

**PERSISTENT CRIMINALITY IMPEDES ECONOMIC
STEADINESS AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE
IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA:
A DISCOURSE OF UNPREDICTABILITY***

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Abstract. In spite of a land of natural wealth ranging from dense forestry to huge mineral resources and mining delight, Papua New Guinea (PNG) has been lastingly regarded as one of the riskiest countries of the world for its supposedly constant crime and violence complaints. Over the last decades, higher crime rates and enormities of violence remained relatively steady. Intrinsically, crimes and violence are befalling across regions of PNG by means of robberies, theft, murder, cruelty against women and children, misuse of power and corruption in most institutional settings including political governance (Walton, 2015). This was an usual trend of criminality in PNG persisting for ages. Along with continuous economic downturns in PNG, democratic idioms are also suffering as non-democratic arrogance due to increasing criminality. According to the World Bank Report, crime is on the rise in selected “hotspots” such as Port Moresby, Lae, Mount Hagen, Goroka and Bougainville. Besides few hotspot regions, various forms of criminality are vigilant all over the country in diverse magnitude. Since PNG stands out as a tradition-based tribal social structure with a primeval value system, it has a deep-rooted sense of cultural beliefs implicitly dominated by the people’s mindset of perpetual conflicts for attaining tribal primacy. Considering such culturally-ordained criminal practices in PNG, the economic sustainability essentially remained self-possessed and as such malpractice of democratic ideals posited no good sense of civility. Based on qualitative assessments, this paper tends to highlight the volume of criminal activities in PNG which restricted economic soundness and political radicalism.

Keywords: *Criminality; Economic Downturn; Political Governance; Papua New Guinea*

* Authors wish to thank Dr. Kaveri Devi Mishra for her useful discussions and comments on the negative fronts of crimes and corruptions in PNG.

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Introduction

Amongst all Pacific Island Nations, Papua New Guinea (PNG) is the largest one, considering its land mass, population and Gross Domestic Product (GDP). It is a developing country having a population of 8.78 million (2019), of which nearly 87 % populate remote locations mostly depending on agricultural mode of production. In rural enclaves, the literacy rate counts for 55-60 per cent. PNG has three main spoken languages – English, Tok Pisin and Hiri Motu, besides the fact that there are approximately 850 other communicable languages and indigenous nomenclatures. This compound structure of the multiplicity of languages reveals the multiplicity of tribes and clans (as many as 850) in PNG. This is one of the basic tenets of ritualistic cultural continuity that uniquely represents diverse socio-linguistic groups and communities in PNG.

The fact that traditional clan-based tribes are supposedly more influential than their national identity is a situation which poses a challenge to development efforts. Another serious challenging aspect of development in PNG is that it is traditionally seen as a vulnerable region of the world in regard to its persistent causation of crimes and violence across the country. Over the last decades, the high crime rates and various types of violence remained consistent. The crime rate in Papua New Guinea is said to be one of the highest among other nations in the world which was assessed by international agencies of great repute. As for example, the United States Bureau of Diplomatic Security (USDS) reported, “the crime rate in Papua New Guinea is considered among the highest in the world. Carjacking, armed robberies, and stoning of vehicles are problems in/around major cities but can also occur elsewhere. You are more vulnerable to robbery or rape when traveling alone” (USDS, 2015). Criminal acts like robberies, assaults, theft, murder, gender-based violence, arms trafficking, poaching of natural resources and transnational crime appears to be on the rise to overall crime scenario in PNG. The news media, National (2017) reports that crime rate in the capital Port Moresby has been gradually increasing from ‘petty crime’ to organised ‘arms exhibited crimes’. Increasing crime rate shows in high magnitude which is apparently unconceivable (*The Post Courier*, 2018). To align with this (*Ibidem*, 2018, reporter: Miriam Zarriga) highlights the dreadful crime reality in Port Moresby when it reported 23 crimes in the first week of January 1-8 (2018). Evidently, sexual offences, armed robberies and homicide raised the crime statistics to over 70 per cent at the beginning of 2018 (Walton, 2015).

