



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

MEDIA STATEMENT

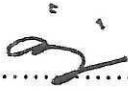
No 7 of 2020

Further to media statement No. 6 issued by this Commission on 16 December 2019, the Commissioners today announced as follows:

1. The full Commission is again able to sit today as scheduled but without Counsel assisting the Commission and Solicitors supporting Counsel.
2. The unavailability of counsel assisting the Commission is due to the fact that a private law firm engaged by the Commission on the advice of the State Solicitor is yet to move applications for admissions of overseas barristers before the National Court. The unavailability of solicitors is due the fact that the National Executive Council is yet to decide on the award of contract for solicitors following recommendation of the National Procurement Commission submitted to the NEC on 17th December 2019.
3. The Commissioners also note that the Commission is yet to receive additional funding that was approved by the Prime Minister on 18th September 2019. Without this additional funding the Commissioners will be unable to perform the bulk of its work.
4. The unavailability of counsel and solicitors for today's sitting, does not pose any major difficulty as this Commission will be able to deal with preliminary matters associated with witnesses required to attend for Part I of the inquiry which mainly involves taking evidence on the historical facts with regard to the government policy on the political economy of this country at the time of Independence and how those policies have been applied to date by successive governments.

5. A program for today's sitting has been prepared and will be distributed to those in attendance.

DATED this 27th day of January 2020.



Chief Sir Salamo Injia Kt GCL

Chairman, UBS Commission of Inquiry



The Hon John Gilmour QC

Commissioner

