“Transnational Organized Crimes and Brief on the Role of National Narcotics Bureau”

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Introduction

What is Transnational Crime?

Transnational Crime means criminal activities committed in more than one country, or when crime is committed in one country but the planning, preparation and coordination takes place in another country,

or if the crime is committed in one country by criminal syndicates in more than one country or when a crime committed in one country has a substantial impact on another country.

Why Transnational Crime?

Certain factors that can enable Transnational Crimes to flourish include;

• Poor Governance (enabling laws)
• Corruption
• Poverty
• Geographical positions of states.
THE EXISTING AND EMERGING THREATS

Existing Transnational Crimes.

- Trafficking in Persons
- Trafficking of Wildlife
- Smuggling of Firearms
- Smuggling of Artifacts
- Maritime Piracy

Transnational Organized Crimes

Emerging New Crimes

- Narcotics (Plant/Synthetic)
- Money Laundering
- Counterfeit Products/ Currency
- Identity Theft
- Cyber Hacking/ Bullying

Police Operations in PNG

- 2020 - Operation Weathers – 500 Kg Cocaine seized in NCD
- 2021 – Operation Saki Bomb – 68 Kg Meth from USA
- 2022 – Night club raided for harboring foreign prostitutes - Gordons, NCD
- 2022 – Operation Stratos - 125kg Meth Range View NCD
- 2023 - Operation Gepard – 52Kg Meth Bulolo
- 2023 – Counterfeit PGK 11,400 - Jacksons International Airport
In investigations and Prosecutions;

• More reactive approach than being proactive
• Lack of skills to investigate organized criminal groups (complex)
• Lack intelligence capacity on organized syndicates in the region (Multi nationalities)
• Lack expertise to analyze substances (credible/ certified labs)
• Lack equipment to conduct field presumptive tests.
• Lack of Courts understanding of the Legislation
• Lack of effective collaboration by all agencies (Information gaps)

 o The increasing trend of synthetic drugs seizures in a short space of time in PNG is a serious concern.
 o Three members of RPNGC and one soldier in Lae charged for possession/ dealing with methamphetamine what guarantee is there that the general population will be safe?
 o Laws passed need re-visiting to see its effectiveness.

The new Controlled Substance Act 2021 has some discrepancy, I have raised with the Public Prosecutor for amendments to the penalty provisions and listings drugs on the schedules to be re-visited.
Brief on National Narcotics Bureau (NNB).

- The last proper Director General of NNB exited in 2012
- 2018 NNB subsumed by DJAG with a view to reform it.
- NNB falls under Ministry of Internal Security
- Feb 08 2023 Minister Internal Security called First Board Meeting.
- Board nominated me to be seconded to NNB as acting DG
- Instrumentalities yet to be made for that appointment.

Roles of NNB

- NNCB Act 1992
  S13: Functions of the Bureau.
  - To make recommendations to the Board on polices or measures relating to drugs abuse
  - To conduct drugs awareness and rehabilitation programs
  - To conduct surveys gather information on cultivation, consumption trafficking and convictions of persons.
  - Inspect licences of persons dealing with drugs. (Under his control, care or custody)
Plans for NNB

• Proper Office set up for NNB and roll out offices to all districts
• Ensure Surveys, Inspections and data collection as stipulated by the legislation is carried out
• Create national, regional and international networks to combat illicit trade of narcotics.
Concluding Remarks.

In conclusion;
In just under three years we have seized

- 500 Kg of Cocaine
- 245 Kg of Methamphetamine
- K11, 400 demonetized PGK
- Disrupted an international prostitution operation

- Collection of data, sharing of information between National agencies and building Regional and International networks with relevant agencies must be the way forward in our endeavours to fighting Transnational Crime.