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Independent State of Papua New Guinea

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE & ATTORNEY GENERAL

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IN THE MATTER OF ENVIRONMENT (AMENDMENT) ACT 2010 SCR NO. 3 OF 2010

This is to advise the Public that a Supreme Court Reference has been filed by Nonggorr & William Lawyers for the Clients Sana Melambo, Eddie Tarsie and Farina Siga on June 3, 2010 and copies of the Reference have been served on the State on the same date where in this Reference, the Reference are asking the Supreme Court to give its advisory opinion on whether or not the recently enacted *Environment* (Amendment) Act 2010 is unconstitutional. Since then there have been two direction hearings. In the recent one, at which the State lawyers appeared, the Supreme Court raised concerns about the wide and extensive media comments which have been raised by the public at large since the Supreme Court is now seized of this matter.

By this notice, I advice the general public that there should not be anymore discussions, comments or references conducted in the media or anywhere else in public as this matter is now <u>sub judice</u>. This means, there will be no more <u>talk-back</u> radio programs and interviews, no more <u>advertisements</u>, no more <u>letters to editors</u>, no more <u>public meetings</u>, and above all there will be no <u>public demonstrations</u> or <u>protest</u> marches.

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Your right to freedom of expression is now subsumed into this court case. This means that you also have a right to be represented at the hearing of this Supreme Court Reference. You can be represented by Nongorr & William lawyers or you can retain your own lawyers to represent your interest at the hearing of this Reference.

The <u>Police Commanders</u> of any metropolitan centres throughout the country should now <u>cancel</u> and/or <u>refrain from granting permits</u> for any public meetings, demonstrations and protest marches.

Any person or media outlet which continue to run or publish commentaries and opinions or which coordinate and conduct public meetings, demonstrations or public protests on the recent amendments to the Environment Act 2000 runs the risk of being cited for contempt of court. You are herewith accordingly warned.

Authorized by

Hon. Ano Pala, CMG, MP

Minister for Justice & Attorney-General