



OFFICE OF CENSORSHIP



**BASELINE STUDY ON ILLEGAL SMUGGLING
AND USE OF SEX ENHANCEMENT PRODUCTS
IN VANIMO, WEST SEPIK PROVINCE**

FIELDWORK REPORT

OFFICE OF CENSORSHIP
STRATEGIC POLICY & COORDINATION DIVISION

MAY 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS	Page No.
FOREWORD BY CHIEF CENSOR	4
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	5 -6
ACRONYMS	7
1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND	8 - 10
2. OBJECTIVES	11
3. RESEARCH METHODS	11 - 13
4. FINDINGS, INTERPRETATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS	14 - 39
4.1 Section B General Questions	14 -28
4.2 Section C Compliance Process and Procedures	28 - 31
4.3 Observation at Wutung Border Facility	31 – 36
4.4 Observation at Batas Market in Skouw Area	36 - 39
5. CONCLUSION	40
6. RECOMMENDATIONS	41 - 42
7. REFERENCES	43
8. APPENDICES	44
• BASELINE STUDY BRIEF	
• AUTHORIZATION LETTER	
• RESEARCH QUESTIONNAIRE	
• PRIOR INFORMED CONSENT FORM	
• FIELDWORK ITINERARY	

FOREWORD BY CHIEF CENSOR



The alarming growth in illegal smuggling of Sex Enhancement Products (SEPs) across the borderlines especially through West Sepik Province into Papua New Guinea poses a major threat to the country's border security and societies' public safety. Subsequently, its widespread distribution and illicit use is very concerning.

This pattern of activity is a result of a change in mindset influenced by many variables. The main one being internet access to explicit sexual content and pornography.

The *Classification of Publication (Censorship) Act 1989* gives mandatory powers to the Office of Censorship to classify any information and communication content prior to reaching its intended market or the public. The outcome of the Baseline Study concerning the illegal smuggling, distribution, and use of sex enhancement products under the Censorship Act clearly calls for adherence in establishing guidelines to safeguard the well-being and promote a clear mindset of citizens from unethical, unhealthy, and unsafe practices leading from and related to sex enhancement products.

The issue of SEPs is a cross-cutting issue that requires collaborative effort by all enforcement agencies to adequately address it. Regulatory frameworks must be strengthened, prosecution of perpetrators must be tightened, partnership must be forged, resources and information sharing must be fostered amongst the regulatory and enforcement partners.

As part of a collaborative partnership to address this issue, Office of Censorship has taken a step forward by signing a Terms of Reference (TOR) with the West Sepik Provincial Administration in November 2023 to establish a West Sepik Province Censorship Committee (WSPCC) that comprises of key stakeholders to address censorship issues including SEPs. The findings and recommendation from the field research that will be carried out in 2025 will prescribe and give direction to the WSPCC in addressing illegal smuggling of SEPs and its widespread use in Sandaun Province, neighboring areas and other parts of the country.

This growing concern is captured by the National Government through the Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP) IV Strategic Priority Area (SPA) 06 National Security, SPA 08 Digital Government, National Statistics and Public Service Governance, SPA 09 Research, Science and Technology and SPA 12 Strategic Partnerships.

We appreciate the funding support from the National Government through the Department of National Planning and Monitoring and believe that the outcome of this research will help to address this growing concern with collaborative efforts from all key players in the enforcement and compliance agencies.

JIM ABANI
Chief Censor

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The illegal smuggling and use of sex enhancement products (SEPs) from the Republic of Indonesia and other neighboring Asian countries through Jayapura and the Wutung Border Facility and unmonitored areas into Vanimo and further into other areas in the West Sepik Province is steadily growing as the population ages.

The increasing availability, accessibility and negative impact of sex enhancement products and other contraband materials such as sex toys, sex aids, pharmaceutical products in lubricants, cream, medicines and pills poses a high risk to the people's wellbeing, hence, hindrance to the sustainable economic development of the people in Vanimo, Sandaun and may spread to other parts of the country.

Many factors are contributing to the growth of illegal smuggling of sex enhancement products because people are not aware of the negative impacts, they are not aware as to who administers the legislation concerning SEPs, prosecution risk is very low, price range is very low and easy internet access on explicit sexual content and pornography makes it very easy to use and distribute sex enhancement products.

According to a Research Report on Media and Sexual Content 2022 by the Office of Censorship, results show that materials with sexual content are commonly available in the mass media and almost 73% have access to pornography. One of the recommendations that emanated from the research is the need to filter the internet at the national and provincial level. In September 2023, a National Executive Council (NEC) Decision No. 265/2023 was made to initiate the enforcement of filtering unsuitable internet content within PNG air space.

The absence of censorship roles and responsibilities in West Sepik Province makes it very difficult to address sex enhancement products as a cross-cutting issue and this has prompted the Office of Censorship to decentralize Chief Censor's duties and functions at the provincial level and to further initiate new strategic plans to improve compliance and security along the PNG-Indonesia Border Post in Wutung.

On Friday, 24th November 2023, Office of Censorship took a step forward by signing a Terms of Reference (ToR) with the West Sepik Provincial Administration (WSPA) at the Golden Medallion Hotel in Vanimo, West Sepik Province.

The ToR was signed to establish the West Sepik Province Censorship Committee (WSPCC) to purposely execute the delegated functions of the Chief Censor at the provincial level in consultation with the respective Provincial Administrator.

Following the ToR signing, Office of Censorship through its Research Section embarked on an information gathering exercise to establish baseline data that would serve as a compass to gain insights and information on sex enhancement products into making strategic and informed decisions when implementing roles and responsibilities through the West Sepik Province Censorship Committee (WSPCC).

The Research Team identified sources of information from a cross-section of stakeholders and the information gathered through focus group interviews indicates different sectoral perspectives on the movement and impact of sex enhancement products.

The responses provided substance to the Baseline Study and will consequently provide guidance as per the ToR signed between Office of Censorship and the West Sepik Provincial Administration. The six (6) stakeholder partner recommendations including Post PNG and the sectoral perspectives provides direction for the West Sepik Censorship Committee to implement.

The research findings call for a much-needed partnership building, information sharing and networking amongst stakeholders to regulate and monitor compliance and enforcement process and procedures along the land and maritime borders, improved scanners, detectors and stricter compliance and enforcement measures are required.

The findings also require clear indication of land and maritime boundaries from West Sepik Province down to Western Province in order to establish effective security measures.

The high illiteracy rates along the border areas seeks the collective effort of all concerned stakeholders to conduct effective awareness and advocacy activities on the legalities surrounding sex enhancement products, its negative impact, associated, social and technological influence, and the dangers of other cheap illegal contraband products entering the country.

This report documents the process, challenges and learnings from the fieldwork conducted, data collection and analysis in the effort to develop a Strategy and Action Plan to be implemented by the West Sepik Province Censorship Committee as per the Terms of Reference.

ACRONYMS

CBO	Community-Based Organization
CIQ	Customs Immigration Quarantine
DICT	Department of Information and Communication Technology
DIP	Deliberate Intervention Program
DJAG	Department of Justice and Attorney General
DPLGA	Department of Provincial and Local Level Government Affairs
FBO	Faith-Based Organization
GESI	Gender Equity & Social Inclusion
ICSA	Immigration and Citizenship Services Authority
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IMR	Institute of Medical Research
MTDP-IV	Medium Term Development Plan-IV
NAQIA	National Agriculture Quarantine Investment Authority
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NICTA	National Information and Communications Technology Authority
OC	Officer in Command
OoC	Office of Censorship
PHA	Provincial Health Authority
PNGCS	Papua New Guinea Customs Services
PNGDF	Papua New Guinea Defence Force
RPNGC	Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary
SEPs	Sex Enhancement Products
SPA	Strategic Priority Area
ToR	Terms of Reference
WSP	West Sepik Province
WSPA	West Sepik Provincial Administration
WSPCC	West Sepik Province Censorship Committee

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

This research report on the Baseline Study of illegal smuggling and use of Sex Enhancement Products in Vanimo, West Sepik Province was conducted from 06th to 16th May 2024.

According to the Research Report on Media and Sexual Content 2022, results show that there is an increased access and exposure of online pornography content, hence, may have consequential impact on the distribution and use of sex enhancement products in Vanimo, given its strategic location, as the gateway to the Asia region through the PNG/Indonesia border in Wutung.

The Baseline Study on Sex Enhancement Products correlates with the idea of internet content filtering on the basis that sex enhancement product is primarily used as a result of exposure to pornography and other explicit sexual content.

The two corresponding issues concerning risk behaviors, particularly exposure to pornography and sex enhancement products raises the need to filter the internet content through which an NEC Decision No. 265/2023 was made in September 2023 to initiate the enforcement of filtering unsuitable internet content within PNG air space in light of the research findings on Media and Sexual Content.

Office of Censorship is addressing this issue holistically and has taken a step forward to conduct research with all concerned stakeholders in Vanimo, Sandaun Province to gather contextual information and establish baseline data, and the outcome of the Baseline Study on Sex Enhancement Products will assist the West Sepik Province Censorship Committee to carry out censorship roles and responsibilities outlined in the Terms of Reference.

In May 2024, Office of Censorship research team gathered information through a Baseline Study on the illegal smuggling and impact of Sex Enhancement Products from relevant stakeholders from different sectors in West Sepik Province in order to develop a Strategy and Action Plan for West Sepik Province Censorship Committee to implement as per the responsibilities indicated in the Terms of Reference.

According to the *Organic Law on Provincial and Local Level Governments 1998*, Division 7 on Delegation of Powers, Section 50, specifies the Delegation of Powers and Functions from the National Government to Provincial and Local Level Governments. The delegation of national functions improves service delivery that will effectively and efficiently work to provide good governance and improve provision of basic services in the country.

Office of Censorship is a national function and does not have its presence in provinces and districts throughout the country, hence, Chief Censor's powers and functions indicated in the *Classification of Publication (Censorship) Act 1989* need to be decentralized as per Section 50 of the *Organic Law on Provincial and Local Level Government 1998*.

Corresponding to Section 50 of the Organic Law on Provincial and Local Level Government 1998, Section 19 of the *Censorship Act 1989* highlights Chief Censor's directives on the

decentralization of his powers outlining the duties and functions for the administration of censorship matters to any person or group to assist as directed by him.

