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PAPUA NEW GUINEA GOVERNMENT
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Decision No: 202/2015

Special Meeting No: 08/2015

Subject: **NATIONAL ACTION PLAN AGAINST SORCERY AND WITCHCRAFT
RELATED VIOLENCE**

On 16th July 2015, Council:

1. noted the content of Policy Submission No. 92/2015;
2. noted the compelling need to address the issue of sorcery and witchcraft accusation related violence in Papua New Guinea;
3. endorsed the National Action Plan (attached) against Sorcery and Witchcraft Related Violence as a practicable mechanism through which Sorcery and Witchcraft related violence is to be addressed;
4. endorsed the establishment of a National Committee and Provincial Committees (attached) to oversee the implementation of the National Action Plan against Sorcery and Witchcraft related violence in the country; and
5. approved to direct the Secretary for the Department of Treasury to make available in the 2016 Budget K3 million for the implementation of the National Action Plan against Sorcery and Witchcraft related violence.

I Certify the above to be a correct record of the
Decisions reached by the National Executive Council

GRACE SO-ON Acting Secretary, NEC

Date: 21st July 2015

Distribution: PRIME MINISTER/DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER/MINISTER FOR JUSTICE & ATTORNEY
GENERAL/JUSTICE & ATTORNEY GENERAL/TREASURY/PMNEC/

PETER O'NEILL, CMG Chairman

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ANNEXURE "A"

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Sorcery and Witchcraft Accusation Related Violence - National Action Plan

Vision

PNG society is free from sorcery and witchcraft related violence through strengthened partnerships between relevant stakeholders.

Mission

- To stop accusations leading to sorcery related violence
- To deal effectively with the perpetrators of violence.
- To address the needs of survivors and to restore security to the communities, within the legal policy frameworks and acceptable values and norms.

Background

In 2013, widespread publicity given to the deaths of two women accused of witchcraft in Papua New Guinea (PNG) drew international and national attention to the problem of sorcery and witchcraft accusation-related violence. In the face of mounting pressure to take action, including the national *krai* protest calling for an end to violence against women, the PNG Government responded by repealing the *Sorcery Act 1971* and creating a new provision in the *Criminal Code Act 1974* (Chapter 262). However, there is growing recognition, both within the government and the wider community that these problems cannot be solved solely at a legislative level, and must rather involve a holistic response. This recognition led to a national conversation that these led to this present draft national action plan to provide a concrete foundation for the holistic response.

The first step in the development of the action plan was the holding of a conference titled *Sorcery and Witchcraft Accusations: Developing a National Response to Overcome the Violence*, in Goroka, PNG, in December 2013. It was convened by the PNG Department of Justice and Attorney General (DIAG), together with the Consultative Implementation and Monitoring Committee, and partners from the Melanesian Institute, the University of Goroka, State Society and Governance in Melanesia Program (SSGM), and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). The conference followed from an earlier regional conference on the issue hosted by SSGM in Canberra in June 2013.

In the planning stages for the Goroka conference it was decided to focus on breaking the link between sorcery accusations and violence. This was a pragmatic decision that recognised that violence is the most problematic aspect of the beliefs in PNG today. It was also intended to allow some conceptual

committees and will meet at least quarterly. The Committee will also be responsible for developing an overall monitoring and evaluation strategy and a comprehensive review two years after the start of its implementation. The Technical Committee will be responsible to the Human Rights Forum (chaired by DJAG) and will report at each of the Forum's quarterly meetings as a regular item on the agenda.



4. Health Sector

- 1 To raise awareness about the issue of sorcery and witchcraft related violence within the health sector
- 2 Improved explanations about the disease process to patients and their families
- 3 Facilitate access to justice by providing medical evidence of illness and explanations
- 4 Community based awareness raising about public health problems and diagnosis
- 5 To develop and publicise the need for prevention / screening.

