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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Issues related to violence must be addressed using holistic approach**

Issues associated with violence in Papua New Guinea (PNG) have been a concern to the government because the issues restrict sustainable development in the country. However, access to data needed for planning and making informed decisions on how to address the issues have been problematic.

The National Research Institute (NRI) Spotlight Vol. 17, Issue 8, titled "The dynamics of violence in Papua New Guinea: Incidents reported from the Highlands Region from 2018 to 2022" by Mr. Joe Barak, Research Officer at PNG NRI provides a snapshot of the different types of violence, the harms being caused, and potential ways to address the issues associated with violence at the community level.

**Types of violence in the Highlands Region that were recorded from 2018 to 2022 includes the following:**

- Tribal fights. This is the most common form of violence in all parts of the Highlands Region.
- Law and order problems. Some members of the youth are often instigated not to abide to law and order, resulting in violence activities.
- Election-related violence. The hijacking of election processes by some people results in violence.

**Some ways to address activities related to violence in the Highlands Region include the following:**

- Collective approach to peace building. It is an important aspect for lasting peace in the community.
- Involvement of churches. As most Papua New Guineans are Christians, churches play a vital role and serve as driver for brokering peace in communities.
- Involvement of the youth in providing advocacy against violence and serving as agent of peace and conflict management in communities where they live.

Government at all levels, churches, donor partners and parents/guardians should consider working together to address the issues related to violence at home and at community level.

The Publication and Media Release can be accessed on the PNG NRI website <https://www.pngnri.org>.

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For enquiries, please contact Samuel Kehatsin on Tel: 326 0061 or Email: [Samuel.Kehatsin@pngnri.org](mailto:Samuel.Kehatsin@pngnri.org)

**Authorised for release by:**

**Associate Professor Eugene Ezebilo, PhD  
Acting Director, PNG NRI**