In a National Censorship Board Meeting No. 2/2003 dated 21st May 2003 concerning matters or good other than Films and Publications, Section 11 and Section 12 of the *Classification of Publication (Censorship) Act 1989*, National Censorship Board resolved to issue the following as directives to the Chief Censor;

a) Sex Enhancing Products

All imported Sex Enhancing Products in whatever state, form or shape are not permitted unless specifically prescribed by a resident doctor who can be contacted to verify its use. Such products in this category would include capsules, tablets, sprays, creams, powders, vibrators, penis enlargers, vibrate condoms, sex novelties, etc....

b) Medical Drugs

Medical Drugs purposely made to cure or correct a sexual dysfunction are permitted on the condition that the drug is registered by the Medical Supplies Branch of the Health Department to be used as directed by a doctor.

c) Dietary Supplements (Vitamins, etc.)

Dietary Supplements intended for consumption by Papua New Guinea are permitted provided the prescription or prescriptions on the packages or on inserted leaflets are in English.

Therefore, sex enhancement products are considered illegal while classified as an Objectionable Material by the National Censorship Board Resolution.

National Censorship Policy II (2021-2025) recognizes sex enhancement products as a cross-cutting issue under Section 3.12 and indicates that the use and illegal importation of sex enhancement products (SEPs) have become widespread in the country.

According to the PNG Institute of Medical Research (IMR), many sex enhancement products (SEPs) are illegally imported from Indonesia and other Asian countries through the border facility. Its consumption has led to a wide range of short-term and long-term health effects. Apart from affecting the organs of the human body, consumption of sex enhancement products also leads to many family and domestic problems, including accidents, injuries and high levels of sexual offences. The most severe consequence is death.

Several local media reports have shown that the prohibited sex enhancement products and other related contraband materials have been illegally distributed within Sandaun Province through to East Sepik Province and other parts of the country.

In a National Newspaper article published on 26th June 2012, titled, “*Batas market a hotspot for illegal trade*”, states that the notorious Batas market on the Indonesia side of the border with PNG in Sandaun Province is fast becoming a multi-million-kina hotspot for illicit goods. The article further states that Batas is fast becoming a mecca for PNG shoppers with shops

there selling a range of pornography, sex toys for both men and women, cigarettes, alcohol and various other items being sold at very cheap prices.

In a Post Courier Newspaper article dated 04th April 2019, titled “*The senseless use of high risk and questionable penis enlargement products*”, reported that unknown substances injected to enhance men and boys’ penis have ended up disastrously in Papua New Guinea. The article highlighted health issues concerned with such dangerous practices, which include, disfigured genital organs and psychiatric problems that have become a norm, according to medical authorities in PNG.

The increasing media reports has prompted the Office of Censorship to sign a Terms of Reference with the West Sepik Provincial Administration in November 2023 to decentralize Chief Censor’s powers and functions at the provincial level through a West Sepik Province Censorship Committee,

The purpose of the Baseline Study on Sex Enhancement Products in Vanimo, West Sepik Province aligns with one of the National Goals and Directive Principles of the PNG National Constitution; Integral Human Development. Additionally, the Medium-Term Development Plan IV (MTDP IV), Strategic Priority Area (SPA) 09 Research, Science and Technology. Deliberate Intervention Program (DIP) 9.5 Socio-Economic Policy Research, ‘Socio-economic research is critical to provide the Government with evidence-based information to help develop relevant policies. It further highlights the importance of making research informed policy decisions.

The MTDP IV, SPA 06, DIP 6.3 underlines the rapid increase in the adoption of digital technologies across all sectors, ensuring the security of PNG cyberspace and safeguarding of digital technologies. ICT Sectors such as DICT and NICTA have developed legislations to address this area, however, Office of Censorship is particularly concerned in the area of content filtering therefore is embarking on developing a policy on internet content filtering to filter and block off illicit sites from the internet.

The SPA 08, DIP 8.5 on Censorship anticipates that the *Government will promote a high moral and ethical PNG society as an important feature of its development agenda. An appropriate ICT censorship platform will be developed to safeguard our social, cultural and religious values as well as protect citizens from being exposed to illicit and harmful materials.*

Office of Censorship is addressing this issue holistically and has taken a step forward in conducting research with all concerned stakeholders in Vanimo, Sandaun Province to gather contextual information and the outcome of the baseline study will assist the Office of Censorship to effectively enhance censorship monitoring and regulation in the Province.

In May 2024, Office of Censorship research team gathered information through a Baseline Study on the illegal smuggling and impact of Sex Enhancement Products from relevant stakeholders in West Sepik Province in order to develop a Strategy and Action Plan for West Sepik Province Censorship Committee to implement as per the responsibilities indicated in the Terms of Reference.

2. OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the Baseline Study is to acquire contextual information and establish baseline data to enhance regulation and monitoring of censorship matters in Sandaun Province.

The following supports the objective of the baseline study;

- (i) To identify key factors and gaps that contribute to the illegal smuggling of objectionable materials in the form of sex enhancement products, medical drugs and dietary supplements from the PNG/Indonesia border facility;
- (ii) To explore the impact of consuming sex enhancement products and other contraband materials in the Sandaun Province;
- (iii) To strengthen effective partnership with key stakeholders to develop innovative interventions and initiatives in improving compliance and enforcement process and procedures; and
- (iv) To offer guidance and direction on the specific needs of the West Sepik Province Censorship Committee (WSPCC) with regards to their roles and responsibilities indicated in the Terms of Reference.

3. RESEARCH METHODS

The combining insights from quantitative and qualitative methods conducted with concerned stakeholders in Vanimo provided a deeper understanding of the inflow of sex enhancement products from the PNG/Indonesia Border Facility, its impact on the wellbeing of the people in West Sepik and how security measures can be coordinated appropriately with relevant stakeholders.

In the qualitative research method, research team conducted focus group interviews within the social sector, health sector and the law and order sector. Inspections conducted by PNG Customs, PNG ICA, NAQIA, and Health Quarantine under National Department of Health (NDoH) at the Wutung Border Facility was also observed.

In the quantitative research method, the team collected numerical data from close ended questions, analyzed the trends and relationship among the variables.

The stakeholders that were involved in the focus group interviews, observations and analysis are indicated below;

1. Social Sector Provincial Administration
Community Development, Vanimo District Administration, Provincial Education, GESI
2. Social Sector (NGOs, FBOs, Churches, Youth Group)
West Sepik Provincial Council of Churches, Women President Ward 1, Women President Ward 3, Wutung Women Leader, Youth Leader VULLG, Lujan Home for Girls, Women in Climate Change, ELC PNG
3. Health Sector

West Sepik Provincial Health Authority, National Department of Health

4. Law and Justice Sector

Department of Justice and Attorney General (DJAG), Sandaun Magisterial Services District Court, PNG Correctional Services, RPNGC, PNGDF

5. Compliance and Enforcement

PNG Customs Services, PNG ICOSA, NAQIA, Post PNG, NDoH, PNGDF, RPNGC

6. Community

Wutung, Salame

Through the focus group interviews using a questionnaire, data was collected and data entries made using Google Forms. From the entries made on Google Forms, the data was exported to Microsoft Excel in preparation for interpretation and analysis.

3.1 Research Questionnaire and Interviews

The questionnaire is divided into three parts; Part A Informant Details, Part B General Questions and Part C Compliance and Enforcement Team. Prior to the interview, the respondents completed the Prior Informed Consent Form to acknowledge and authorize the researcher to proceed and conduct interview, photograph and voice record for purposes of documentation. There was a total of nine (9) close-ended questions eleven (11) open-ended questions that made up the Questionnaire.

An enclosed room was prepared to conduct focus group interviews within relevant sectors using Part B of the Questionnaire. For the compliance and enforcement team, an open discussion was held, and the questionnaire was individually completed.

3.2 Data Collection

Research Questionnaire

A list of open-ended and close-ended questions was developed to collect quantitative and qualitative information from respondents. Office of Censorship research team distributed the Questionnaires to all participants whilst the team leader acted as the moderator and used the Questionnaire to guide the focus group discussions amongst selected stakeholders scheduled daily. At the end of the group discussions, the respondents were given some time to complete the Questionnaire and submit to the research team thereafter.

Focus Group Discussion

The National Censorship Policy II (2021-2025) identifies sex enhancement products as an emerging cross-cutting challenge that results from inappropriate internet content such as pornography. The distribution and use of SEPs coming in from the Asia region through Jayapura in the Republic of Indonesia has many health problems from both the users and the victims and related social issues such as marital breakdown, unwanted pregnancy, HIV Aids and STIs, unemployment, etc. Collaborative effort is needed to address this emerging cross-cutting issues, hence, research team identified cross section of stakeholders and coordinated focus group discussions to generate ideas, stimulate and engage participants and explore social

norms to collecting data. The focus group discussion was moderated by the research team leader whilst Enforcement and Compliance Division Records Officer assisted by defining and explaining what sex enhancement products are. The two research officers administered the Questionnaires and the focus group interviews lasted for at least thirty (30) minutes.

3.3 Data Analysis

The data from the completed Questionnaire were entered into the Google Form, and later exported to the Microsoft Excel (Spreadsheet) for interpretation. Voice recordings and notes were also taken and transcribed for reporting purposes.

For qualitative data, thematic analysis was conducted to identify major themes and organize data. By observing the exported data on Microsoft Excel, the team started by identifying the main ideas that recurred across our focus group discussions. As much as possible, keywords identified encapsulated themes and trends. Tables and graphical representations are shown to assist interpret data.

3.4 Limitations of Research

- Lack of available data
- Lack of prior research work on sex enhancement products
- Poor communication with focal point due to power cuts in Vanimo, West Sepik Province
- Researcher is at risk in terms of interfering with the livelihoods of people who make money from selling sex enhancement products.



4. FINDINGS, INTERPRETATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

The Questionnaire is divided into three parts; Part A recorded information from respondents that came from Provincial Administration Social Sector, Provincial Education, Provincial Health Authority, Law and Justice sector, and the local community in Vanimo and the Wutung border area. Part B is the General Questions that targeted the different sectors and Part C targeted the Compliance and Enforcement sector.