World Bank Report identified a few “hotspots” of the crime zones; they are Lae, Port Moresby, Mount Hagen, Goroka and Bougainville. Although crime is high in hotspot regions, it is also happening all over the country in different magnitude (Lakhani & Wilman, 2014). Since Papua New Guinea is a tradition-based tribal society admitting primordial value system, it has a deep-rooted sense of customs and a variety of rituals conflicting the mindset of the people.

Although it is said to be one of the richest nations when it comes to natural resources, its progress towards development is significantly slow and passive. The reasons behind such developmental passivity are the high prevalence rate of

crime and violence tacitly encountering the normal state of socio-economic growth. In particular, violence in PNG can be understood to a certain extent as the inability of both traditional and formal institutions to get into pace with rapid economic growth, increasing migration, and other factors. Crime and violence are pulling the country backward implicating negatively the vital areas of education, health, information communication technology, infrastructure development and general sustainability. Here, criminality in effect, reflects a state of pecuniary depression which stands against the challenges of global interactive spirit in achieving certain development goals.

As regards family violence, over 67% women in the country suffer domestic abuse (*The Guardian*, 2016). A general estimate suggests that more than half of women are being raped on a regular yearly basis. Reports have estimated that 60% of men had participated in gang rape at least once, while in certain Highland provinces the rate of violence against women was almost 100 per cent. Even pregnant mothers have been kicked and thrown out of their houses by their violent outraged husbands.

These concomitant trends present a confrontational circumstance for economic viability against the grave situation of crime and violence in PNG over the past few decades that consequentially daunted socioeconomic development. This is to note further along the line that PNG is encountering tremendous challenges with the prevalent conditions of wide spread crime and violence dictating as a major hindrance for its development perspectives.

A sense of insecurity engendered by the incessant causation of crimes all over prompted to constant anxiety only because of the inadequacy of proper actions to deal with such criminality; even the police service is inadequately equipped to deal with this nature of multi-faceted problems of crimes and violence. Along with poverty and unemployment, the tribal allegiance to each group also plays a significant part in the ethnically diverse tribal environment towards causation of crimes. It is all the more difficult to trace the crime trends accurately due to lack of dependable information. However, the following delimited categories of perceived foremost criminal hostility in PNG could be a worthwhile note for this exercise:

- Crime in Urban PNG;
- Violence and Gender Discrimination;
- Composite Corruptions;
- Arms Trafficking; and
- Criminality traversed through Transnational.

*Crime in Urban PNG: Observation for all intents
and purposes encircled to Port Moresby and Lae city*

In appraising the cumulative dimensions of urban crimes in Papua New Guinea in general and its capital city Port Moresby in particular, Lakhani and Wilman (2014) have unfolded the concerns tracing back the preliminary segments of criminal activities in the 1960s. Lakhani and Wilman (2014)

underscored that in 1960s, the colonial restrictions over the movement of PNGeans across tribes and provinces were removed which prompted the young rural migrants flocked to Port Moresby in significantly. As such the violent criminal undertakings have been ascribed by the *Rascals* gangs in Port Moresby who were commonly conserved in the city. These acts of violent criminal events gradually alienated young men from the city's increasing settlement efforts. To note further that during 1980s and 1990s, a localised crime waves followed the cyclical patterns through the heavy-handed police operations demonstrated violent actions in the capital city. The negative consequence of such crime-stream heralded severe insecurity and exploded to two major cities of POM & LAE in PNG. This was how PNG's townships have acquired disrepute as violent crime spots and evidently categorized these two cities as the world's most dangerous criminal nucleuses.

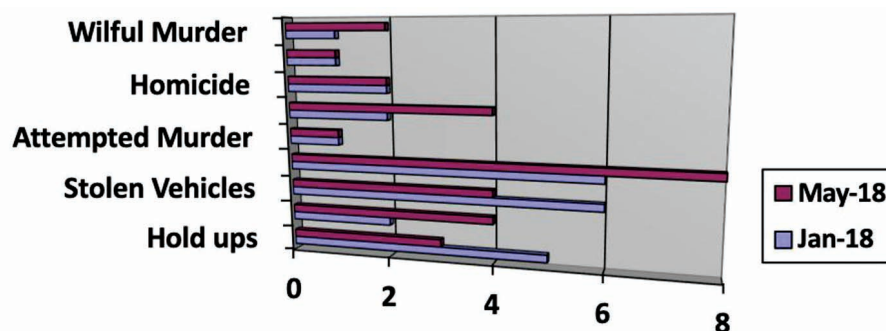
Due to limited coverage and apparently poor-quality police services in PNG, it is difficult and barely possible to assess the exactitudes of criminal offences and related lawlessness. However, the concurrent survey results and the subjective evidences clearly indicate that crimes and violence victimisation rates are relatively higher by the global standards. Though positive efforts were carried out with a view to reducing and stabilising crime activities, but the scale of unreported crimes including rapes and other sexual violence are extremely high, particularly in rural areas because of the limited access to police services. This state of ill-reported crime scenario addressed abrupt incongruities in the absolute sense of ferocity and corruptions between urban and rural social structure in PNG.

