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ROYAL PAPUA NEW GUINEA CONSTABULARY

Office of the
COMMISSIONER OF POLICE

Dr. Osborne Liko
The Secretary
National Department of Health
P O Box 807
Waigani
National Capital District
Papua New Guinea

Date: 09th August 2021

Our Reference:

Action Officer:

Designation:

Your Reference:

Date:

My dear Secretary,

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION FOR PAUL DOPSIE TO BE REINSTATED BACK TO WORK

I respond to your letter dated 02nd August 2021, on the above subject.

I thank you and your staff for the support that you have provided to the members of Special Police Forensic Criminal Investigation Team (SPFCIT). Members of SPFCIT based at NCD Fraud Office (Boroko) is currently conducting the criminal investigation into National Department of Health (NDOH).

Fraud including official corruption is becoming one of the major problems among our state agencies both at the national and provincial levels, and it is important for the Heads of the Government Departments to set the tone at the top to detect, deter and prevent them.

Based on the outcome of number of non-audit reviews and hearings that were undertaken by Internal Audit Branch of Department of Prime Minister & National Executive Council, FTI Consulting Australia Pty Limited, Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Public Accounts and existence of strong perceived risk that fraud were perpetrated within NDOH, former Secretary for NDOH Late Dr. Paison Dakulala lodged a criminal complaint against Paul Dopsie, Joseph and other department's staff directly with the Office of Commissioner of Police.

The criminal complaint was filed by a National Government Agency. Considering the nature, seriousness of the allegations against Paul Dopsie and significant negative reactions from the general public following the public hearing conducted by Public Accounts Committee, I have directed SPFCIT headed by Commissioner of Police to undertake the Police Investigation.

There is a strong expectation from the relevant statutory agencies and public space to deal appropriately with Mr. Paul Dopsie in relation to the criminal allegations that have been publicly levelled against him. It would be proper for the on-going Police Investigation to be properly completed and independently ascertain whether the criminal allegations raised against Paul Dopsie are true or not.

The criminal investigation conducted by members of SPFCIT is taking longer than expected due to shortages of manpower. SPFCIT is also handling other High-Profile Cases at the same time and this situation has delayed the completion of the investigation in a timely manner.

In order to assist the Police expedite the overall investigation, I have added two new officers to be part of SPFCIT. The officers have commenced work three weeks ago.

In relation to the legal advice issued by the Office of State Solicitor, I understand that the Prime Minister engaged FTI Consulting to conduct two separate but related studies at NDOH with the aim to address legacy health issues:

- A review of the efficiency and effectiveness of NDOH's existing Procurement and Distribution of Medical Supplies System
- A forensic investigation to identify any potential instances of fraud or corrupt conduct committed by staff, contractors or other related parties against NDOH and the Independent State of Papua New Guinea.

The request for legal advice did not accurately characterise the work of FTI Consulting: which comprised the two works described above, neither of which are an audit. No audit opinion was issued on the two distinct reports produced by FTI Consulting at the conclusion of their studies.

Given that the work did not purport to be an audit of public sector entities, it was not necessary to obtain approval from Auditor General's Office.

The issues of suspected criminal offences raised by FTI Consulting through its Forensic Investigation Report were similarly reported by the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee.

The potential criminal offences reported by FTI Consulting and the Parliamentary Accounts Committee are serious and naturally require RPNGC to investigate them independently and objectively. The legal advice confirms that RPNGC has the investigative power to examine the criminal allegations made against NDoH and there is nothing preventing RPNGC from investigating and prosecuting the matter themselves.

Consistent with the legal advice from the Office of State Solicitor, I would expect the Special Police Forensic Criminal Investigation Team (SPFCIT) to use its investigative powers to undertake its own full independent criminal investigation in relation to potential criminal offences under the Criminal Code Act 1974. I further expect that SPFCIT will not rely exclusively on the reports produced by FTI Consulting to charge and prosecute criminal offences but rather use those reports as one source of relevant information to inform its own investigation of the serious allegations that have been raised.

On this note, I would strongly advise your office not to reinstate Paul Dopise until at such time that the criminal allegations that have been levelled against him are fully cleared. His premature reinstatement at NDOH can negatively affect the smooth flow of the Police investigation and temper with the evidence and the state witnesses.

For your reference, attached here are number of Minutes containing my directions issued in relation NDOH's criminal investigation.

You can contact me or Special Constable Andy Peperaija Pape on (+675) [REDACTED]
or Email: [REDACTED] should you require any assistance or clarification.

Yours sincerely,



David Manning, MBE, DPS, QPM
Commissioner of Police

Cc: ACP Crimes
Cc: Special Police Forensic Criminal Investigation Team
Cc: Acting OIC CID National Capital District

Attachments

1. Meeting Minutes File 1-1-3 dated 12 July 2021
2. Meeting Minutes File 1-1-3 dated 12 July 2021
3. Meeting Minute File 1-1-3 dated 23 March 2021