Part B: Sectors	Total No. of Informants
Social Sector – WSPA	6
Social Sector – NGO, FBO, Churches, CBO	10
Health Sector	6
Law and Justice Sector	9
Wutung/Salame Community	19
	50
Part C: Compliance and Enforcement	
PNG Customs Services	1
PNG Immigration and Citizenship Authority Services	1
NAQIA	1
PNGDF	1
RPNGC	1
NDoH – Health Quarantine	1
Post PNG	1
	7
	57

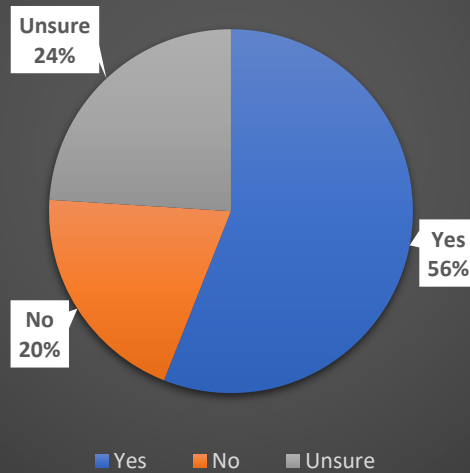
Total Number of Informants per Sector

4.1 Section B General Questions

Question 1. ARE YOU AWARE THAT SEX ENHANCEMENT PRODUCTS IS CLASSIFIED AS OBJECTIONABLE MATERIALS UNDER THE *CLASSIFICATION OF PUBLICATION (CENSORSHIP) ACT 1989*? OBJECTIONABLE REFERE TO MATERIALS THAT ARE OFFENSIVE AND UNACCEPTABLE. WHEN A MATERIAL IS CLASSIFIED OBJECTIONABLE, IT IS CONSIDERED ILLEGAL, ARE YOU AWARE OF THIS INFORMATION? ARE YOU AWARE THAT SEPs IS ILLEGAL UNDER THE *CENSORSHIP ACT 1989*?

Yes	No	Unsure
28	10	12

Awareness of SEPs classified as Objectional Materials under *Classification of Publication (Censorship) Act 1989*



Respondents were asked as to whether they are aware that sex enhancement products is covered under the *Classification of Publication (Censorship) Act 1989*.

The results show that 56% of the respondents indicated that they are aware that sex enhancement product is classified as an objectionable material under the *Classification of Publication (Censorship) Act 1989* whilst 20% indicated that they are not aware and 24% stated that they are unsure. The data evidently shows that though 56% are aware, 44% (20% + 24%) are unaware and unsure, hence, effective awareness strategy is required to address this issue.

The results indicate that though sex enhancement product is a cross-cutting issue, however, respondents are not fully aware of this legislation and who administers it. The respondents acknowledged and appreciated the focus group interviews as a way of conducting awareness to inform people that sex enhancement product is classified as an objectionable material under the *Classification of Publication (Censorship) Act 1989*.

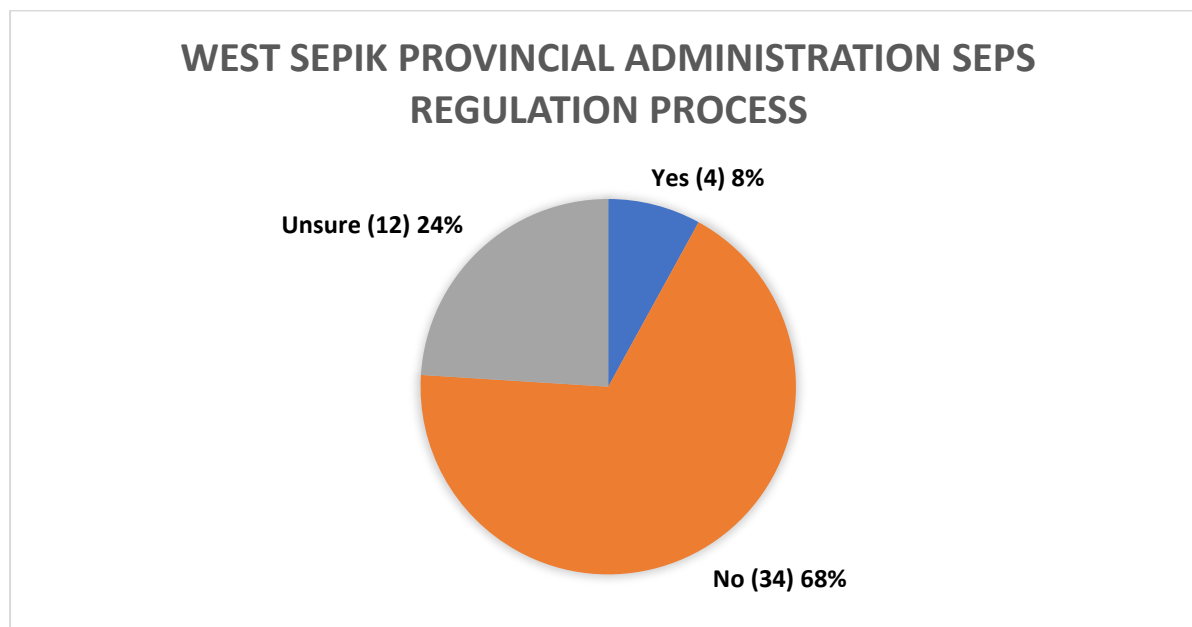
Respondents from the Law and Justice Sector enquired as to what specific Provision of the Censorship Act 1989 is sex enhancement product indicated.

Research Team responded *Censorship Act 1989*, Section 2 under Interpretation defines “Objectionable publication” as a publication that - (a)*describes, depicts, expresses or otherwise deals with matters of sex, drug misuse or addiction, crime, cruelty, blasphemy, immorality, violence or revolting or abhorrer phenomena in a manner that is likely to be offensive to a reasonable adult person and is undesirable in the interest of the public.*

Furthermore, under Section 11 and Section 12 of the *Classification of Publication (Censorship) Act 1989*, a National Censorship Board Meeting resolved that sex enhancement product is an Objectionable Material, therefore, considered illegal.

Question 2. DOES THE WEST SEPIK PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION HAVE AN ESTABLISHED PROCESS IN PLACE FOR REGULATING AND MONITORING OBJECTIONABLE MATERIALS SUCH AS SEX ENHANCEMENT PRODUCTS?

Yes	No	Unsure
4	34	12



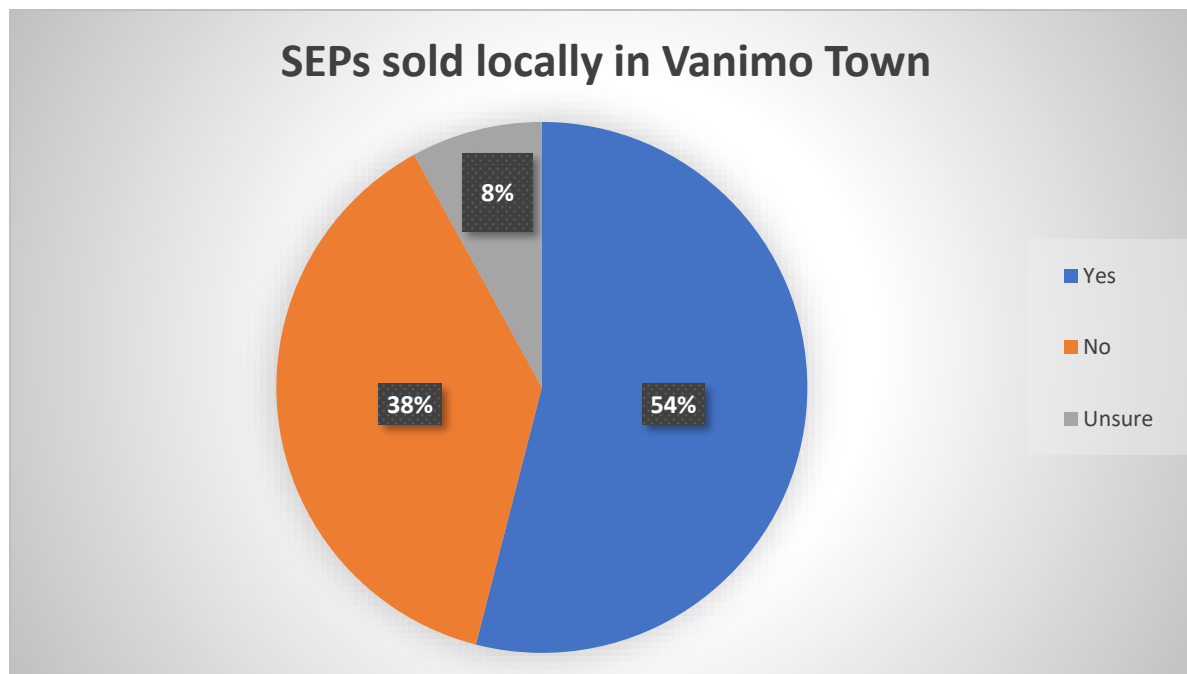
The graph shows that 68% of the respondents indicated that West Sepik Provincial Administration does not have an established process in place for regulating and monitoring sex enhancement products, whilst 8% indicated that there is an established process in place, and 24% of respondents indicated that they are unsure.

Out of the 50 respondents, 34 respondents who indicated that there is no established process in place believe that Provincial Administration is not fully aware of the legalities surrounding sex enhancement products and who administers it. Whilst 4 out of 50 respondents indicated that there is a regulation and monitoring process that was collaboratively administered by the DPLGA and West Sepik Provincial Administration through the Centre Point Administration. The Centre Point Administration comprised of DPLGA, PNGDF and National Fisheries Authority and is no longer operational.

They suggested that the Office of Censorship set up an Office in the province and conduct sensitization of censorship roles and responsibilities in order to effectively regulate and monitor sex enhancement products within West Sepik Province.

Question 3. HAVE YOU SEEN SEX ENHANCEMENT PRODUCTS SOLD LOCALLY IN VANIMO TOWN?

Yes	No	Unsure
27	19	4



According to the table, 27 out of 50 respondents indicated that sex enhancement products are sold locally in Vanimo town, whilst 19 indicated that they are not sold locally, and 4 out of 50 respondents indicated that they are unsure.

The 27 out of 50 respondents who positively indicated that sex enhancement products are sold locally in Vanimo town stated that there is no proper regulation and monitoring of sex enhancement products through which it has become a common informal market product sold for purposes of making a profit. They further indicated that sex enhancement products are discreetly purchased therefore, sellers go mobile around streets, hotel/motel, market, bus stop areas, settlements, army barracks, logging camps and front of shops to sell the products.

