



Reflections from Black Wednesday: Building Community

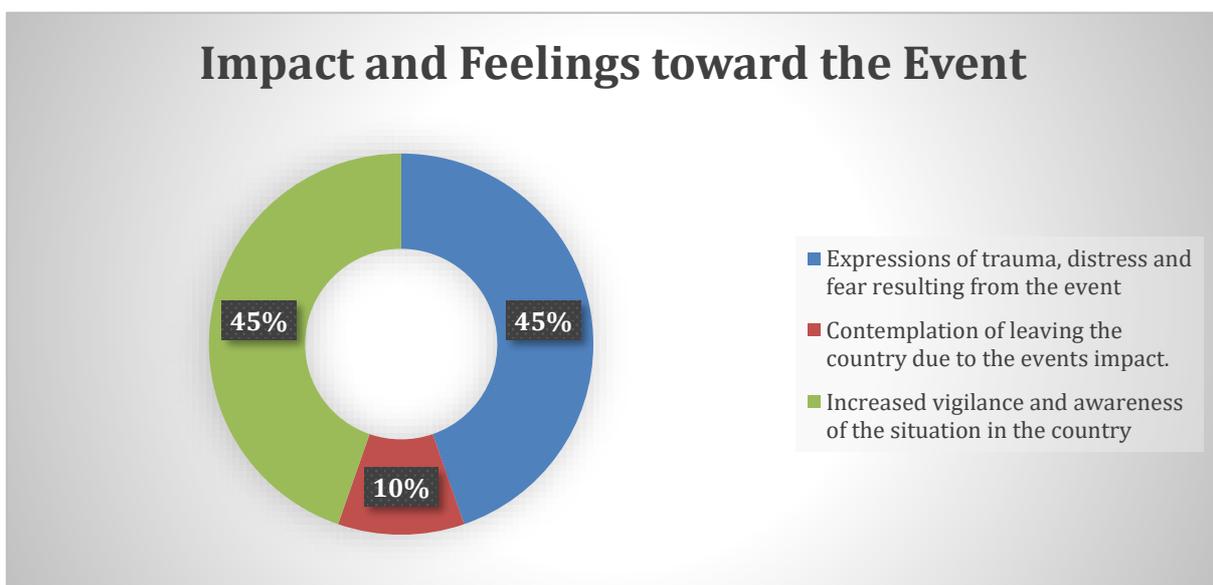
Wednesday, January 10, was a dark day for PNG. The riots and mass looting in Port Moresby and other parts of the country shed light on growing socio-economic challenges. For many, it was a traumatic experience that reinforced citizens' lack of trust in the state's ability to provide a safe, just, and secure environment for all its people.

Our community gathered in late January for a wellness check-in, which allowed us to reflect and make sense of the event. Members shared experiences and reflections on how TVI as a collective could respond to facilitate a space of dialogue and reflection to process shared challenges, acknowledging that avenues for support and counselling are limited and inaccessible to many, leaving traumatic experiences such as the events of Black Wednesday to be internalised and somewhat normalised. We, however, acknowledge that issues such as violence and corruption, for example, should not be normalised. As a collective, we need to be able to call out acts of injustice that limit our freedoms.

Our wellness check-in and survey have informed us what we could do to actively engage with our people and facilitate a space for continued, intentional gathering and dialogue on the issues that collectively affect us. We will consider the reflections and recommendations through our program activities and monthly community gatherings. We also commit to sending our monthly newsletters to keep our community informed and engaged.

We would like to sincerely thank everyone who participated in the online wellness check-in event and completed the survey sent out before the check-in. **Below are the main survey results.**

Question 1: How are you coping with the events that happened? Are you OK?





1. Impact and Feelings Towards the Event:

- Expressions of trauma, distress, and fear resulting from the event.
- Contemplation of leaving the country due to the event's impact.
- Increased vigilance and awareness of the situation in the country.

2. Direct Effects of the Event:

- Loss of essential services such as clinics and shopping centres.
- Limitations on movement and safety concerns within the city.

3. Concerns about Safety and Security:

- Uncertainty about the safety of the city and public transport.
- Fear of travelling to work after workplace security incidents.

4. Personal Coping and Adjustment:

- Struggles with overcoming fear and trauma.
- Efforts to rebuild and maintain optimism for the future.
- Adapting to changes and managing day-to-day survival mode.

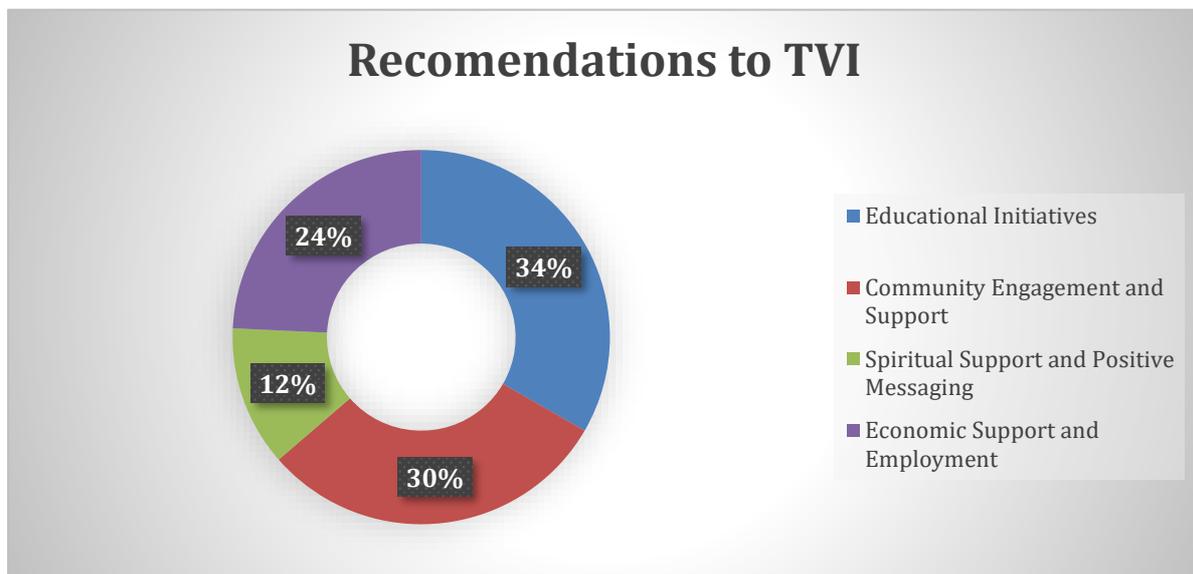
5. Social and Cultural Impact:

- Disheartenment and damaged perception of fellow citizens.
- Coping with the trauma and shame associated with the event.
- Feeling conflicted about national identity and pride.

6. Economic Effects:

- Financial strain due to pay cuts and increased cost of living.

Question 2: How can TVI provide support at this time





1. Educational Initiatives

- Publishing positive and educational articles.
- Launching mindset transformation programs.
- Capacity-building initiatives for sustainable development.
- Financial literacy awareness programs.

2. Community Engagement and Support

- Providing platforms for discussion and fact-checking.
- Support for community programs and initiatives.
- Organizing donation drives and blood drives.
- Organizing tax-related discussions and assistance.
- Awareness programs for survival skills and character development.

3. Spiritual Support and Positive Messaging

- Prayers for safety and well-being.
- Posting positive content on social media.
- Sharing positive stories to inspire hope.

4. Economic Support and Employment

- Employment opportunities.
- SME start-up funds.
- Support for rural employment programs.