



# TAX REVIEW COMMITTEE OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN



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## PRESS STATEMENT

There have been recent media statements about the Tax Review Committee hiring a foreign tax consultant. I would like to set the record straight and state that the Tax Review does not have a foreign tax consultant engaged exclusively to give advice to the Review Committee.

The Review methodology from the very beginning has been one of open and consultative dialogue with stakeholders. It has been using a wide audience base to get comments, information, and advice. This method allows for as many people as possible to give input to the Review process.

To date, the Review has completed nine (9) Issues Papers which are technical researched documents containing arguments for and against in subject areas based on the Review's terms of reference. The nine (9) Issues Papers already made available for public comment are in the following tax areas:-

1. Mining & Petroleum
2. Corporate & International
3. Broad Directions for Tax Reform
4. Excise
5. Tax Incentives
6. Personal and Retirement Income
7. Microenterprises, Small Business and the Informal Economy
8. Capital Gains Tax
9. Revenue Administration

The Review is currently working on GST, other Indirect Taxes, Non Tax Revenue and Land & Property Tax.

A timeline of 8-10 weeks is given for stakeholders to comment on any one Issues Paper. The Review then evaluates those submissions as well as policy design effects.

Issues Papers along with general discussion comments are widely circulated including through the Review's website ([www.taxreview.gov.pg](http://www.taxreview.gov.pg)). The Review has also made public, its quarterly updates.

To ensure that PNG's tax regime is modern and consistent with international best practises, the Review has also been sourcing external expertise and technical advice on specific tax areas. The Review has used different tax experts from several countries to provide that advice and support. At any one time, such technical assistance lasts 3-4 weeks. The Review does not have a foreign tax consultant in its employ as stated in the media.

In September 2014, the Committee submitted an Interim Report to the Government. This Report contained some 'early wins' tax reform measures for Government consideration as part of the 2015 Budget considerations.

**Sir Nagora Bogan, KBE**  
Chairman, Tax Review Committee