As one of the social control mechanisms, the roles of police service in PNG appeared to be quite incapable as stated above. The handling of concurrent crises grown out of habitual criminality could be really difficult due to limited strength of police in terms of numbers. Even the police do not have the minimum required resources to deal with the cases of 3 murders, 4 rapes, and 28 car-jacking on an average weekly criminal activity. Data sources reveal that the numbers and rates of criminal activities essentially remain unreported for fear and danger of lives and thus it remained statistically insignificant. There are lot of instances of the occurrences of crimes are there without validating the facts which ought to be gathered from the police service only. These facts are necessary for viable data sources in order to take legal actions thereof. As for example, one University of technology Associate professor was a victim of house-breaking by the rascals. The university faculty was simply helpless and thus to give away everything what he had out of the fear of his life. Likewise, a petty shop at the campus was broken, took away and looted all essential commodities by the gangsters. In this case, the family members and neighbours helplessly observed the ruthless acts of rascals but it could be unwise to interfere with the gangsters. According to the police, these incidents are common and many a times expatriates are the easy preys of the 'Rascals' who assumes with confidence that they (expatriates) carry cash, have their mobile phones and laptops etc.,

Law and order Summit held in Lae city (2018) which was attended by the Justice Minister, also Attorney-General Davis Steven. Justice Minister has a grave

concern about crimes in PNG while saying that the level and trend of crime has developed and progressed to an extent that it has become a menace affecting all levels of the community in rural and urban areas. Crimes are no longer hidden or isolated but they are becoming more and more planned and audacious causing hindrances socio-economic development. From such a statement and practical scenario, it can be aptly deduced that crimes in PNG have progressed from simple stealing and fighting to armed-holdups and bank robberies, marijuana and also homebrew alcoholic substance have become the common cause of crimes in rural and urban communities in PNG. Examples can be cited in the context, like violent incident at Mendi, Southern Highlands, where a national carrier was burnt down and as such there were unpleasant law and order problems accrued affecting two opposing groups who got into clashes following the election results.

It is worth-citing the instances of violence and major crimes which took place in PNG Capital Port Moresby within a short span of five months beginning from January 2018 till May 2018. The following figure will project the variability of crime scenarios in the urban regions as contested against the efforts to reduce the overall crime rates in PNG.



Violence and Gender Discrimination

Gender based discrimination followed by violence has been more than usual in everyday life for centuries regardless of geographic locations. After the rise of global expansionism, the intensity of gender inequity issues and violence could have restraint a bit. But nevertheless, it is more or less experienced by all societies including Papua New Guinea. Male domination over females, children, and under-privileged groups is a commonplace in PNG. This nature of male domination is politically, socially and culturally constituted in PNG corresponding to established traditional tribal norms and rituals. Women have substantively insignificant access to health care services and educational opportunities compared to that of men. Given such conditions of selectivity, women are greatly undemonstrative at all levels of government. It is thus justifiable to note that the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) mentioned about the

gender-based violence in PNG that counted almost two-thirds of all women which is a prodigious alarm for the nation. Therefore, it would not be an oversimplification to regard the gender-based violence as a ubiquitous phenomenon in PNG.

