

Media Statement

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**O'Neill: It is not just the Economy that is Dying**

"Raped and murdered, a woman's dead body found at Morauta Swamp yesterday. Someone's daughter, perhaps a mother herself, left for dead face down, shoved between two tree trunks; her face bloodied, and her neck hacked. Locals gave her dignity and covered her body with a sheet."

"May 2019, ten women and five children, mutilated, murdered, probably raped, and tortured before being killed in Hela. We and the world were horrified and promised fast action and that "no stone would be left unturned" to catch the killers. No one has come for the killers of these 15 souls."

"Last week, a young boy, begged in vain for his life against a mob of thugs. Crying out for his Mummy as he was hacked to death on the fringes of a tribal war in Enga. The crime captured by the mob on a mobile phone so the horror could be shared around the world. A little boy dead and a mother, father and family left to mend their broken hearts."

"Societies are judged not by whether they are rich, what colour the people are or what religion is practiced. Societies are judged by how people treat one another and whether human rights are maintained. It is what matters most."

"Our GDP means nothing if our human rights lay in tatters."

"Like many of us, I grew up raised by a teenage mother and my uncles and aunties in a village. I slept by a fire and there were many times I felt the pains of being hungry. While we may not have known life's conveniences growing up, it is the children and young people of today who I feel most for as they grow up thinking first and foremost about their physical safety in an increasingly violent, crime riddled PNG."

**I want to make a special appeal to all men in PNG today:**

"I want us to remember our roles as men is to provide for our families and to protect our women and children. Women are not our possession, and it is not for men to kill or harm women and children in anyway."

"Leaders young and old, in our towns, villages and cities - please hold meetings with our brothers and educate and inform all of us that we must stop the violence. We cannot rely on the Police; we must stand up and end this madness."

"Tribal fighting should be a thing of our past and yet we still practice it undermining all our efforts to be Christian country moving forward and taking our place in the global community."

"Our brand and reputation as Papua New Guinean men has been shredded by these constant violent crimes. We must take responsibility as men, as leaders and future leaders of ourselves and our communities to restore peace and reinstate pride as Papua New Guinean men."

“It is okay to be tough, strong and to stand up for what is right. But it is not okay to take another’s life or to rape or to act violently. Walk away. Take deep breaths. Talk out your frustrations to your priest or family members. Be peaceful and strong. Be protective and strong. Be strong but do not be a killer or rapist.”

“Like you, I am disappointed the way our country is heading. The crisis after crisis of fuel shortage, foreign exchange, riots, cancelled projects, lack of jobs and the high cost of living. I know these problems are having a direct impact on our society.”

“But it no excuse to simply blame the violent crime raging around our country on these economic, government-made crisis. We must not let our country descend and normalise violent crime. We are better than that.”

“Our children deserve at least to grow up peacefully. Even if life is a struggle, let us make sure we give the next generation coming through a peaceful place to live.”



Hon. Peter O'Neill, CMG, MP

Member for Ialibu-Pangia

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