5. Research

- 1 To develop an evidence-based research framework to address sorcery accusation related violence
2. To establish a central research hub for networking and collaboration



Implementation Plan

1. CARE AND COUNSELLING

KEY ACTIVITIES

Objective 1: To support the development of training in counselling programs for a range of service providers

KEY ACTIVITIES	RESOURCES	TIMELINE
<p>1.1.1 Establishment of PNG Counsellor's Association</p>	<p>PNG Counselling Association</p>	<p>FSVAC, DFCD&R</p>
<p>1.1.2 To lobby all tertiary educational institutes to expand or develop their counselling training programs for teachers, social workers etc, and to utilise the Counselling Best Practice Manual</p>	<p>PNG Counselling Association</p>	<p>FSVAC, Education Department</p>
<p>1.1.3 Support the accreditation and certification of current counsellors.</p>	<p>National Training Council, Labour Department</p>	<p>To be developed (TBD)</p>
<p>1.1.4 Counselling training Programs to be developed and to include specialised units on gender, family and sexual and sorcery accusation related violence</p>	<p>UOG/ school of counselling</p>	<p>DWU, UPNG, PNG Counselling Association, UNWOMEN</p>
<p>1.1.5 UOG to develop a draft proposal for development of a curriculum/certification for Counsellors in provinces who do not have a qualification to complement and substantiate their responsibilities.</p>	<p>UOG</p>	<p>PNG Counsellors association to develop a funding proposal to support development of such specialised units</p>
<p>1.1.6 Finalise the process for the School of Counselling</p>	<p>PNG Counselling Association, DFCD& R</p>	<p>PNG Counselling Association</p>
		<p>School should be open by mid 2015</p>

organisation that can release funds quickly

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Objective 3:					
To improve counselling services for survivors and communities affected by sorcery accusation related violence.					
1.3.1	Update current directory of counselling service providers	MerriToksave	FSVAC	TBD	Consolidated list ready by end 2014
1.3.2	Provision of specialised counselling services to assist people who have been affected by sorcery accusation related violence	FSVAC	PNG Counselling Association	TBD	
1.3.3					
Objective 4:					
To develop, monitor, evaluate and enforce legislation and other support structures in cases where children are involved (as victims and survivors).					
1.4.1	Training & gazettement of current child protection officers & volunteer child protection officers (10 days Lukautim Pitkinini training)	DFCD&R	FSVAC, UNICEF, Save the Children	TBD	2015-2016
1.4.2	Create "child friendly" spaces in safe houses, Family and Sexual Violence units in police stations and family support centres.	DFCD&R, RPNGC	FSVAC, UNICEF, Save the Children	TBD	2015-2016
1.4.3	Develop and formalise the referral pathways between service providers for cases of sorcery accusation related violence involving children (including police, health service providers, child welfare officers, and child protection officers).	FSVAC	FSVAC, Merri Safe House, Lifeline, Save the Children, Family Voice, RPNGC	TBD	2015-2016
1.4.4	Publicise and raise awareness about the legal framework around the temporary and permanent care and protection of child survivors of sorcery	DIAG	FSVAC, DFCDR	TBD	2015-2016

2.1.4 Create curriculum units addressing sorcery accusation related violence and countering sorcery beliefs and incorporate into all trainings for teachers and students.	Department of Education	FSVAC	TBD	
2.1.5 Review existing GBV training materials to include training on sorcery accusation related violence	FSVAC	DFCDR, DIAG, UNWOMEN	TBD	2015-2016
Objective 2: To develop and implement a strategy to ensure the communication of the materials and messages to key stakeholders and the broader public				
2.2.1 Development of a joint National Communication Strategy to disseminate key messages for key partners to implement	DIAG and FSVAC	Churches, MI, UOG, CLRC Media Association	TBD	Start 2015
2.2.2 Implement the National Communication strategy through a variety of media including social media	FSVAC	Leniata legacy, Media Association	TBD	
2.2.3 Sensitize news media to make them aware of the need to be careful in how issues of sorcery are reported, in particular to encourage them to report in a way consistent with the National Communication Strategy				
2.2.4 Targeted workshops in Districts /communities with very key messages that the perpetrators of sorcery violence in the communities are the accusers and not the suspected sorcerers.	DIAG, FSVAC	Human Rights Defenders, Oxfam	TBD	Mid 2015

quarterly meetings

3 LEGAL & PROTECTION

KEY ACTIVITIES

Objective 1

To review the reported Sorcery Act 1971 and re-enact certain provisions, if any are needed, into relevant pieces of legislation (Summary offences Act 2012, Witchcraft, Magic, etc. Act 1957, Seditious and Subversive Activities Act 1960, Criminal Justice Act 1988, Family Protection Act 2010).

