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MEDIA RELEASE

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Parole Board hearing a success at Kerevat

A first of its kind Parole Board Hearing was held at Kerevat Correctional Institution on the 12th and 13th of October 2019 in East New Britain province.

The Board Members headed by Chair Dr. Eric Kwa, Secretary for Justice & Attorney General was officially welcomed by a parade conducted by the Kerevat CS Officials.

It was the first of its kind where the Parole Board travelled out of the National Capital District (NCD) to conduct its hearing which gave opportunity for victims and relatives to air their views in person.

The hearing showed tremendous significance despite bad weather and short notice where victims and relatives of prisoners made their way to present for the Parole Board hearing. They came forward and expressed their views and gave their statements to the Parole Board during the occasion.

Parole is not a right but a privilege given to prisoners after serving more than half of his/her term in prison, and have gone through rehabilitation programs. The main objectives of Parole is to

1. allow prisoner's with good chances of rehabilitation to be released from prison under strict supervision with certain mandatory and additional conditions to comply with;
2. to assist prisoner's in their efforts to successfully reintegrated into the community after being placed in prison for an offence. *and*

3. to help decrease the incidence of recidivism (repeat offenders).

Parole is a significant aspect of the criminal justice system in Papua New Guinea many ordinary citizens are yet to comprehend. The Act was passed by Parliament in 1991 *Parole Act 1991 (No.1 16 of 1992)*.

The Parole Board is also looking forward to conduct similar hearing in all the other Correctional Institution throughout Papua New Guinea based on conditions' and strategic assessment before granting parole to prisoners for a system of which will contribute to the maintenance of **a just, peaceful and safe society** of Papua New Guinea citizens.



Chairman of Parole Board – Dr Eric Kwa, PhD

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