In spite of conscientious legal interferences, public openness, and a range of pragmatic developmental program initiatives undertaken by the community groups, NGOs, government agencies, businesses and international donors for safeguarding relative female autonomy, violence against women and girls in the form of extreme sexual abuse remains a mammoth contest in society. The gender inequality issues further triumphed due to consumerism and economic globalization instead of possible reduction. There are two concomitant facts excelled in favour of male dominance towards female subservience. One, for all practical purposes, male policy planners (majority in numbers) do not tend to favour females even in the phases of consumerism and economic extension of globalization. Second, the socially entrenched traditional as well as age-old values and attitudes are in unhurried stride and as such it would be hard to think about any tangible change in society. Further to add that the incremental incidences of gender imbalance causing women to have gained only disproportionate social status along the concurrent stream of post modernity. Again, preceding facts can be authenticated by the assertions of United Nations about GBV as the “results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.” Evidently, it may be recalled that according to Gender Inequality Index portrayed by UNDP, the PNG ranked 140 out of 146 countries. The deprivation of women in all manners, therefore, could be heightened in PNG society and community at large.

The subsequent reference-based data sources and relevant written resources could be aptly supplemented for a clearer picture of the gender-based violence in PNG. These data basically contained within rapes and sexual tortures of all kinds mainly by men over women. The incidence of gender-based violence (GBV) in PNG is presumably thought to be as wide-ranging extents: The PNG men (41%) admit to having raped someone, about two-thirds of women are victims of certain form of physical or sexual violence in their lifetime, even it is reported that 7.7% of men admit to having perpetrated male rape. Nearly 73% of survivors of GBV seeks assistance and about 88% of these individuals seek assistance through informal support like familial, kinship or collegiate networks or village courts and community leaders rather than through formal official channels. It is evident from the above count that the GBV is essentially underreported which is hypothesized by E. Darko, W. Smith and D. Walker (2015).

For the development of National strategic plan in disputing the GBV and for instituting the Family Sexual Violence Action Committee Secretariats in the country, the UNDP assisted the Government to address the issue so as to encounter the epidemic of violence all over the place. Indicating the aspect of cost to business, the report on ‘Gender Violence in Papua New Guinea’ presupposed that the GBV are varied in nature through to different workplaces including Government’s network and NGO’s reflections. For all practical purposes, the act

of violence at workplace tends to intensify legal obligations thereto venturing the risks of occupational health and safety issues. Again, in the workplace, by distressing the victims' enactments proceeded through GBV as such reduce the productivity in general. Hence, it does deter the career advancements against productivity turnover. However, as for the private sector, these expenses add up, with direct costs of GBV adding 3 per cent to 9 per cent to total payroll expenses and indirect costs adding another 45 per cent (Darko et al., 2015). It is all the more prognostic that gender violence in PNG is cost-deceiving.

Human Rights Watch (2015) asserted that the family violence reached its zenith in Papua New Guinea wherein over two-thirds of women are exposed to various levels of inhumane male tribal chauvinism in the primordial form of violence. To note that in some locales, nearly 80 per cent of men are confessing about their committing to sexual violence against their partners and wives. The under-reporting and under-enumeration of the rates of violence against women are evident primarily because of the lack of demonstrability in police follow-up. The sorcery-related violence is essentially directed towards women and women only which ought to be a major forewarning for the government, churches, donor agencies and NGOs. (Forsyth & Eves, 2015).

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) proposed to uphold the gender equality and empowerment of women in achieving worldwide reform on gender balance (Lytton, 2015). The spirit of MDG's pledge was far from reality in Papua New Guinea in the sense that it was exceedingly slow in pace than expected to be. Even after 15 years of attaining MDG's goals, nearly 67% of women in PNG are suffering from domestic abuse. More than half of women have been concurrently being raped according to available statistical reports. Furthermore, the reports estimated that at least 60% of men partaken in gang rape as a minimum, while the rate of violence against women was close to 100% in certain Highland provinces.

Again, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) initiated to "achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls", restraining and eliminating the violence against women including all the detrimental practices like child marriage and female genital mutilation in any society. In order to achieve this SDG, the educational awareness and economic understanding along with the spirit of global upright can make people conscious of such damaging evil nature of social degradations. At the current state, notwithstanding the active roles of NGOs and several foreign aid agencies towards women's attaining certain degree of empowerment in PNG which it seems to be decreasing. The reason for such decrease of women's empowerment could be presumed that there are yet to be any clear direction of thought forthcoming from the government.

Composite Corruptions: Political or Cultural?