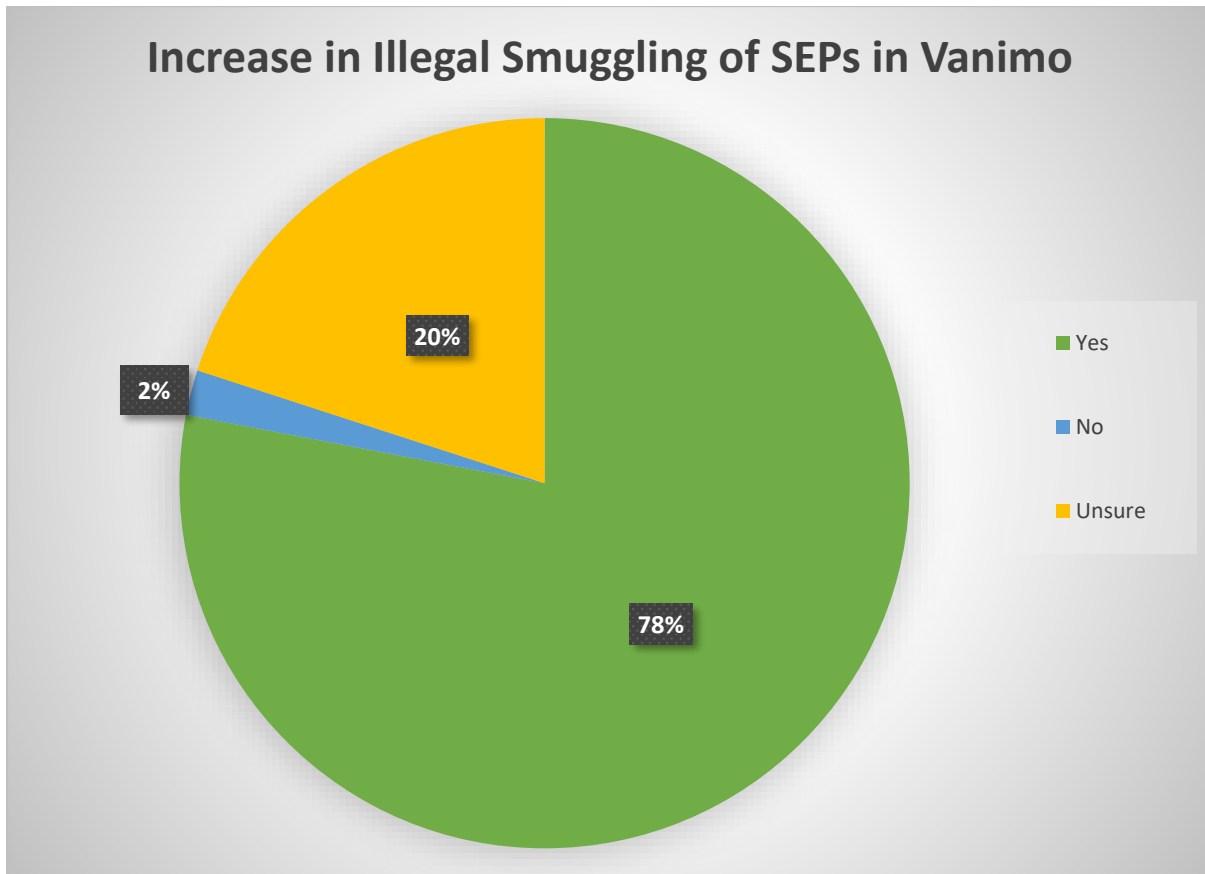
According to the findings, most respondents indicated that the cheapest sex enhancement products cost about K5.00, mid-range products would cost around K25.00 to K50.00 and the most expensive would cost approximately K100.00 to K500.00. However, the price range increases when sold outside of Vanimo town. For example, a SEPs product that costs K5.00 in Vanimo town may cost approximately K150.00 – K200.00 in other parts of the country.

On the other hand, 19 of out 50 respondents indicated that sex enhancement products are not sold locally in Vanimo town because they have not seen, but heard stories about the products being sold at certain areas in Vanimo town.

Most respondents were not fully aware of sex enhancement products until the time of interview when the research team used visual aids to introduced and explained further on the topic.

Question 4. DO YOU THINK THERE IS AN INCREASE IN THE ILLEGAL SMUGGLING OF SEX ENHANCEMENT PRODUCTS INTO VANIMO AND SANDAUN PROVINCE?

Yes	No	Unsure
39	1	10



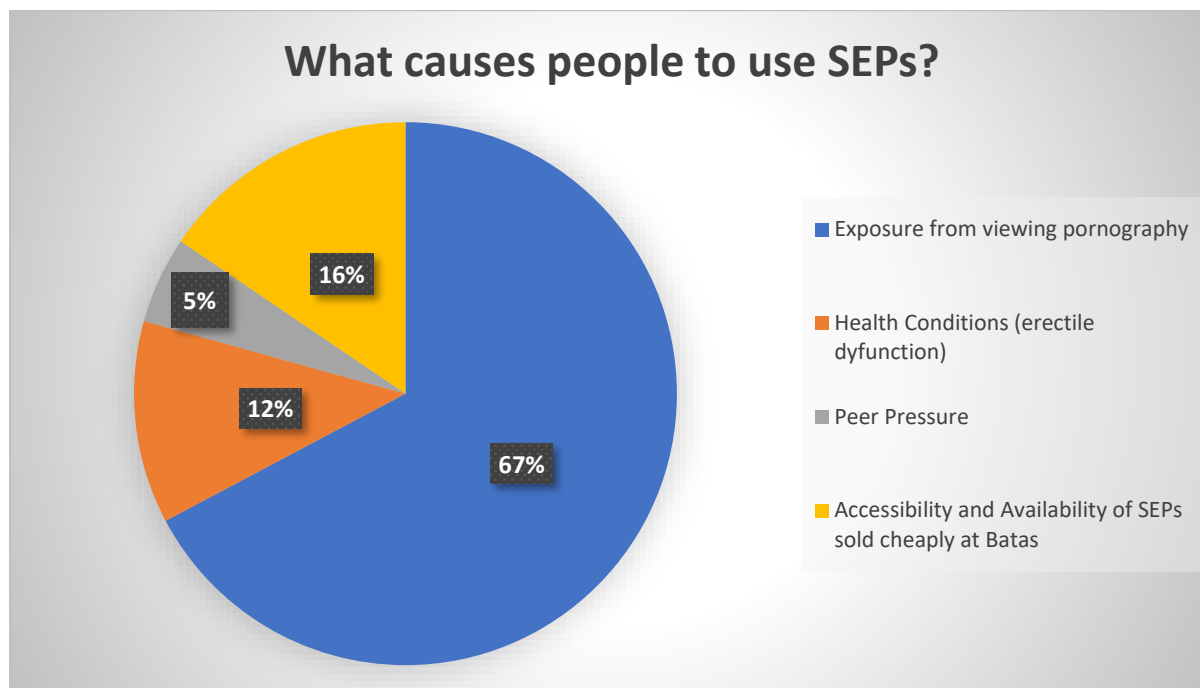
According to the graph, 78% of the respondents indicated that there is an increase in the number of sex enhancement products illegally smuggled into Vanimo and Sandaun Province, whilst 20% indicated that they were unsure and 2% indicated that there is no increase.

The results show that 39 out of 50 respondents indicated that there has been an increase in the illegal smuggling of sex enhancement products from the Republic of Indonesia to Sandaun Province through the Wutung Border Facility because of the growing market demand, ineffective compliance and enforcement process and procedures within the Customs Control Area, unmonitored areas along the land and maritime borders apart from the border facility and lack of knowledge on the legalities of sex enhancement products.

The results further show that 1 out of 50 respondents indicated that there is no increase in illegal smuggling of sex enhancement products because there are fewer cases reported. The 20% of respondents who are unsure indicated that they are not aware of and lack knowledge on the legal boundaries of sex enhancement products.

Question 5 WHAT CAUSES PEOPLE TO USE SEX ENHANCEMENT PRODUCTS?

1. Exposure to Pornography	39
2. Erectile Dysfunction	7
3. Peer pressure	3
4. Accessibility and availability of SEPs sold cheaply at Batas	9



According to the results, 67% of the respondents indicated that exposure to pornography causes people to use sex enhancement products, whilst 16% indicated that easy accessibility and availability of SEPs sold cheaply at Batas causes people to use SEPs, 12% use SEPs due to Erectile Dysfunction and 5% use SEPs because of Peer Pressure.

According to the Research Report on Media and Sexual Content 2022, findings indicated that most student respondents stated that watching pornography brings an overpowering and intolerable sexual feeling that develops the desire and the urge to have sex. The results further indicate that people's interest in watching pornography becomes a habit which results in addiction.

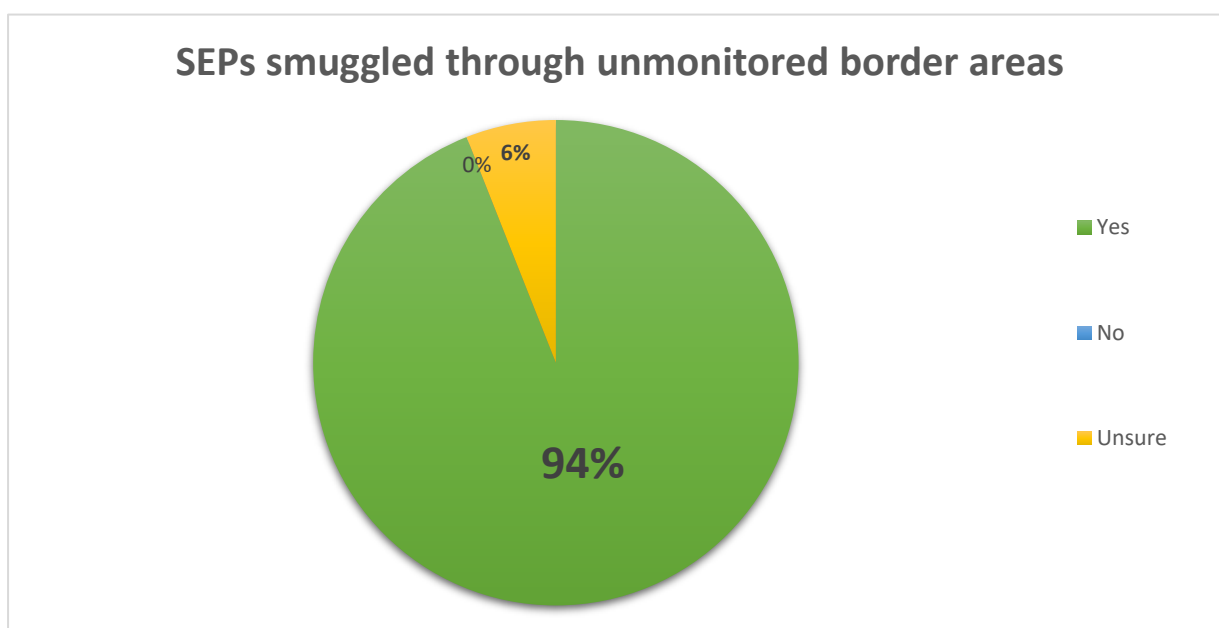
The results in this Baseline Study on SEPs reinforces the results in the Research on Media and Sexual Content on exposure to pornography that is the root cause of growing social issues such as sexual violence and rape, promiscuous behavior, HIV Aids and STIs, Unwanted Teen Pregnancies and the use of Sex Enhancement Products.

