



ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ORGANIZATION
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Statement delivered by

HON. BOB DADAE

(Deputy Speaker, House of Representatives, Independent State of Papua New Guinea)

Your Excellency, the President of 27th General Assembly of AIPO, Distinguished Members of AIPO, Special Observers, Colleagues from Observer Countries, Ladies and Gentlemen:

May I seek your indulgence to thank our wonderful host the people of Philippines for according us the warm hospitality since our arrival in the beautiful City of Cebu.

Like other observer countries Papua New Guinea always appreciate the opportunity to attend the Annual General Assembly of AIPO. Indeed, through regular participation in AIPO General Assembly we continue to benefit from the exchanges on issues of bilateral, regional and global concerns. In this respect we highly value our participation especially in the dialogue session as it allows us to consolidate the already cordial bilateral relations that we enjoy with all AIPO member countries.

Your Excellency, Papua New Guinea proudly continues to forge and expand its bilateral trade and investment relations with individual AIPO member countries. We are also equally keen to enter into economic and development partnership arrangements with the future ASEAN Economic Union. Like the AIPO member countries Papua New Guinea is excited about the prospects offered by ASEAN Economic Union (AEU) as we believe benefits under the overall framework of AEU would be unprecedented.

While we are greatly encouraged by the future economic prosperity of the ASEAN region we are nevertheless concerned about the unresolved global issues that continue to impact on our Security. There can be no doubt that without sustainable peace and security there cannot be any economic prosperity. It is, therefore, important that all of us AIPO and non AIPO members fully embrace all conceivable measures that lend themselves towards the protection of our sovereignties and integrities against any adversaries such as the organized crime and terrorism.

Your Excellency, the Pacific Island countries are surrounded by vast expanse of unpatrolled water. Lack of resources coupled with acute shortage of skilled manpower makes the region more exposed and vulnerable to transnational crimes.

For example, drugs trafficking, human smuggling and money laundering often occur without detection and hence the perpetrators often go unpunished. As the transnational crimes have the potential of undermining security and stability, Papua New Guinea along with the members of the Melanesian Spearheads Group (MSG) which comprises of Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, are actively pursuing the proposition to establish "Melanesian Security Intelligence Concept" (MELSIC) through which any

information gathered can be disseminated to National Intelligence Organizations of the respective members of MSG.

The concept is being actively pursued because in recent years the Pacific region has fallen victim to political instability which escalated into civil war. For example Fiji had military coups while Papua New Guinea encountered civil war that spanned over a period of ten (10) years; causing loss of lives and dislocation of the civilian population. Recently the region and indeed the world witnessed ethnic violence in the Solomon Islands which brought chaos and disorder in the country. To help restore peace and stability to the Solomon Islands the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI) was established with Australia and New Zealand playing a key role.

As a member of the Pacific region Papua New Guinea is gravely concerned about the possible replication of these events in other countries in our region. For its part PNG remains committed to the protection and preservation of regional peace and security, while ensuring that any emergence of internal lawlessness is immediately curtailed.

Your Excellency, may I conclude by thanking member countries of AIPO for continuously giving observer countries such as my country a special place in your worthy endeavors.

May AIPO through its worthy efforts one day become channel for peace, harmony and economic prosperity in the region and the world at large.

I thank you for your indulgence.