Australian National University

PUBLIC SEMINAR

The challenges of fighting corruption in Papua New Guinea

Thursday 27 November 12.30 – 1.30pm

Speaker

Sam Koim

Chairman at Investigation Task-Force Sweep

Principal Legal Officer at the Department of Justice & Attorney General, PNG

Location

Acton Theatre

Level 1, JG Crawford Building 132 Lennox Crossing, ANU

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This seminar is free and open to the public.

Corruption in Papua New Guinea is widely accepted to be a major development challenge. The fight against it was recently bolstered by the introduction of a new anti-corruption taskforce. In 2011 Taskforce Sweep, a multi-agency anti-corruption taskforce, was set up by Prime Minister Peter O'Neill to investigate, prosecute and recover the proceeds of crime. The agency was initially successful in recouping corrupt funds, instigating numerous arrests and prosecuting a senior politician. But in 2014 Prime Minister O'Neill ordered the agency disbanded after O'Neill himself was served with an arrest warrant over his alleged role in a corruption scandal. While the legality of the PM's decision is being decided in the courts, Taskforce Sweep continues to operate in an increasingly difficult environment.

In this presentation, the Chairman of Taskforce Sweep, **Sam Koim**, reflects upon his experiences in fighting corruption in PNG. He will explain the institutional arrangements that led to Sweep's initial success and outline the issues that threaten these arrangements. The presentation will highlight what these challenges mean for ongoing anti-corruption efforts in the country.

This public seminar is presented by the Development Policy Centre at Crawford School of Public Policy and the State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program, The Australian National University.

Further information about the Development Policy Centre: devpolicy.anu.edu.au and the State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program: http://ips.cap.anu.edu.au/ssgm

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