Most respondents indicated that men who use SEPs are influenced by watching pornography to perform obscene sexual acts with their partners. They further indicated that the use of SEPs has health risks too.

Some respondents indicated that SEPs is used because of personal sexual desires. They further indicated that some people are not satisfied with normal natural sexual intercourse so they use SEPs to enhance their sex life.

Question 6. DO YOU THINK SEX ENHANCEMENT PRODUCTS COULD HAVE BEEN EASILY SMUGGLED THROUGH THE UNMONITORED AREAS OF THE BORDER?

Yes	No	Unsure
47	0	3



The results show that 94% of the respondents indicated that sex enhancement products could have been easily smuggled in through the unmonitored border areas.

According to the table, 47 out of 50 respondents indicated that sex enhancement products could have been easily smuggled in through the unmonitored areas apart from the Wutung Border Post. Most respondents pointed out several villages and areas along the border that does not have compliance and enforcement mechanisms in place to monitor and regulate the border areas apart from the Wutung border facility. Due to traditional ties and border crossing, local villages have made bush tracks that facilitates illegal smuggling of illicit materials across the Border. Some areas along the border that were revealed included the Green River, Imonda and Amanab located in the Vanimo Green River District, Yapsie and Oksapmin in the Telefomin District, and the maritime boundaries and waterways are also not monitored by the compliance and enforcement team.

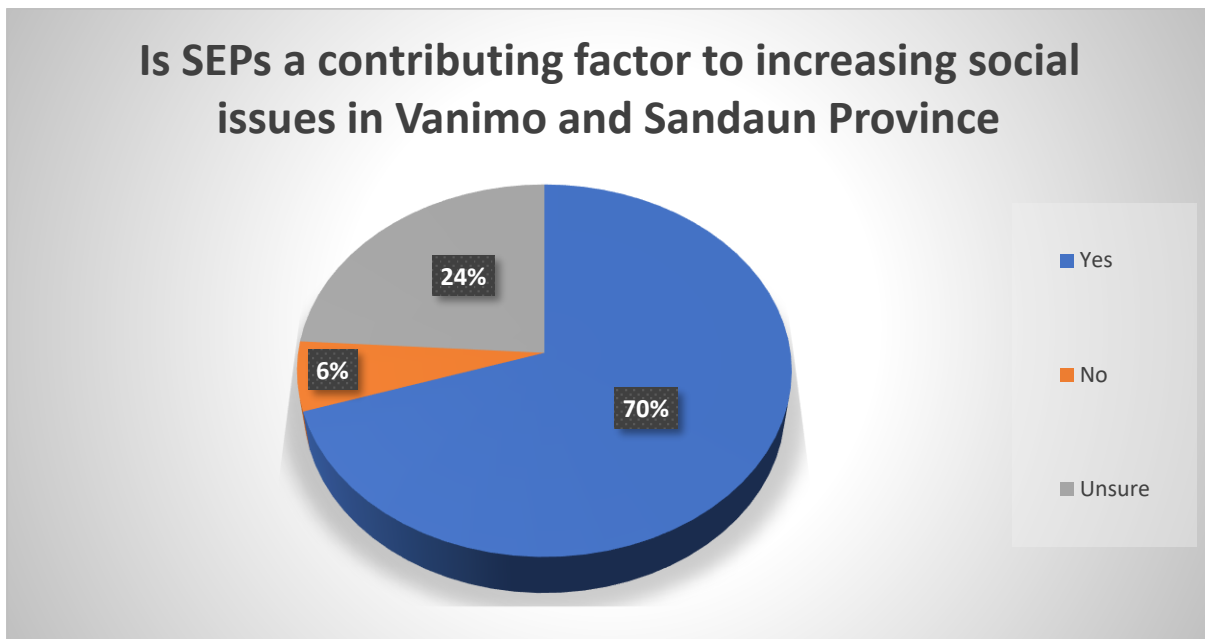
The poor scanning facilities in the Customs Control Area have also caused illegal smuggling of illicit and prohibited items across the Border.

The table shows that 3 of the 50 respondents were unsure and could not respond because they are not aware of the activities concerning illegal smuggling of sex enhancement products.

Most respondents believed that unmonitored areas around the PNG-Indonesia border are hotspot areas for illegal smuggling and respondents further believed that networks of smugglers are secretly transporting illicit and illegal products all over the country.

Question 7. DO YOU THINK SEX ENHANCEMENT PRODUCTS IS A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO THE INCREASING SOCIAL ISSUES IN VANIMO AND SANDAUN PROVINCE?

Yes	No	Unsure
35	3	12



According to the results, 35 (70%) out of the 50 respondents indicated that sex enhancement products is a contributing factor to increasing social issues in Vanimo and Sandaun Province, whilst 24% are unsure and 6% do not believe that sex enhancement product is a contributing factor to increasing social problems because they indicated youth drunkenness, homebrew and steam production and lack of youth education as some of the main issues that contribute to growing social issues.

Most respondents believe that most cases concerning the use of sex enhancement products is caused by exposure to pornography especially by men through which most cases are not reported due to its sensitive nature.

Some respondents indicated that some young women and mothers encounter health issues concerning SEPs, and there are also increase in cases on the use and negative impact of SEPs that is attended to by Welfare Officers.

The results further indicate that when the wife refuses to have sex with the husband using SEPs, he beats her up causing domestic violence, and the husband practices promiscuous behavior,

prostitution and adultery causing marriage breakdown. This may also affect their children’s education and wellbeing. A respondent from a primary school indicated that their student tallies of their families gives an indication of increasing marriage breakdown.

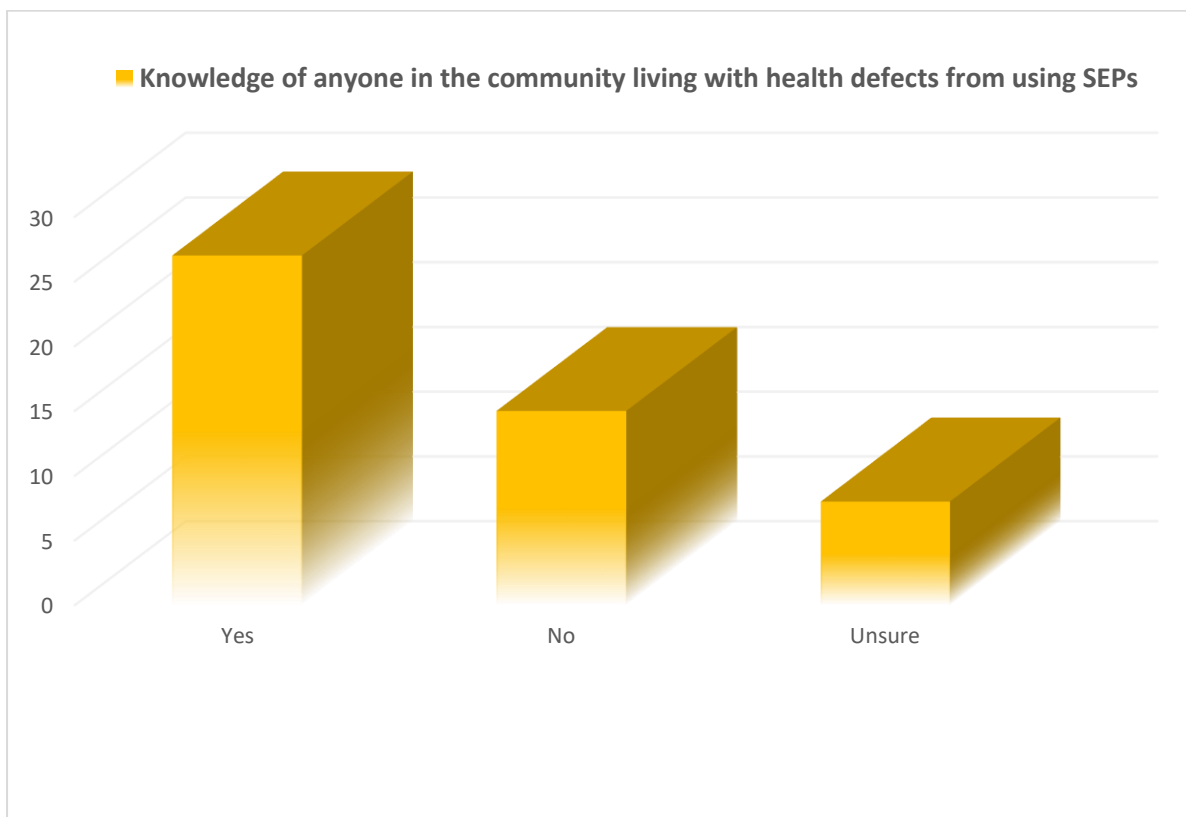
In some cases, young girls are sexually abused causing increase in pre-marital sex and unwanted teen pregnancies.

The negative effects of sex enhancement products can cause sore and damage to the men’s penis disallowing him to perform his household responsibilities to the best of his abilities. Some women who are victimized are diagnosed with cervical cancer and some have unfortunately lost their lives.

Respondents from the law and justice sector believe that those who use sex enhancement products must be prosecuted and penalized due to the fact that it causes domestic violence and marriage breakdown.

Question 8. DO YOU KNOW OF ANYONE WITHIN YOUR COMMUNITY THAT HAS EXPERIENCED HEALTH DEFECTS/ISSUES FROM USING SEPs?

Yes	No	Unsure
27	15	8



According to the table indicated above, 27 out of 50 respondents revealed that they know of people within their community that have experienced health issues from using SEPs whilst 15 respondents have not heard of anyone with SEPs related issues.

