



Department of the President & BEC

Office of the President

MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR INTER-GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS & MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

Presidential Statement on Tsibing Murder

I condemn in the strongest terms the senseless killing of young Justin Kukue Tsibing who was brutally murdered in the early hours of Saturday morning.

Taking the life of ones fellow man is against the very Commandments of God. The sanctity of life is the gift of God binding man closer to his maker. To end the life of another is not by right of man but by the divine grace of God.

While the Bougainville Police Service is conducting its investigations into this senseless killing I urge you all to refrain from taking the law into your own hands.

The matter as it stands is a police matter and will be dealt with by the police; let us not regress to our primal urges by playing judge, jury and executioner.

I caution restraint to those who seek to undermine the authority of the government through unsavory means that will only defeat our journey to self-determination.

I must remind you all again that the dawn of the referendum is upon us. It is time to foster peace and unity through harmonious means.

While this outrageous act of violence has caused the untimely demise of the late Justin Kukue Tsibing it is a test for us all to seek a peaceful solution.

Let us not segregate ourselves and promote regionalism; this is an issue that must be condemn by all Bougainvilleans, this is not a Buin issue nor is it a Buka issue, it is a Bougainville issue. Let us all take responsibility for this and let the rule of law prevail.

This outrageous act of violence may threaten to shake the very foundations of our shared commitment to peace and unity but we will not be deterred by this isolated incident. We must continue working for the greater good of Bougainville.

Our prayers are with the family of the late Justin Kukue Tsibing in this time of bereavement, may he find solace in the arms of his maker.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J L Momis', written in a cursive style.

**Grand Chief Dr John L. Momis GCL, MHR
President**