

## Annex 10: RPNGC Commissioner Circular 5 / 2007

### ROYAL PAPUA NEW GUINEA CONSTABULARY



Police Headquarters  
P O Box 85  
KONEDOBU, N.C.D.

Circular No: 06/2007

File No: 1-1-3

Date: 20 May 2007

**SUBJECT: CONSTABULARY RESPONSE TO OFFENCES OF FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

The policy of the Royal PNG Constabulary is to prosecute those who commit crimes of family and sexual violence. Serious crimes, including offences of assault (in all its forms), unlawful wounding, attempted murder, willful damage or willful destruction, rapes, sexual assault, incest, and other such offences, should be recorded and investigated.

Where evidence exists that these types of offences have occurred, charges should be laid against a suspect. Violence of this kind is never acceptable. We should all adhere to our Oath of Office, regardless of the occupation of a suspect, and regardless of the status of a person (in the case of police, their rank).

Divisional Commanders, Provincial Police Commanders, Metropolitan Superintendents and Police Station Commanders are to strictly ensure that members of the Constabulary undertake the following actions to help end family and sexual violence. They are to:-

- Ensure that all members under their command appropriately respond to, and then record all complaints of family and sexual violence in the occurrence book;

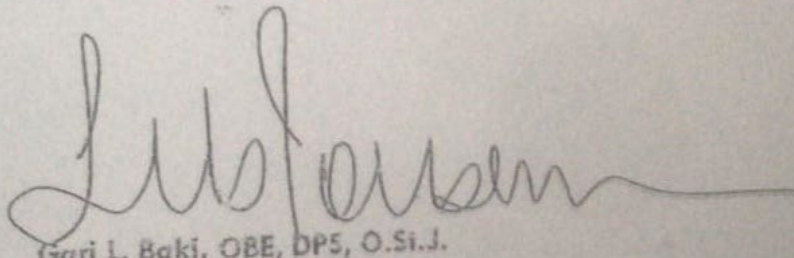
- Ensure that all members under their command thoroughly investigate complaints of family and sexual violence and complete crime reports as required;
- Ensure that police treat complaints of family and sexual violence as criminal offences and not civil or family matters; and
- Ensure that following proper investigation and upon availability of evidence, police charge people with such crimes, regardless of their status in society.

Members are not to encourage settlement of these types of offence through payment of compensation. Payment of compensation is only relevant in terms of sentencing by a court. It should not be used to stop charges being laid or prosecutions from proceeding.

The Constabulary stands committed to ensuring that the criminal laws of Papua New Guinea are enforced including offences of family and sexual violence.

Divisional Commanders, Provincial Police Commanders, Metropolitan Superintendents and Police Station Commanders should ensure that both proactive and reactive measures are taken in their areas of operation to reduce the number of cases of these forms of violence.

Members of the Community Policing Units should be actively engaged with personnel of Non Government Organizations, Family Base Organizations, Community Base Organizations and other Government Departments to actively present programs aimed to reducing these forms of violence across Papua New Guinea.



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Commissioner of Police