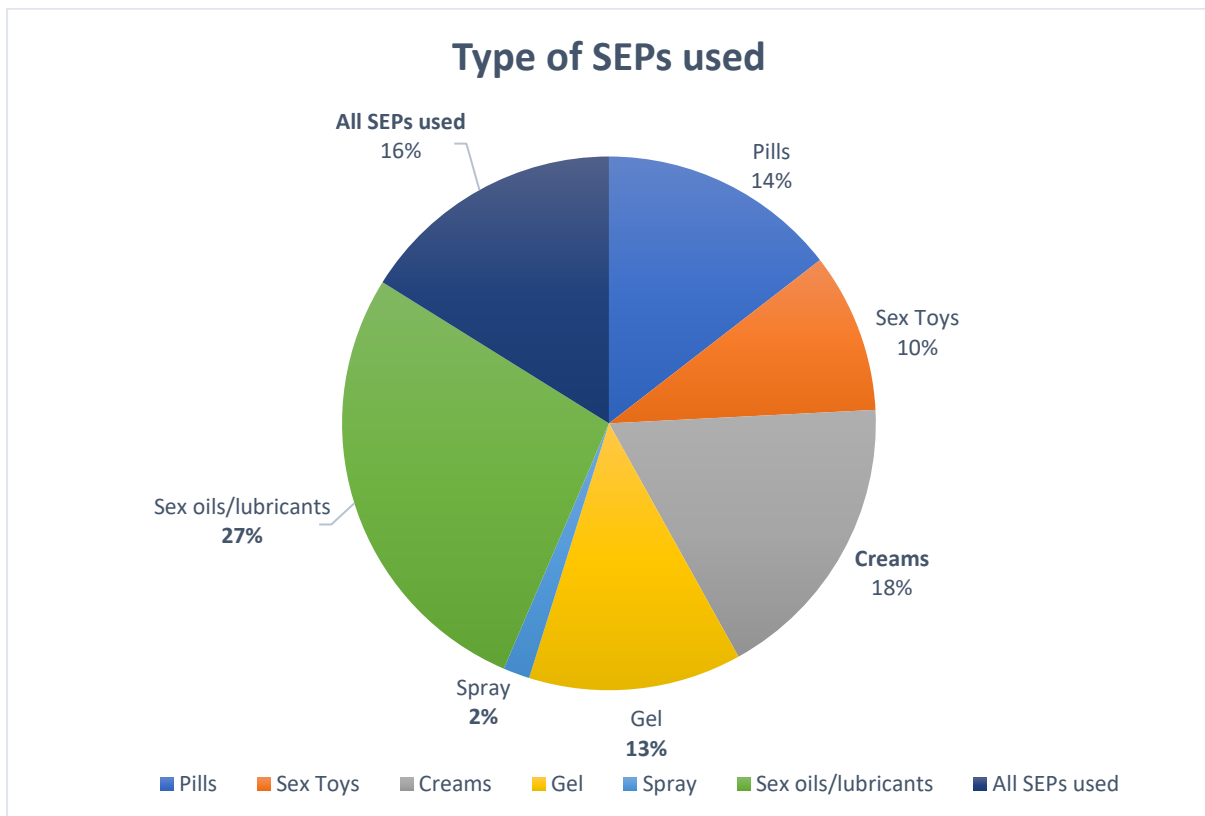
Most respondents pointed out that the health defects from using SEPs is two way; penile enlargement injections for men causes permanent damage and sores around the penis and the woman has stretch vaginal canal that causes a lot of bleeding. Some respondents also indicated deformities of the penis, swelling of the penis foreskin and swelling or lump around the scrotum area.

Some respondents also indicated that some men use penis and women use breast pumps, however, some women who use breast pumps may have breast inflammation and breast infection.

According to Human Papillomavirus and Related Diseases Report 2023, cervical cancer is the second most common cancer in women in PNG and some women in Vanimo and Sandaun Province have died from cervical cancer because men use penile enlargement injections and pills.

WHAT TYPE OF SEPs WAS USED?

Pills	Sex Toys	Cream	Gel	Spray	Sex oils	All SEPs
9	6	11	8	1	17	10



The table above shows the different categories of sex enhancement products classified and confiscated by the Enforcement and Compliance Division under the Office of Censorship.

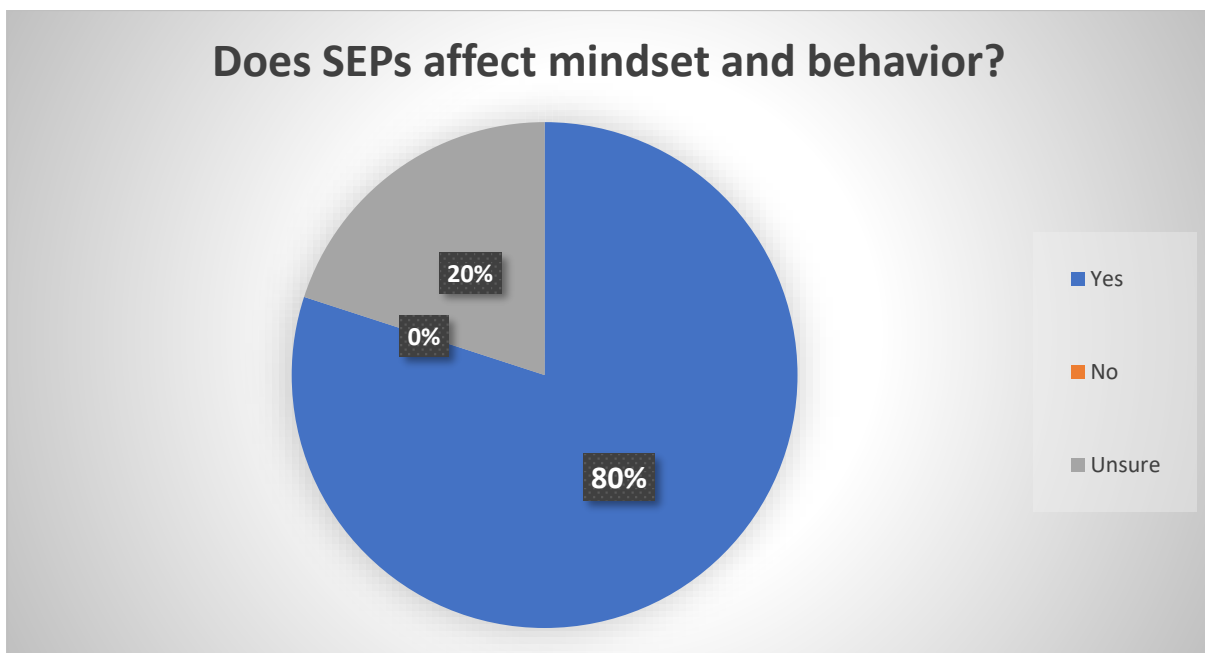
Throughout the focus group interview sessions, respondents were given the option of selecting the different categories of sex enhancement products they have seen, and those that are been illegally smuggled in and sold around Vanimo township and the neighboring areas.

From the 50 respondents, 17 identified Sex Oils/Lubricants as the most common type of SEPs, 11 respondents identified Sex Creams as the second most common SEPs used, followed by Pills, Sex Gel and Sex Toys respectively.

Out of 50 respondents, 10 indicated that sex enhancement products from all categories are used by men. These products are been commercially sold within West Sepik Province and the surrounding areas including neighboring Province, East Sepik.

Question 9. HOW DOES SEPS AFFECT THE MINDSET AND BEHAVIOR OF A PERSON?

Yes	No	Unsure
40	0	10



Out of 50 respondents, 40 (80%) indicated that sex enhancement products affect the mindset and behavior of a person whilst 10 respondents (20%) indicated that they were unsure.

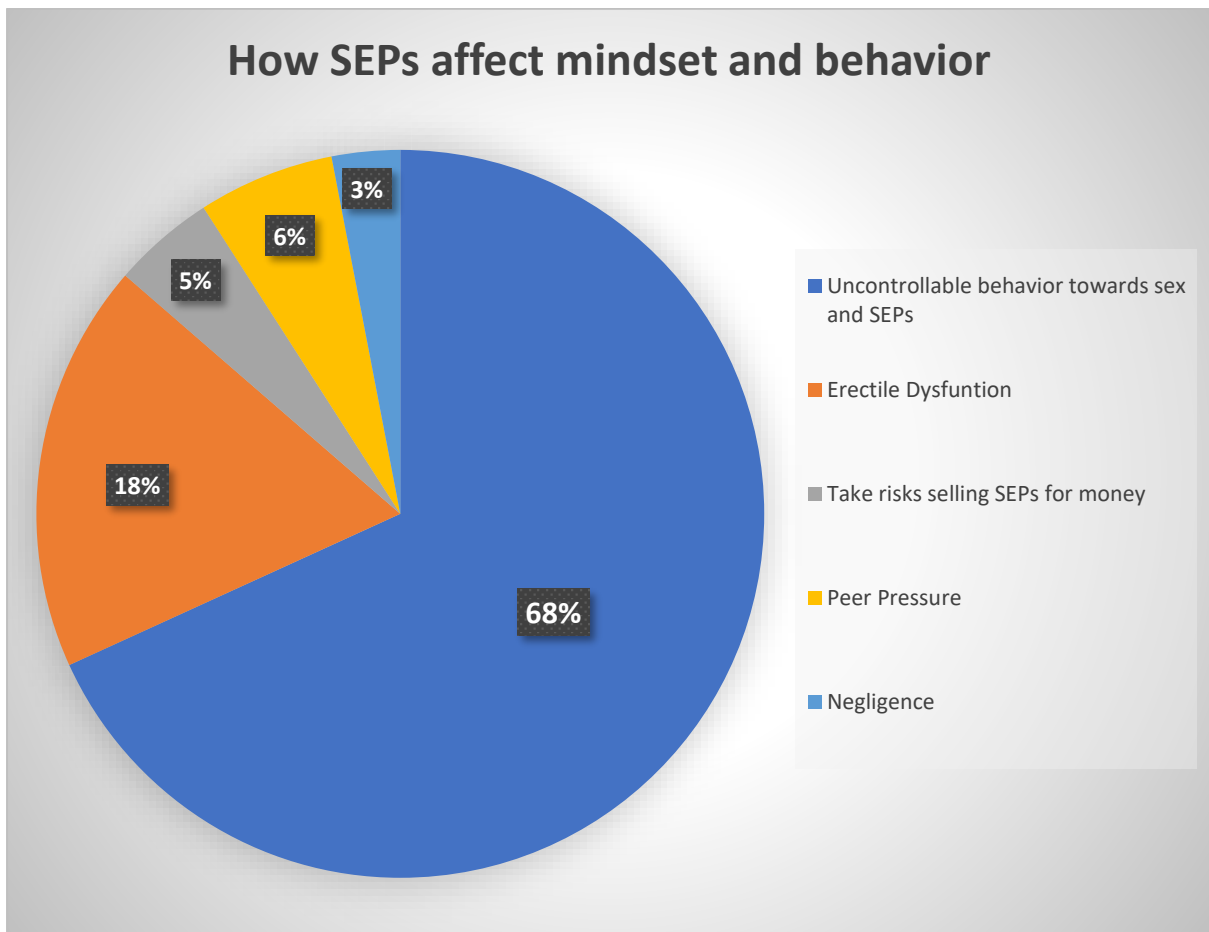
How does SEPs affect the mindset and behavior?