It is fairly undisputed and widely acceptable fact that the PNG is one of the distinct most corrupt countries of the world having ranked at the 28th amongst the 196 countries. From this inferential statistical scenario, we can be unprejudiced

to comprehend the degree of this state of intense corruption in PNG. We may regard this as, “day-light corruption” relevant to platitude as “day-light robbery” because here in PNG we often observe that the most corrupt practice happens just before bare eyes and yet nothing is to be done about it by society, community and government or any political initiatives. In line with this, it may well be mentioned that the recent past PM has abolished the anti-corruption task-force and thus permitting the breach of the Organic Law (section 130b). A clear reflection of political backwardness could be revealed from legal degradation.

As regards existing electoral system, this is to note that the most recent ‘day-light corruption’ is the strategic move by the EC to amputate the electoral advisory committee (EAC) in commending whether an election is a success or a failure. Contextually, the EAC highlighted how it was not being fed adequate baseline data and information from the EC to perform its duties that resulted in the EAC to quit. However, nothing to blame much to the EC since many companies, organisations or the government departments have their policies and procedures in place to adhere to any department or an individual to act in accordance with that company or organisation, failing which the whole system can collapse. As such, the electoral process has its own limitations for political intrusions.

Papua New Guinea is a rich country having poorest of the poor people (due to all-pervading corruption) who suffer from unsatisfactory healthcare services, worst housing opportunities, pitiable educational facilities and serious lack of job prospects. All they are cardinally rooted to criminal political infirmities of primeval tribal ancestry. The political corruption is paramount in this country which can be revealed from the never-ending greed of the majority of PNG’s political entities who misappropriate the country’s maximum resources while taking away all kinds of profit including huge cash transfer to the abroad, particularly to the foreign countries like Australia, Singapore and Hong Kong.

The magnitude of corruption as stated above could be proven right when one reads through a relatively unbiased commentary by a legal expert of PNG Mr Sam Koim (2014) as follows: “Corruption flourishes in secrecy and the ignorance of the people. In Papua New Guinea (PNG), it seems that the monster rears its ugly head in nearly all facets of the society. There are many causes, typologies, levels and effects of corruption. There are four basic types of corruption, the attributes of which are seen in PNG today and they are: petty corruption, grand corruption, political corruption and State capture. Petty corruption or bureaucratic corruption or administrative corruption is the everyday corruption that takes place where bureaucrats meet the public directly. Petty corruption is also described as “survival” corruption: a form of corruption which is pursued by junior or mid-level agents who may be grossly underpaid and who depend on relatively small amounts to feed and house their families and pay for their children’s education. Grand corruption is the type of corruption that takes place in higher levels of government. It is typified by the misuse of entrusted power by political leaders or senior public servants and usually involves very large amounts of public money and assets diverted for personal use. Political corruption is corruption in, and of, the electoral and political processes including such; vote buying and

selling; payments between politicians for votes on the floor of parliament; and payments for affiliation to one, or other coalition. State capture is corruption within the legislature, executive, ministries and the judiciary where private interests significantly influence a state's law-making and decision-making processes. It is because of State capture that we see acts such as allocation of discretionary expenditure by MPs that are corrupt though not necessarily illegal." Again, Koim (2012) asserted that The PNG's corruption watchdog, Task Force Sweep, in its final report after months of corruption terms "PNG is a corrupt 'mobocracy'" CORRUPTION IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA's government departments has become institutionalised, where illegality and secrecy is sanctioned to the extent that the nation is now a "mobocracy". "Generally, our investigations have revealed a very frightening trend of corruption in this country," taskforce chairman Sam Koim said. "The level of corruption has migrated from sporadic to systematic and now to institutionalisation, where government institutions are dominated by corrupt people who orchestrate corruption using lawful authorities". "Institutions that are supposed to practice openness and provide check and balance are now becoming a secrecy haven, where they sanction illegality and secrecy." Describing corrupt officials as a mob, Mr Koim said they had turned PNG from a constitutional democracy into a mobocracy. The complete commentary has yet to be made public, but Mr Koim said 20 politicians will be referred to the ombudsman commission for further investigation, while 24 public servants had been suspended for "facilitating or benefiting from corruption". Mr Koim further added that more than 10 lawyers will be referred to the PNG law society for investigation. Legal observation and explanatory views are presented here which is eight (8) years old. Is there any substantial change or alteration in policy planning issues has succeeded towards corruptions or criminality in PNG over the time span from 2012 till 2021? Perhaps it is not easily quantifiable due to lack of proper data sources and evidences. Nonetheless, from the above commentary on PNG's corruption levels it could be gathered that the political and other ancillary corruptions in PNG knew no bounds. But in regard to the legality aspects of corruption, it should be understood in a restricted sense because of the varied legal provisions in favour of both the defendant and the accuser relative to the opportunity of the 'benefit of doubt'. The dynamics of composite corruption level in PNG is more skewed down to political variant than economic which is apparent from the available sources of information. Discussions can be anticipated as cultural too along with political primacy because of the very nature of tribal leadership ('BigMan' for example) manifested in all political activities.

