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PUBLIC NOTICE

RE: LAWYERS ACTING AS LEGAL CONSULTANTS AND/OR OPERATING CONSULTATION FIRMS

The Lawyers Statutory Committee (LSC) has recently determined several complaints under **section 37(1) of the Lawyers Act 1986**. The Committee found that lawyers holding a **Restricted Practising Certificate (RPC)** had engaged in improper conduct by operating as legal consultants or establishing Consultancy Firms.

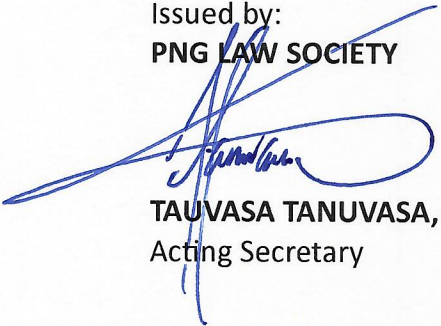
This Notice serves as a reminder to all lawyers that:

- An RPC authorises practice **only under supervision**.
- Holders of an RPC **must not** practise on their own account, in partnership, or operate firms which includes consultancy firms.
- Providing legal services on a “consultant” basis while holding an RPC is a breach of section 37(1).
- Such conduct may result in penalties under the Act, including fines and suspension from practice.
- Lawyers who wish to practise independently, operate Consultancy Firms, or provide unsupervised legal services as a legal consultants must first obtain an **Unrestricted Practising Certificate (UPC)**.

The LSC emphasises that strict compliance with the *Lawyers Act* and the *Professional Conduct Rules* is essential to uphold the integrity of the profession.

The Public is encouraged to report lawyers who do not comply with the above.

Issued by:
PNG LAW SOCIETY



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