1. Uncontrollable behavior towards sex	45
2. Erectile Dysfunction	12

3. Take risk selling SEPs for monetary gain	3
4. Peer Pressure	4
5. Negligence	2

From the respondents' feedback, five key themes emerged from the thematic analysis. Most respondents provided several feedbacks that correspond to the five key themes.

According to the results, 45 respondents indicated that the use of SEPs causes uncontrollable behavior towards sex.



Uncontrollable behavior towards sex is any sexual behavior that feels out of control, impulsive, compulsive or addictive, that may develop from exposure to pornography.

Most respondents indicated that men who are exposed to watching pornographic images and videos continually, develop sex addiction, and tend to have unrealistic sexual expectations from their partner/wife, they become domineering and selfish when it comes to sex, victimizing their partner/wife. Such behavior may lead to promiscuous behavior, prostitution, adultery and marital breakdown. Some respondents indicated that some men from PNG travel across to Jayapura to engage in sex with young Indonesian women.

The respondents further indicated that uncontrollable behavior towards sex may cause men to commit sexual offences and sexual abuse, rape and even marital rape.

Erectile dysfunction is most commonly defined as a consistent or recurrent inability to attain or maintain an erection that is sufficient for sexual satisfaction (McCabe et al., 2016). Erectile Dysfunction is a psychological experience that may cause low self-esteem, anxiety and depression which may lead to the use of sex enhancement products to keep an erection firm enough for sex, however, Erectile Dysfunction may damage sex lives if not prescribed appropriately. With feelings of low self-esteem, men become too lazy and they lose interest to work or go to school.

Some respondents further indicated that young men who received penile injections were rejected from being employed by the PNG Defence Force, causing unemployment.

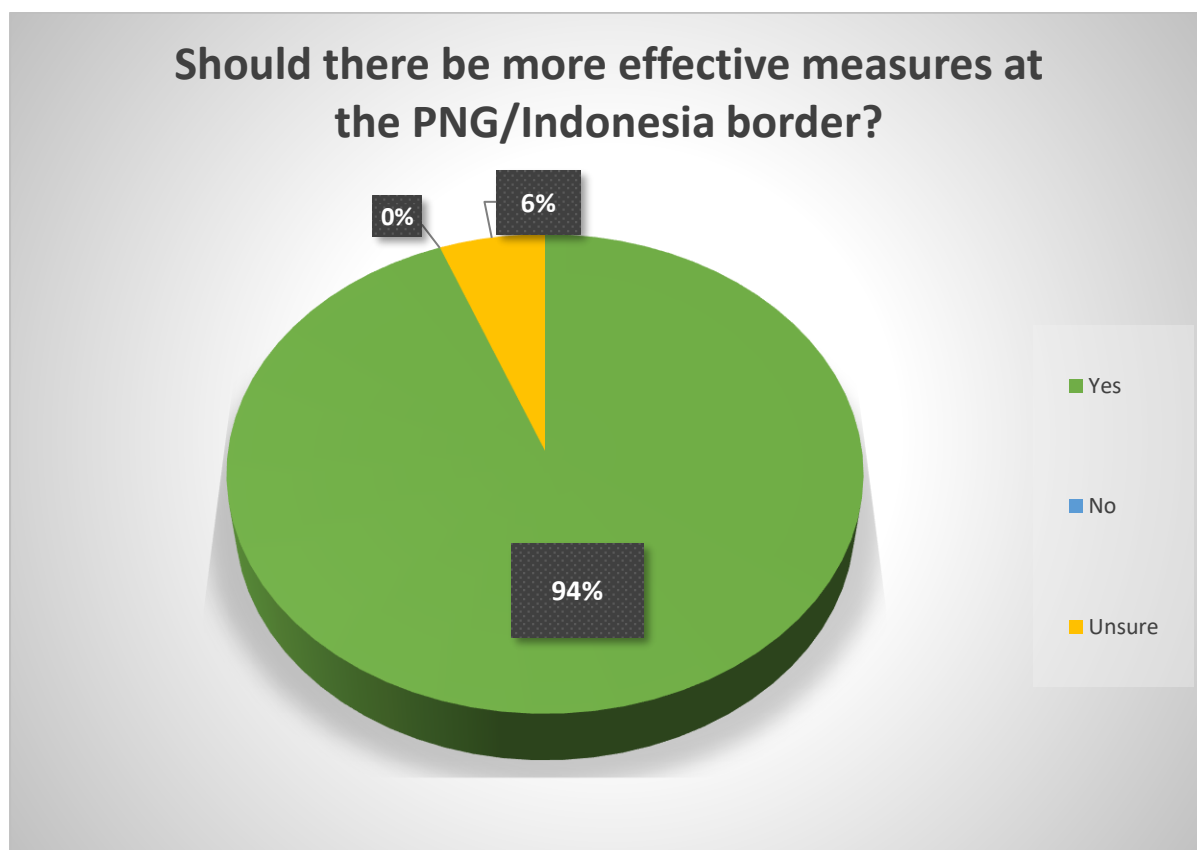
According to the results, peer pressure plays a significant role in influencing mindset and behavior of young men into using sex enhancement products. In PNG society, communal and social networking may influence decision-making, hence, 4 respondents indicated that Peer Pressure influences young men to use sex enhancement products on young women that causes them to engage in early sexual relationships.

A few respondents indicated that parents neglect their parental responsibility in maintaining the wellbeing of their children. They further indicated that the economic aspect of SEPs influences them to take risks to meet the growing demand.



Question 10. SHOULD THERE BE MORE EFFECTIVE SECURITY MEASURES DESIGNED AT THE PNG/INDONESIA BORDER TO ENSURE OUR CITIZENS ARE SAFEGUARDED FROM ACCESSING AND USING SEX ENHANCEMENT PRODUCTS AND OTHER CONTRABAND MATERIALS?

Yes	No	Unsure
48	0	2



PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW?

1. Carry out effective nationwide awareness/health education awareness starting in Vanimo on the negative effects of SEPs. Foster partnership with stakeholders (police, community leaders, churches) to do major awareness campaigns in the province.	14
2. Improve existing monitoring/control measures and facilities at the Wutung border post, scanners using Advanced Imaging Technology (AIT) for full body scan needed for detection of SEPs and other contrabands.	14
3. Increase number of security personnel/manpower at the border.	10
4. Censorship Office/Desk/Committee be fully established at the border/province to monitor and control SEPs.	8

5. Job rotation for all border agency staff. The longer they stay, they are compromised.	6
6. Rebuild/set up more border posts like the Customs Controlled Area in Wutung along the entire PNG/Indonesia border down to Western Province.	6
7. Proper physical checks should be done at the border and the airport.	5
8. Totally ban the sales and use of SEPs.	4
9. West Sepik Provincial Administration must establish an office to control and monitor SEPs in the province.	3
10. Strictly monitor frequent border crossers.	3
11. Conduct regular combines maritime surveillance/sea patrol to monitor the waters.	2
12. Government should provide support to agencies at border to counter SEPs.	2
13. Office of Censorship to conduct awareness on current Censorship Act to other law enforcing agencies.	2
14. Allow access to and from the border using Passports only.	1
15. Minimize everyday shoppers to Batas.	1
16. Security surveillance should be under Provincial Functions for effective implementation.	1
17. Have in place only one entry and exit point at the border (Wutung).	1

4.2 Section C. Compliance and Enforcement of Sex Enhancement Products

Our international borders safeguard our country's national security and prevent the spread of diseases and restrict inappropriate activities as evidently seen through the Customs Control Area at the PNG/Indonesia Border Facility. There are seven (7) agencies identified that conduct border management tasks that mainly consist of the surveillance of the Border Facility only.

1. Please explain how effective you conduct your respective roles and responsibilities at the Wutung Border Facility?

PNG Customs Services	PNG Customs protects the Border by monitoring movement of illicit goods, collect revenue for the Government and protect communities and local businesses
PNG Immigration and Citizenship Services Authority (PNG ICSA)	Due to existing challenges/constraints with power and running water, PNG ICSA cannot say we perform our roles a 100 percent all the time, but we do our best to get the job done at the end of the day when it comes to people movement across borders.
National Agriculture and Quarantine Inspection Authority (NAQIA)	NAQIA manually check luggages, packages and cargoes of every passenger, shopper, villager or any person(s) crossing the land border through the Customs Control Area. NAQIA operations particularly at the Border is minimal. There is lack of support from the government. We operate

	on limited budget, however, quarantine is very vital at these two ports.
PNG Defence Force	PNGDF core duty is to defend and protect PNG's land and maritime borders from outside threats, however, work along the Border is not very effective due to lack of support from the Government.
Royal PNG Constabulary	In terms of policing, it is not effective due to shortage of manpower and logistical support. Therefore, detection and apprehension are a major challenge. SEPs are smuggled in secret because there are many routes linked to unmanned areas of the Border.
National Department of Health	Only travelers through Wutung Border Post are checked whilst others do not come through for effective control and management. NDoH as Health Quarantine performs its roles and responsibilities, however, support is needed from NDoH and other relevant authorities.
Post PNG	We only concentrate on dangerous goods which we are trained to process. There are procedures to process dangerous items. Now that we are aware of SEPs, we should do the same when it comes to processing.

