

Media Statement

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O'Neill: PNG does not need secret security arrangements with USA or China

"I am deeply concerned to read Papua New Guinea's Minister Foreign Affairs is actively discussing our country's internal, domestic Police and security arrangements with China," said former Prime Minister and Member for Ialibu-Pangia, Peter O'Neill.

"China is our largest trading partner and an important international friend to our country. We all admire how Chinese people have advanced their country."

"Before and since Independence, PNG has rightfully stuck to Australia when it comes to providing for security for our country and the Pacific region. Australia shares the Pacific's geographic place in the world, and we value each other's democratic and human rights principles."

"This makes sense, and we can see our nearest neighbour Indonesia also continues to enhance its security ties to Australia."

"There is no reason why the current Government, on shaky ground themselves, should be choosing to sign a secret security deal with China late last year and now, enter into practical discussions about Policing and other security arrangements."

"Marape in his nearly five years in Government has systematically undermined the independence and effectiveness of our once proud PNG Police service. It is open knowledge that the Commissioner of Police works directly for James Marape controlling the 2022 National General Elections and punishing Marape's political opponents at the Prime Minister's whim."

"The terrible Port Moresby riots in mid-January are testament to the division and lack of control and discipline now rampant in the PNG Police service."

"Perhaps it is Marape's wish to take the next step and utilise the experienced Chinese security forces to directly control Police and Military within PNG? Is Marape one step away from a full-blown dictatorship? Is this why he is unfazed by the democratic process of Vote of No Confidence?"

"The Police Minister is the rightful Minister not the Foreign Affairs Minister to be investigating how he restores the public and investor's confidence in our law-and-order situation."

"Marape and the Foreign Minister must pull back from these dangerous developments."

"Our country has the resources to pull itself back into order. To be a safe and prosperous country providing jobs and opportunities for all our people and respecting the human rights of its citizens to be protected by an effective Police service."

"We do not need to run here there and everywhere looking for control mechanisms that may further erode our democracy."

Hon. Peter O'Neill, CMG, MP

Member for Ialibu-Pangia

Party Leader, People's National Congress Party