Timeline

- 3.1.1 Gap analysis of what provisions are required to be re-enacted to deal with sorcery accusation related violence. In particular:
- sorcery accusations
 - incitement to violence
 - threats and profiting from fear of sorcery
 - if and where and how cases of killing and harm through sorcery be dealt with

3.1.2 Legislative drafting in line with findings of gap analysis

Objective 2:

To ensure that cases involving sorcery and witchcraft prosecution related violence are dealt with through the criminal justice system.

3.2.1 Strengthen the public solicitors office and paralegal network to provide legal assistance to survivors to ensure that cases of sorcery accusation violence are investigated and prosecution proceedings instituted, and where appropriate that civil cases are filed.

3.2.2 Establishment of a working group to develop mechanisms to ensure that cases of sorcery and witchcraft related killings are promptly investigated and the perpetrators are brought to justice.

3.2.3 Development of a checklist for police for use in charging

Activity	Responsible	Support	Timeline	Start	End
3.1.1 Gap analysis of what provisions are required to be re-enacted to deal with sorcery accusation related violence. In particular:	DIAG	PPO, CLRC, PSO and FLC	TBD	DIAG to establish a working group by March 2015	
3.1.2 Legislative drafting in line with findings of gap analysis	DIAG	Office of the Legislative Counsel, SSGM (ANU), CLRC	TBD		2015
3.2.1 Strengthen the public solicitors office and paralegal network to provide legal assistance to survivors to ensure that cases of sorcery accusation violence are investigated and prosecution proceedings instituted, and where appropriate that civil cases are filed.	PSO	DIAG, OHRCHR, CLRC	TBD		2015
3.2.2 Establishment of a working group to develop mechanisms to ensure that cases of sorcery and witchcraft related killings are promptly investigated and the perpetrators are brought to justice.	OPP	RPNGC, FSVAC, DIAG, CLRC	TBD		2015
3.2.3 Development of a checklist for police for use in charging	OPP	DIAG, RPNGC	TBD		2015

<p>about human rights and the law as part of the personal development program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed into the legal studies program taught in secondary and tertiary schools • Work with teachers training college to get legal literacy into the national curriculum 				2015
<p>3.3.3 Training program for volunteers (those involved in mediation at the village level, such as ward and committee members, community leaders, chiefs, church leaders) to do mediation below the village courts, raise awareness about the law and social issues related to sorcery accusation violence, direct people to the right places for assistance and disseminate legal information. This network of volunteers could also be used to report on and monitor situations at local levels up to the justice dept.</p>	DIAG	Provincial and Local Level Government Affairs Department; DFCD&R, Church training institutions; Legal Training Institute, Village Court and Land Secretariat, ANU (SSGM)	TBD	2015
<p>3.3.4 Development of an oversight, monitoring and evaluation mechanism for the training program in 3.3.3.</p>	DIAG	DPLGA, Department of National Planning and Monitoring, SSGM (ANU)	TBD	
<p>Objective 4: Develop or strengthen mechanisms to protect and support those who take steps to prevent sorcery accusation related violence and to support survivors of this violence. Indicator: health workers, community leaders, religious actors, civil society actors and others.</p>				
<p>3.4.1 Mechanisms, such as rapid response assistance from police, to be developed to protect care-givers, service providers (including health workers), human rights defenders and others who could also be threatened with violence as a result of the assistance they are providing.</p>	DIAG, FSVAC	Oxfam, Human Rights Defenders Network		
<p>3.4.2 Organisations and institutions with a history of dealing with sorcery accusation related violence, such as hospitals and health facilities, to develop preventative mechanisms to protect staff. For example perimeter fencing, security guards, life support training and equipment.</p>	NDOH			2015

