



# PRESS STATEMENT

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## JUSTICE IN SIGHT FOR IMR'S MISSING FIVE SCIENTISTS

The management of the PNG Institute of Medical Research has welcomed the statement by Police Minister Nixon Duban to parliament yesterday to reopen the investigations into the disappearance of the five IMR scientists.

Deputy Director for Corporate Affairs and Support Services, Samson Akunaii, says the news comes as a relief for both the Institute and the families of the five scientists.

“It is a positive gesture by Minister Duban and we thank him for his wisdom in both reopening and financing the investigation,” Mr Akunaii said.

“This welcome news will relieve the Institute and the families of the missing five after months of waiting.”

“We hope that this reopened investigation will be provided with adequate resources for all relevant government agencies to fully conduct their work,” he said.

The five scientists were doing government work – work that will have an impact on the health and well being of Papua New Guineans - when they went missing off the coast of Milimata in the Kaliai-Kove Local Level Government area in West New Britain province in August 2011.

Investigations into their disappearance were abandoned due to lack of finance and resources to continue.

“We hope to get to the bottom of this tragic mystery at long last,” Mr Akunaii said.

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