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MEDIA RELEASE

YACA Youths on the move

The Youth Against Corruption Association [YACA] staged its forum for 2007 over the weekend at the Jubilee Catholic Secondary School in Port Moresby. The forum was a resounding success and saw more than a hundred and twenty youths made up of student from Caritas Secondary, Marianville, Hohola Youth Development Centre, Gordons Secondary and University of Papua New Guinea attend.

The forum included notable speakers from the PNG Ombudsman Commission, the PNG Electoral Commission and Transparency International [TI-PNG] who delivered head on messages on Democracy, Good Governance, Accountability, Corruption, Leadership Traits and Behaviour, and Limited Preferential Voting, LPV.

The highlight of the forum was the conducting of a Mock Election on LPV carried out by the PNG Electoral Commission's Moresby South Polling Team. Students were taken through a two-hour real life situation of an election where some students acted as scrutineers, other voters and the remaining as audience and public.

Returning Officers for Moresby South Richard Vagi and Moresby Northwest Joseph Fraghi coordinated the exercise which kept the students focussed on the choice of leaders they were making, the process and seriousness of an election.

The mock election concluded with a counting session where students were shown the insides of a counting room, how votes were counted and how winners were declared using the new Limited Preferential Voting [LPV] System. The Mock Election exercise is the first of its kind to be conducted at a school institution.

YACA Coordinator Angus Ali said he was overwhelmed at the turnout adding that there are concerned youths who want to make a difference and those above the age of eighteen will have their opportunity to do so in the coming general elections.

Ends.../

Approved by

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Executive Officer	Marcus Pelto

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