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rapid response guidelines - witness protection - compensation not being used to derail the criminal process - police complicity with community 				
<p>Objective 2: Strengthened judicial training (including village court magistrates) to be expanded/ strengthened in dealing with sorcery.</p> <p>Activities and associated violence</p>				
<p>3.7.1 Expansion of national/judicial training (including village court justices) training material to include issues on sorcery related violence and the process of seeking Interim Protection Order (IPOs) by those in imminent danger of sorcery related violence</p>	DIAG,	National judicial services, Magisterial Services, VCLMS CLRC	TBD	2015
<p>3.7.2 Training on the new materials developed in 3.6.1 and also creation of opportunities to facilitate knowledge-sharing between magistrates and judges about best practices in dealing with sorcery related issues</p>	DIAG	National judicial services, Magisterial Services, VCLMS CLRC	TBD	2015
<p>3.7.3 Develop a strategy to access funds from local, district and provincial level governments to support the ability of village, magistrates and district courts to deal with sorcery accusation related violence</p>	DIAG	VCLMS, DPLGA, Department of National Planning and Monitoring (DNPM), Magisterial Services	TBD	2015
<p>4 HEALTH SECTOR</p>				
<p>KEY ACTIVITIES</p>				
<p>Objective 2:</p>				
<p>To raise awareness of the issue of sorcery and witchcraft related violence within the health sector</p>				
<p>4.1.1 NDOH to create a specific sorcery and witchcraft accusation related violence desk to respond to</p>	NDOH			June 2015
				TIMELINE

Objective 5:

To develop and publish the need for prevention / screening

4.5.1Upscale preventative health checks and screening for infectious diseases and lifestyle diseases– in combination with increased health promotion about these services

5 RESEARCH

KEY ACTIVITIES

Objective 5: To develop an evidence-based research framework to address security associated related violence

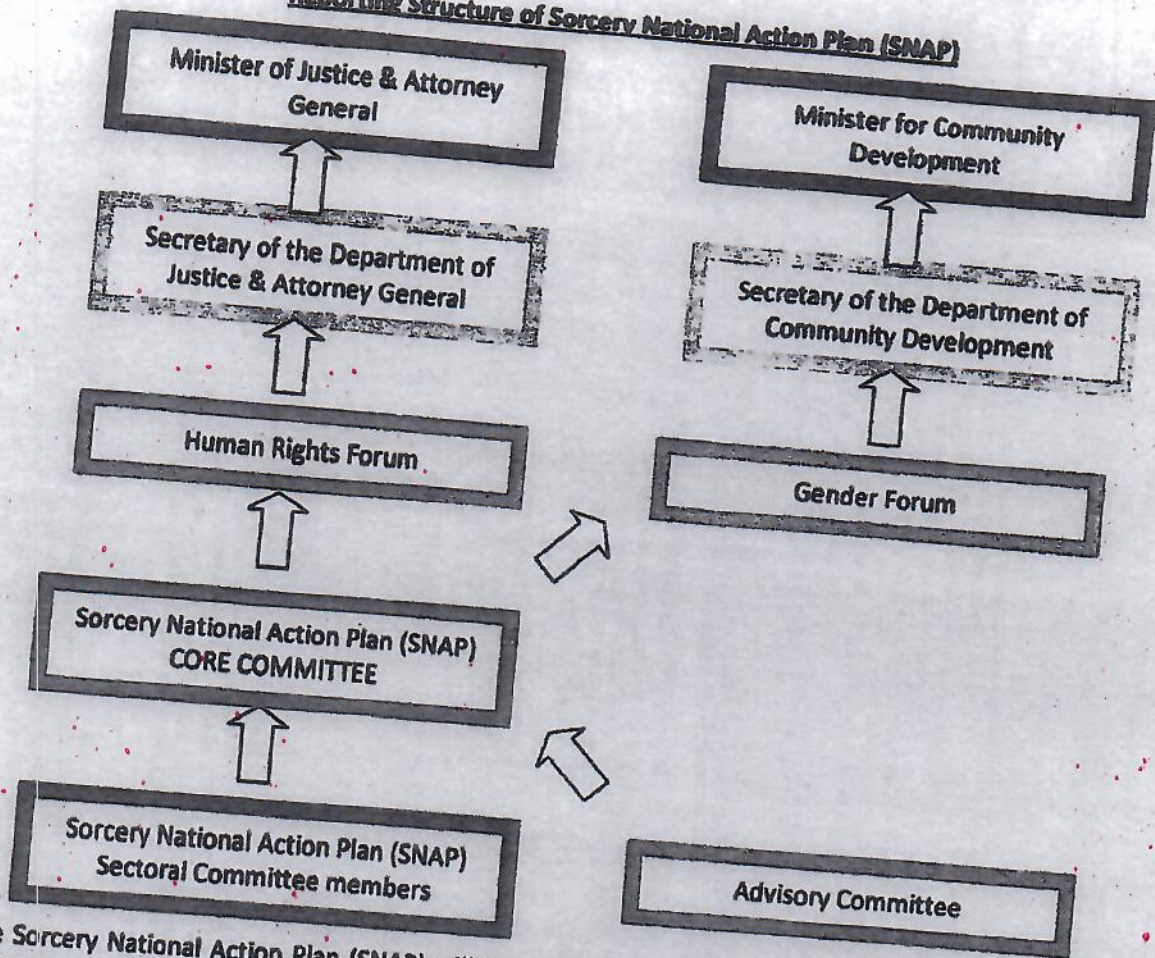
ACTIVITIES	UoG	RESOURCES	START DATE	FINISH DATE
<p>5.1.1 Establish an Evidence-Based research framework to address S&W-related violence in PNG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The design and implementation of this plan should be carried out in such a way that research is integrated into ongoing developments in this area. For any plan under any focus group heading, e.g. health, education or law, research applies at every stage of planning, e.g. finding out what has been done before in similar situations elsewhere; needs assessment; risk analysis and mitigation, pilot studies, monitoring and evaluation. Research is a crosscutting issue that should reflect the research needs of the focus groups. 	UoG	<p>DJAG, NDOH, DFC&R, FSVAC, Dept Education, ANU (SSGM), NRI, MI, UPNG, DWU, PAU, CLRC, INA</p>	TBD	2015
<p>5.1.2 Identify a number of preliminary research projects in conjunction with key stakeholders and obtain funding to carry these out. Preliminary discussions identify the following as particular relevance:</p> <p>a) Research into effective community level mediation strategies and interventions that are currently being used (community leaders, elected</p>	UoG	<p>ANU (SSGM), other tertiary research institutions, CLRC, DJAG</p>	TBD	At least one funding proposal to be developed by start 2015

