



**MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE**  
**Level 5, Tower A, Central Government Office, Waigani**  
**PO Box 519, Waigani, NCD, Papua New Guinea**

Telephone: (675) 327 6418/6365

Facsimile: (675) 325 0835

Email: [publicserviceministry@dpm.gov.pg](mailto:publicserviceministry@dpm.gov.pg)

---

**RESPONSE TO POST-COURIER NEWSPAPER  
ARTICLE OF 3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2019, TITLED "HIDES  
CHIEFS URGE NEC TO REJECT TRIO FROM TOP  
POST"**

"In response to an article in Post-Courier dated Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2019 titled "Hides chiefs urge NEC to reject trio from top post", I as the Minister for Public Service condemn this report because it was biased," said Public Service Minister Westly Nukundj.

Post-Courier did not communicate with my office and/ or my department, Department of Personnel Management, prior to publishing this article.

"Documents relating to appointments of departmental heads, provincial administrators or heads of statutory organizations are confidential in nature and I condemn the leakage of such information to the media," said Nukundj.

Minister Nukundj explained that the appointment process of agency heads are done using the merit based selection and appointment criteria and these executive appointments go through a process commencing with the Department of Personnel Management who does the pre-screening process and the initial five (5) names are submitted to the Central Agencies Coordinating Committee (CACC) and later the five names and all applications are submitted to the Public Service Commission (PSC) for final assessment before three (3) names are recommended to NEC.

"It is therefore incorrect for the Post-Courier to publish such confidential information of which the information itself is not

true, regarding the three (3) names mentioned in the article, as the PSC is yet to finalize the shortlist of three (3) candidates”.

“PSC does not confine itself to only the 5 names submitted but they do a thorough check on the 5 applicants and has the prerogative to consider all applications as well when coming up with the final 3 candidates”, said Nukundj.

“I acknowledge and noted the views of the landowners but we must respect the merit based appointment process, and the first point of call on any executive appointments is the Minister for Public Service and the Secretary for Department of Personnel Management, so the media must communicate with my Office and Secretary’s Office first before going out to the press” said Nukundj.

Approved and authorized to release.

**HON. WESTLY N. NUKUNDJ, MP**  
Minister for Public Service

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2019**