

Rt Hon Mekere Morauta KCMG

PO Box 1267

PORT MORESBY NCD

Tel: 7210 0527

Email: mmorauta@gmail.com

21 July 2016

Mr Pama Anio

Editor

The National

By email

LETTER TO THE EDITOR - FOR PUBLICATION

Dear Mr Anio,

I am increasingly disturbed about the lack of even-handedness and balance with which I am treated in the National's news pages.

The latest example in a long-running practice of your newspaper occurred this week in relation to comments I made in public statements, and the response from the Prime Minister.

I made three statements this week, one on Monday 18th of July and two on Tuesday 19th, none of which you printed in your news pages.

Those statements were made by me as a private citizen interested in national affairs, and were made in the national interest but, as is your right, you chose not to print even a sentence of my comments.

I was somewhat surprised, then, to find in Wednesday's newspaper an extraordinary and highly defamatory personal attack on me by the Prime Minister, written by one of your staff.

This news item, which contained statements that you, your reporter and the National know to be false, did not contain a word from any of my statements, nor was any attempt made by the author or anyone else from the National to contact me.

This practice of the National concerning my statements is not new. Nor, I suspect, would it come as a surprise to many other citizens wishing to express views that might not be to the liking of the current Government.

It is highly disappointing to see a very important media organization showing such apparent bias. This is not healthy for Papua New Guinea's democracy. People have a right to accurate, fair and unbiased information.

I look forward to hearing from you how this remarkable chain of events could have occurred.

Yours, sincerely



Mekere Morauta