Arms Trafficking

The regular practice of Arm Trafficking is a commonplace in PNG society. The incidence of arm trafficking as is evident from the illicit individual possession of various types of fire arms which came to PNG from other developed nations. This arms trafficking has got international linkage through which criminals all around are protected and survived by stronghold channels. Having actively

involved in arms trafficking specifically marked or identified groups of corrupt criminals in PNG who might be connected to those channels. In essence, most crime channels of arms trafficking consist of influential personnel and organizations that usually run this trade behind the screen.

The use of fire arms by individuals, groups and communities across the country reflect a sense of barefaced violence both in domestic, social and political arena in which general public are facing a kind of life and death questions.

The armed violence is categorised into five sections by Krause and Muggah (2009). They are the following:

- I. Inter-personal violence (involving domestic or social violence);
- II. Collective violence (social or political violence, pre or post-conflict);
- III. Criminal violence (economic violence committed by individuals or groups);
- IV. Conflict (described as 'intense political violence'); and
- V. Institutional violence (violence that is committed by the state).

The high rates of death and injury perpetrated upon people and communities in Papua New Guinea that have been affected by armed violence for decades. In fact, the proliferation of small arms and light weapons throughout the country for the last twenty-five years could be considered as one of the prime causative factors for the arm violence.

The highest levels of illegal and illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) are inconsistent use in the Pacific in general and Papua New Guinea in particular. There were 3.1 million SALW in the possession of civilians in the Pacific region which meant a ratio of one firearm per ten people in the region, a figure that was almost fifty per cent greater than the rest of the world which was steadfastly reported in 2012. Furthermore, it was testified that there were fourteen civilian-held firearms in the Pacific region for every one military or police having possession of firearm. The position of PNG within the legal trade of SALW has historically been ascertained as quite insignificant while compared to the rest of the world; but the possession of civilian-held firearms in the Melanesian is still at the highest level. For example, it has been estimated at 72,000 for the total number of SALW in civilian possession, which is turned to be a rate of 1.2 firearms for every 100 people. To compare in this context, the number of SALW with the possession of the military and police is only about 19,000 SALW against the civilians. The value of export licenses from the United States to PNG on fire arms was \$US 325,769 during the period 1998 to 2000. In the year 2000 alone, PNG declared a total of SALW imports worth \$160,000, which stemmed from both Australia and the US. It is interesting to note that the ABC News based on the report of 2008 claimed that "Over the years, PNG's armoury has been plundered to such an extent; no one really knows how many guns are in criminal hands." This is how one can assume the armed trafficking situation in PNG.

A general assumption that the extent of homemade weapons in PNG is 'out of control' as envisaged in the report of an NGO (2011). In all around PNG the homemade weapons are relatively common. There is abundance of the parts required for these homemade weapons in PNG, particularly available in the Southern Highlands which have been specifically stated by the Pacific Small

Arms Action Group. As regards the demand and supply of the homemade fire arms, Alpers and Twyford (2003) have asserted that “though it is difficult to pinpoint the main centres of production or volumes being produced, the Highlands have in the past been a centre of both demand and supply of these homemade weapons.”

