



DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY
Office of the Secretary

Telephone: (675) 328 8812
Facsimile: (675) 328 8804

Vulupindi Haus
PO Box 710, WAIGANI, NCD

Press Release

RELEASE OF FUNDS FOR DISASTER RELIEF IN ORO PROVINCE

I would like to correct the misinformation being distributed regarding the release of funds by the Department of Treasury for relief efforts in Oro Province. To date, Treasury has released K15 million – not the K650,000 reported in the National of 5 December 2007.

K7 million was released on 4 December 2007, including K2 million for Defence, and a further K8 million was released on 4 December 2007.

Treasury is not placing undue constraints over the release of funds and is working with agencies to ensure timely release. Our efforts are being hampered by some agencies who are seeking to take advantage of this major natural disaster to put forward claims for funds that are unreasonable and unrelated to their efforts in Oro. While we recognize that funds must be released swiftly to support relief efforts, they must also be released responsibly to ensure that the benefit of these funds reaches the people of Oro who are most in need and not unscrupulous individuals who are seeking to make gains from others misfortunes.

SIMON TOSALI
Secretary