



“The Voice Inc launches SARV Legal Help Desk”

On Friday the 8th of December, in a first for Simbu Province, The Voice Inc. (TVI) in partnership with the Catholic Diocese of Kundiawa launched a Sorcery Accusation Related Violence (SARV) Legal Help Desk, in Kundiawa. The Legal Help Desk is an activity under TVI’s Local Leadership and Collective Action Program (LLCAP) funded by the Australian Government.

The launch of the SARV Legal Help Desk marks the culmination of TVI’s efforts in campaigning against the issue of sorcery accusation related violence since 2020 and the recognition of the need for legal assistance for survivors to access justice.

This became evident through the participation of Developmental Leaders on the frontlines addressing SARV in the Simbu Province in the Problem Driven Iterative Adaptation (PDIA) Course facilitated by the Building State Capability Team of the Harvard Kennedy School of Government offered through the LLCAP.

Together, they identified the pressing need for a Legal Desk Service that would provide pro bono legal assistance to SARV victims in their quest for access to justice.

Speaking at the launch of the SARV Legal Help Desk, Bishop Paul Sundu the Bishop of Kundiawa acknowledged that sorcery violence was a growing issue and urged all who were present to utilize the services that would be provided. He thanked TVI for responding to the need for legal assistance for survivors of SARV within Simbu Province.

Also present at the launch was Ms. Maliwai Sasingian, the Executive Director of The Voice Inc (TVI) who reaffirmed the organization’s commitment to curbing the issue of SARV through the SARV Legal Help Desk.

“TVI condemns SARV. PNG does not need to be defined by these atrocities. We need to take collective action in order to be bring an end to this issue” Sasingian shared.

The Legal Desk aims to provide SARV survivors with guidance on reporting cases to the police, support for civil claims, and assistance in obtaining protection orders.

Additionally, it will develop legal awareness materials, collaborate with SARV stakeholders to improve legal system access and raise awareness on SARV.

Integral to the work to be carried out by the SARV Legal Help Desk are TVI’s coalition of Developmental Leaders and partners at the frontline of addressing SARV in Simbu Province, which includes Highlands Women Human Rights Defenders Network, Kup Women for Peace and the Family Support Centre at the Kundiawa General Hospital.

TVI is committed to supporting its coalition of Developmental Leaders and partners through the SARV Legal Help Desk whilst also continuing to increase awareness and generate public discourse around the issue of sorcery accusation related violence.

About The Voice Inc. (TVI)

The Voice Inc. (TVI) was established in 2007 and incorporated in 2010. A leading local civil society organization, TVI works in the space of policy reform by engaging and empowering its network of developmental leaders to address some of Papua New Guinea’s most pressing issues.

THE VOICE INC.



Purpose. Confidence. Contribution

P.O Box 224, University
National Capital District
Papua New Guinea

Ground Floor, Cuthbertson House, Cuthbertson Street, Downtown Port Moresby, National
Capital District

M: 7203 2055 or 7639 1187 | **E:** info@thevoicepng.org | **W:** www.thevoicepng.org

///Ends///

Approved for Release by
Maliwai Sasingian
Executive Director

Media Contact
Dagia Aka
Communications and Marketing Manager