



DEPARTMENT OF PRESIDENT & BOUGAINVILLE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
OFFICE OF CHIEF SECRETARY

Media Statement

19 April 2018

Theft of Department of Community Government Property

I am informed that in the early hours of the morning on 18 July 2018, a targeted break in took place at the offices of the Department of Community Government.

Two departmental computers were stolen, both of which contain sensitive financial information. A filing cabinet, also containing financial records was broken into and papers taken.

This would seem to be a clear and deliberate attempt to try and remove evidence of financial transactions. I am of the view that only officers of the ABG public service could have undertaken the theft given the targeted nature of the crime.

Matters associated with financial management across the ABG are under active investigation by the internal auditor who is already in possession of substantial financial records. The investigation will continue unhindered by this blatant theft, and those who are implicated will face the full weight of the law when they are caught.

I have asked that the police undertake a full investigation in relation to this matter and report to the President as soon as possible on their findings. Criminal actions of this type will not be tolerated, and simply serve to tarnish the reputation of the ABG and Bougainville. Those who engage in such crimes cause more harm than good, act out of self-interest and greed and have no regard for the rights and aspirations of people of Bougainville.

Joseph Nobetau