

**Public Statement by Rt Hon Sir Mekere Morauta  
Former Prime Minister and Member for Moresby North-West  
Port Moresby, 31 October 2018**

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**Sir Mekere calls for Ombudsman Commission and Fraud Squad investigation into APEC**



The Member for Moresby North-West and former Prime Minister, Sir Mekere Morauta, has written to the Ombudsman Commission and Fraud Squad calling for inquiries into the APEC luxury cars scandal.

“Enough public information, gathered by myself and others, is now available to justify high-level investigations into the spending by the Prime Minister, Mr Peter O’Neill, the APEC Minister, Mr Justin Tkatchenko, and the APEC Authority CEO, Mr Christopher Hawkins,” he said.

“This information indicates a strong likelihood that the Leadership Code, the Constitution, the Criminal Code and other laws have been broken.

“About K33 million in taxpayers’ money appears to have been spent on luxury cars without due process being followed. The people of Papua New Guinea have a right to know what happened to this money.

“There has been no explanation by Mr O’Neill, Mr Tkatchenko and Mr Hawkins despite repeated public requests. The only option now is for full investigations.

“The seriousness of the potential illegal conduct also justified a wider inquiry into APEC spending, estimated to be K3 billion by the World Bank based on O’Neill Government advice.

“If the illegalities of the luxury cars spending are replicated across other APEC spending, then we have corruption as bad as any seen in the world in the past few years.

“I urge the Ombudsman Commission and the Fraud Squad to undertake these investigations as a matter of great urgency. The nation deserves nothing less.”

Sir Mekere’s letter to the Ombudsman Commission and the Fraud Squad and supporting documentation, hand-delivered on Friday last week, can be downloaded here: <https://www.mekeremorauta.net/single-post/2018/10/30/Letter-to-Ombudsman-Commission-and-Fraud-Squad-seeking-inquiry-into-APEC-scams>