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documentary e.g. Tokpiksa, Pawa Meri, WVCA Tok Back Program, NBC Provincial Based Stations. 				
<p>5.1.4 Development of research ethics</p>				
<p>Objective 2: The establishment of a central research hub for networking and collaboration</p>				
<p>5.2.1 Develop a research hub based at the University of Goroka for networking and collaboration.</p>	UOG	UPNG, DWU, PAU, UOG, ANU (SSGM), MI, CLRC	TBD	2015
<p>5.2.2 Develop existing networks such as websites for Academic and Research Institutions and existing networks such as FSVAC and the Committee Against Sorcery Accusation Related Violence in order to design and co-ordinate research projects and share the results of research.</p>	UOG	UPNG, DWU, PAU, UOG, ANU (SSGM), MI, CLRC	TBD	2015

ANNEXURE "B"

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Reporting Structure of Sorcery National Action Plan (SNAP)



The Sorcery National Action Plan (SNAP) will be coordinated by a core committee co-chaired by the Department of Justice & Attorney General (DJAG) and the Consultative Implementation & Monitoring Council (CIMC) and implemented by a sectoral committee, which will coordinate the five elements of the SNAP: 1) Care & Counseling, 2) Advocacy & Communications, 3) Legal & Protection, 4) Health sector, and 5) Research. An advisory committee will provide technical advice.

SNAP Core Committee members:

DJAG (Co-Chair), CIMC (Co-Chair), Department of Community Development (DFCD), Royal PNG Constabulary (Police), National Department of Health, Public Solicitor's office, Village Courts Secretariat, Public Prosecutor's Office, Magisterial Services, Department of national Planning and National Research Institute.

The Core Committee will report to the Secretary of the Department of Justice & Attorney General through the Human Rights Forum, and to the Secretary of the Department of Community Development through the Gender Forum.

SNAP Sectoral Committee members:

DJAG, CIMC, Constitutional Law Reform Commission (CLRC), RPNGC (police), NDoH, Office of the Public Prosecutor, Office of the Public Solicitor, University of Goroka, Institute of Medical Research, National Research Institute, Village Courts, Magisterial Services, DFCD, Correctional Services, Probation, Restorative Justice, Juvenile Justice, Department of Education, NRI, Civil Society, Churches, Department of National Planning & Monitoring, DPLLGA, Private Sector.

Advisory Committee members:

United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Australian National University - State, Society & Governance in Melanesia (ANU-SSGM), University of Goroka (UOG)