



Monday 11 July, 2011

Media Release

OLIPPAC Could Achieve More: NRI

A new NRI article, released today in Kokopo has found that the Organic Law on the Integrity of Political Parties and Candidates (OLIPPAC) could achieve more than just political stability.

The article states that despite the law being able to achieve some degree of political stability, it has not been able to achieve party stability, national unity and political integration to the degree intended.

Efforts to create political stability through the OLIPPAC include regulating political parties, candidates and MPs by regulating endorsements of candidates by political parties. The OLIPPAC particularly does not allow a candidate within an electorate to accept nominations from more than one political party.

Despite this, there is evidence of covert support or bribery of candidates and MPs by political parties in an attempt to lure their loyalty. This practice has resulted in party hopping which has caused instability within political parties and in parliament. This occurred particularly after the July 7, 2010, Supreme Court decision to nullify sections of the law.

Consequently, OLIPPAC has not been able to achieve the desired level of stability and integrity of political parties and candidates.

Author Dr Ray Anere said that this is because the provisions of OLIPPAC including mechanisms to enforce the provisions of OLIPPAC are either weak or do not exist.

Dr Anere has called for a review of the law stating that political culture rather than the country's constitution was dictating the behavior of political parties.

One aspect of the political culture involves the Opposition's attempt to move a vote of no confidence in Prime Minister Michael Somare, following the July 7, 2010, Supreme Court's nullification of sections of the law.

He said that there was a need for more effective mechanisms to monitor the funding and support to candidates by political parties before the 2012 general elections. He added that there was not much support for the endorsement of female candidates by political parties.

Dr Anere said that PNG could learn from other Pacific Island states that had taken measures to induce political behavior to adhere to values of democracy and commitment to the Millennium Development Goals.

The National Research Institute - hosting the policy discussions that will shape Papua New Guinea's future development.

For more information:

Contact: Lorraine Ponifasio
Ph: 326 0300/0061 Ext. 314
Email: lponifasio@nri.org.pg

**The National
Research Institute**