicitors, which were filed in the National Court by their PNG-based Lawyers on 2nd July 2020, are pending hearing and/or determination. The Commission is informed that five of those applications have been heard and reserved for decision on 24th September 2020 whilst the other five applications have been listed for directions hearing on 23rd September 2020.
3. Upon admission, they will apply for certification to practice in PNG by the PNG Law Society under the *Lawyers Act*.
4. Aside from addressing work permit, travel visa and Covid-19 Pandemic requirements, the admission and certification of overseas counsel and solicitors marks the final phase of the Commission's efforts to address mandatory statutory requirements for the engagement of overseas Commissioner, Counsel and Solicitors for CoI duties in PNG.
5. Upon admission and certification by the PNG Law Society, the Commission will confer with the overseas personnel and settle on a revised roadmap for the public investigation,

and hearing phases of the inquiry and announce the revised roadmap at a convenient time in September 2020.

6. The Chairman said in the meantime, the Commission will continue to conduct preliminary hearings to request and receive appearances from the remaining witnesses who are yet to appear before the Commission and issue directions for the production of documents and other material that they may be requested or required by the Commission.

DATED this 14th day of September 2020.


Chief Sir Salamo Injia Kf GCL
Chairman, UBS Commission of Inquiry