The extended view of the armed trafficking in PNG can be subsumed as that a large number of automatic weapons from Australia and Indonesia (including M-16 and AK-47 assault rifles) are being smuggled into Papua New Guinea in trading exchange for high quality drug trafficking of marijuana as added by local and regional reports. When the arms are going into the hands of criminals in the major cities of PNG and to feuding highland tribes, a positive historical links between the arms-for-drugs trade and the Indonesian separatist Free Papua Movement (OPM) based in neighbouring West Papua has evidently emerged as a reality. Given such unstable political conditions in Indonesia, the trading exchange of fire arms and related weapons provoke a kind of positive threat to the cross-border stability for the government of Papua New Guinea itself.

The trading schema ‘arms-for-drugs’ has increased over the past year, making M-16 and AK-47 rifles available in the hands of feuding highland tribes and „raskols“ (those who carry guns for robbery). They are violent criminals operating in major PNG cities. While criminal gangs are allegedly perpetrating much of the trade, there are historical links to the Free Papua Movement (OPM), Indonesian separatists fighting for an independent West Papua. The influx of weapons not only threatens the security of the PNG, but it can spill across the border into Indonesia as well.

The specific trading connected to ‘arms-for-drug’ is not a new form of business enterprise. It has expanded over the past year, replacing automatic weapons to hill tribes formerly armed with spears and bows. The modern weapons have encouraged Papua New Guinea’s criminal gangs, which inclined to target domestic businesses and homes as well as international investment, development and aid projects. A somewhat criminal trade deal subsequently dents the investment climate and as such helps to create a kind of vicious cycle.

The Australian-Papua New Guinea Business Council lately warned of waning interest in Papua New Guinea by Australian businessmen of being intolerant while experiencing constant rising of violence. There are obvious concerns for Papua New Guinea’s government, which faces a severe loss of tourism revenues and international investments due to the increasing threat of violence; there is also the potential geo-political problem apprehended to spread beyond the Pacific nation’s borders. Taking all these adversaries into count, the Papua New Guinea government has adopted some pragmatic measures so as to reducing the supply of illicit arms and weapons. This measure might be corroborating to persistent problems triggering in on and off inter-communal fighting within and in between tribes. However, for the most part, these measures have been appeared to be ineffective at reducing the level of armed violence in PNG. This failure could be attached to long-standing practices of the use of arms as well as tribal ethos of the natural perceptible forms of violence.

Criminality traversed through Transnational

Variable range of criminality beyond specific geographic boundaries is commonly observed. There are some categories of crimes which are marked as 'transnational' typically meaning that they travel from one country to another and tend to establish supposedly unauthorised mutual linkages in between countries (Reuter and Petrie, 1999). Along with many others, the fact of transnational crime was stressed by Henshaw (2008) that this state of crime exists although there are fewer agreements on such a common definition. In essence, transnational crime has come to mean criminal activities which intrude upon the laws of several countries. Again, Shelley (2004) highlighted that the transnational crime transcends national jurisdictions involving a diverse mix of collaborators driven by organised group of criminals. Sometimes it is problematic for the law enforcement agents to follow the flexible and loosely structured pattern of criminally designed infiltrations.

Besides terrorism (Mueller, 2001), there are generally accepted three categories of transnational crimes as follows:

- (1) Smuggling – commodities, drugs, and protected species;
- (2) Contraband – goods subject to tariffs or quotas, stolen cars, tobacco products; and
- (3) Services – immigrants, prostitution, indentured servitude, money laundering and fraud.

Shelly (2004) emphasised that these categories of transnational crimes are not mutually exclusive as different types of illegal activities are occurring between various nation-states influenced by wide ranging socio-economic, political, and technological dynamics and interplays across countries.

Transnational crime in Papua New Guinea as Forbes (2014) pronounced includes drug trafficking, firearms trafficking, and human trafficking. Forbes (2014) also added that there are concerns for cybercrime but it has not been reported as such. Some subjective evidences are in place which addressed that the drug and firearm trading are on the run in the international boundaries between Papua New Guinea and its two neighbouring countries of Australia and Indonesia. High powered guns reached the hands of the villagers through exchanges of gun and marijuana along the borders between Papua New Guinea and Australia.

Consistent with other South Pacific nation-states, Papua New Guinea as well runs a favourable and open-handed environment for transnational criminal activities to thrive. Law enforcement capacity is generally weak, corruption is rampant and political control is seemingly poor for which the enormity of transnational crimes is an observable fact (McCusker, 2006). Further to this generous scenario of criminality in international angles, having quite a rich mineral resources sector in PNG, this country has got the potential of creating both legal and illegal business opportunities. Contextually, the non-legal structured avenues of crime and corruptions that necessitate ample opportunities for business and employment directly and indirectly attracting the foreigners at large. Sometimes illegal migration takes place while flouting immigration laws through document

and visa fraud, bribery and the corrupting officials, smuggling, prostitution and money laundering to get foreigners into the country for the purposes of criminal economic deals (*The Post Courier*, 2012). These are some of the visible aspects of illegality attributed to the mining and gas industry thereby encapsulating criminality as internationally a viable perception.

Papua New Guinea is often considered as a source terminus and transit point particularly for women and children who are exposed to sex trafficking and forced labour. This is to add further that the PNG government does not comply with the minimum standards and is not making significant efforts to restraint such ordeal of human trafficking for specific purposes (US Department of State 2013). Based on USDS report, therefore, it would not be an under-enumeration to regard that the political governance of PNG substantially lacks its efficacy and control over the administration of foreign affairs and trade in general. When foreigners landing to PNG through illegal immigration process (for example, fraudulence in paper works) with a view to acts upon money laundering, human trafficking, importation of dangerous drugs, and corporate fraud etc., the influx of such transnational criminal activities is tantamount to threatening of the sovereignty. In order to combat this level of criminality posing defencelessness, effective policing is required so as to initiate concerted efforts from multiple jurisdictions following diverse approaches thereof.

Conclusions: Brief Summary of the Argument

It appears that the PNG situation is a dreadful one that lagged behind the growth in the last 20 years, a serious cause of concern for the country's growth and development. Crime and violence made PNG infamous and exceedingly dangerous country by international standards throughout the world.

Based on the discussions and explanation of available data sources in the preceding sections of this exercise, the presumption of the velocity of negative consequences of crime, multiple dimensions of functional framework to tackle the problems are yet to be formulated. The economic relevance of this phenomenon has been widely recognized in recent years by the policy planners, both in the research community and in the public debate. Currently, the causes and consequences of crime are alarming issues confronting the socio-economic, political, institutional and business fraternity. Democratic ideals and overall administrative governance in the country are lagging behind following a range of excessive goings-on crimes and corruptions in communities and tribes across board which is evident from the foregoing discussions. The extent of the elaboration of crime and corruptions in PNG includes the intensity of the on-going violence in major regions of the country both limited urban arena and widespread rural locations. Besides occasional but celebrated intra-tribal fights for superiority, there is constant in-house family violence corresponding to all forms of gender discrimination and child abuse reflecting patrimony in tribal setup. Arms and sex trafficking in particular identifiable as transnational crimes drive beyond the economic fair trade and ideal democratic practice for the sustenance of political

stability. This is how the overall sustainable development in PNG experiences a scale of downturn all because of incessant crime and corruptions which stand on the way of economic progress and usual process of democratization. Nonetheless, even the very unstable law and order situation and political volatility textured through crime and corruptions, PNG economy and democratic environment therein is not so unacceptable to the external world. *Limitations and Suggestions for further research.* In the context of crime and corruptions in PNG, the analytical frame of reference as envisioned in this paper precisely revealed following limitations and suggestions for further research.

Limitations:

- Methodological issues: To determine appropriate methodology whether to consider ethnographic accounts or quantitative data sources or both modes of inquiries depending on the nature of the specific problem;
- Dependable Data: There is a lack of reliable and adequate data sources on crime and corruptions both in Government and NGO's;
- Constraints of Democratic Ideals: Indifferent attitudes towards Gender Inequality and Cultural barriers for the sustenance and furtherance of Democratic Governance;

Suggestions for further research:

- A holistic research approach is needed for creating awareness, sensitization and responsiveness among the politicians, academics, business communities and NGO's against crime and corruptions.
- To grow consciousness among the tribes and facilitate necessary dialogues on the harmfulness of crime and corruptions. This would further heighten them as the driving force towards social change and progress.
- To encourage PNG populace through training and workshops on the evils of criminal activities, so that they could be able to stand against crime.
- To inspire the people from all walks of life who are belonging to *wantoks* (strong cultural adherence) for collective endeavours standing against crime and corruptions.

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