2. Do you consider SEPs and related contraband materials in the process of performing your duties?

PNG Customs Services	SEPs and related contrabands are prohibited items and should be dealt with in a professional manner.
PNG Immigration and Citizenship Services Authority (PNG ICSA)	PNG ICSA rely on PNG Customs and NAQIA officers to report to us at the conclusion of the baggage/cargo examination/inspection. If an individual brings in prohibited items such as SEPs, the person is flagged as high risk and reported to our compliance team for further action.
National Agriculture and Quarantine Inspection Authority (NAQIA)	According to NAQIA Standard Operating Procedures, SEPs is not our area of concern, thus when intercepted, we refer to PNG Customs and Police to deal with.
PNG Defence Force	PNGDF capture a lot of locals smuggling SEPs at the military checkpoint in Wutung Border Post
Royal PNG Constabulary	RPNGC consider SEPs as Prohibited Items under PNG Customs
National Department of Health	NDoH verifies medicines at the Customs Control Area

Post PNG	Post PNG are not aware of SEPs until last week when PNG Customs brought SEPs to Post PNG to have it posted to Office of Censorship. The items were thoroughly checked. Post PNG are now fully aware of SEPs and we will ensure it we retain it and have it reported to Censorship Office.
-----------------	---

2a. If you do, how do you manage it?

PNG Customs Services	Every illicit or prohibited item detained and seized under Customs Act including SEPs are destroyed and issued with destruction notice from PNG Customs which are kept as our record.
PNG Immigration and Citizenship Services Authority	Since we are not mandated to inspect bags and cargoes, the person or owner of the cargo is referred to PNG Customs and NAQIA to deal with under their respective laws like cancellation of visas or deportation. However, we refer to our compliance and enforcement branch to carry on from there when it comes to penalties.
National Agriculture and Quarantine Inspection Authority	We refer cargoes and persons to PNG Customs to deal with.
PNG Defence Force	We remove the items and destroy them and let the owner go.
RPNGC	Detect, confiscate and refer to PNG Customs for inspection and prosecution. Police assistance is required in prosecution which PNG Customs Commissioner authorizes.
National Department of Health	Upon inspection, the supplies are destroyed when identified as SEPs
Post PNG	There are procedures when accepting items. Post PNG asks customers before opening the items. A physical check is done to ensure it is accepted or not before we dispatch.

3. What other effective measures can you suggest to enhance compliance process and procedures at the Border Facility?

PNG Customs Services	• Upgrade scanners
	• Sniffer dogs required
	• Proper training and more awareness on SEPs
	• Censorship Officers to be stationed along the border areas
PNG Immigration and Citizenship Services Authority	• Currently CIQ (Customs, Immigration, Quarantine) are doing manual checks. A big help will be the use of scanners at the border which Customs will require to effectively check cargoes.

National Agriculture and Quarantine Inspection Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proper Border Management approach for all border agencies
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required machines and scanners for all jobs by each agency at entry/exit points.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish Censorship Office in Vanimo
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish MU with CIQ to act on behalf of Censorship
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminate the clause of your Act (Censorship Act) that deals with SEPs to the CIQ to base on and refer perpetrators to police for disciplinary actions.
PNG Defence Force	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebuild all existing facilities that are currently rundown.
RPNGC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A comprehensive and collaborative training should be conducted to all agencies working along with the border authority (PNG Customs) to better deal with SEPs when encountered in the course of their duty.
National Department of Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement in checking facilities here at the Border. Conduct more public awareness on what is acceptable and not acceptable to bring into PNG.
Post PNG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct more awareness and provide us with posters for display in the post office for Post PNG officers to be aware of and deal with customers who bring us these items (SEPs).

4.3 Observation At Wutung Border Facility

Upon visiting the Wutung Border Facility, known as the Customs Control Area during Batas Day on Saturday, 11th May 2024, the following points stemmed from the Research Team’s observations;

- Poor compliance processes carried out due to lack of necessary equipment and facilities.
- Limited compliance duty officers
 - Manual search conducted
 - Compliance personnel on ground were limited compared to the large movements of people across. At the time of our visit, we observed x4 PNG Customs Officers, x4 PNG ICSA Officers, x1 Health Quarantine from National Department of Health, x3 NAQIA Officers, x2 RPNGC Officers and x2 PNGDF Officers
 - Less monitoring of movement of people. Some locals casually walked through the facility without being searched.



A NAQIA official on duty conducting manual checks

- Improper searches
 - Immigrants not searched thoroughly enough to determine whether a sex enhancement product is smuggled or not.
 - Manual search conducted on certain individuals only
 - No proper body searches conducted
 - Indonesian visitors given exception for not being searched. There was no compliance process and procedure conducted before crossing over to PNG side.



Indonesian visitors casually cross over to PNG side without inspection

- No proper search equipment in the Customs Control Area to conduct genuine checks on visitors and immigrants.
- Run-down Facility
 - Limited Space; Building capacity is not enough to cater for proper searches to be conducted.
 - Office space is run down; not conducive for working and irrelevant for proper search mechanisms to be put in place.
 - No electricity and water supplies



- Multiple points of entry.
 - Not all people follow the designated entry/exit route within the Customs Control Area.
 - Limited border officials, causing disorderly migrations.
- Limited Knowledge on SEPs by stakeholder officials on ground
 - Stakeholder officials need further awareness and educating on the types, forms, usage and effects of sex enhancement products.
 - Provide visual aids for reference
 - Customs team had to consult on-ground Health Quarantine.

Compliance Chain of Command

As observed, there is a chain of command in place, securing and enabling safer movements of people and their baggage.

1. PNGDF

Compliance line of command is initiated by PNGDF, as they stand guard at the Wutung PNGDF check-point, a few meters outside the Wutung Border facility.

- PNGDF officers also carry out awareness on consequences of smuggling and usage of SEPS.
- Searches conducted at check-points when leaving border villages.
- Officers also stationed in and around the border facility
- Mainly conducting observations and enforcing compliance

2. RPNGC

Police presence observed at the entry gates and within the facility/building, indicating PNG's land and laws.

- Limited police personnel on ground.
- Lack policing standards

3. PNG Customs

After clearance from PNG ICOSA, PNG Customs officials proceed with compliance checks.

- Manual baggage search only.
- No body checks

Daily Batas shoppers:

- Searched if carrying parcels
- Not searched if crossing over empty handed.



PNG Customs officer conducting baggage check on an Asian Immigrant while his Assistant looks on.

3.1. Health Inspection officer

Responsible for the classification and declaration of medicines, and other supplementary products.

4. PNG ICOSA

- For PNG Visitors
 - a. Traditional Border Crossing (TBC)
 - b. Manifest Form



Batas shoppers complete Manifestation Form prior to crossing over to Indonesian side

- c. Passports
Passport compliance checks and Declaration Forms are distributed for immigrants to complete.

- **For Foreign Visitors**
 - a. Passport/Visa checks/Declaration checks
 - b. Customs compliance checks



PNG ICSA staff pictured with an incoming Asian immigrant and his Assistant.

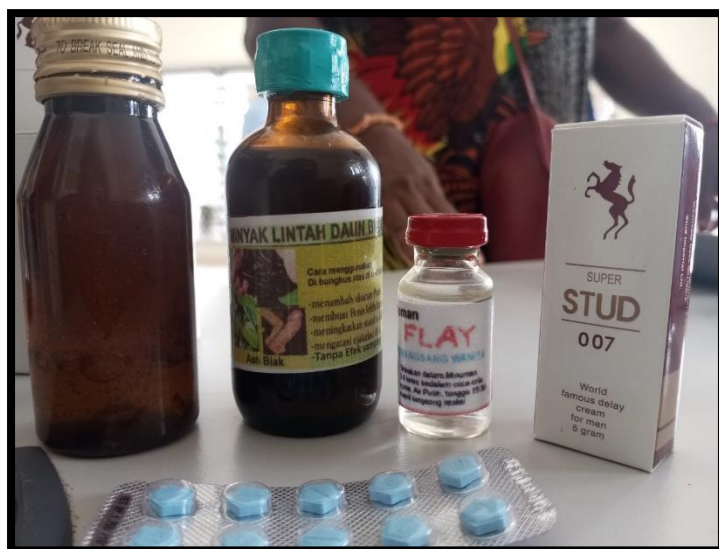
5. NAQIA

- Concerned on the Bio-security aspect of inspections.
- Perform quarantine inspection on vessels, aircrafts; 50% inspection rate due to limited technology mechanisms.
- Compliance effort not effective. Searches conducted on large baggage only.
- SEPs found are referred to PNG Customs officers

During the observations at the Customs Control Area, certain sex enhanced products were confiscated by the PNG Customs only when verified and advised by Health Quarantine, and referred to the Office of Censorship to be detained for further deliberation. The confiscation of the objectionable materials reflects poor compliance process and procedures that requires major improvements.

Table below describes the supplements detained by the PNG Customs and Health Quarantine. Upon further research on the drugs/supplements that were being smuggled in, they would not be considered as SEPs, but rather be classified as medicines for genuine purposes, such as to treat cold, nausea and skin inflammation. These items were detained because there was no proper prescription provided by a medical practitioner confirming the purchase and usage of the products.

Item Description	Type/Class	Quantity
Pronicy	Supplement	12
Dexa-M, DEXAMETHASONE	Supplement	2
Total		14
Item Description	Type/Class	Quantity
Super Stud 007	Delay Cream	12
For Woman – Flay	Liquid (oil)	1
Minyak Lintah	Oil	2
Total		15



These sex enhancement products were found and detained by PNG Customs Officers upon advice by the Health Quarantine at the time of our visit.

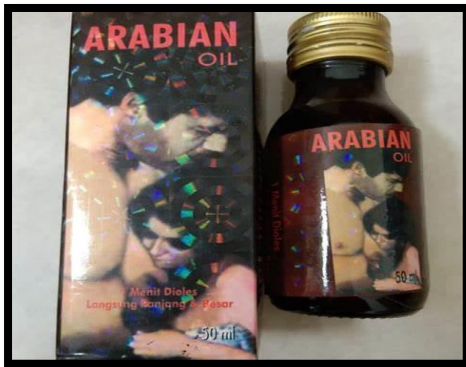
4.4 Observation At Batas Market In Skouw Border Area

From the Wutung Border Facility, the Research Team proceeded onto Batas Market, about 30 minutes' drive from Vanimo town. People from within Sandaun, East Sepik, Madang and other areas of PNG flock to the border to hunt for cheap Asian goods. The Wutung Border Facility opens only on Saturdays from 8:00am to 5:00pm.

The observations were recorded using detailed note-taking, supplemented with photographs. The subjects indicated below include sex enhancement products that are publicly sold on some shelves at Batas Market.



Sex tablet known as Viagra, which is used by men to achieve full erections, and normally should be used by men with erectile dysfunction, and as prescribed by medical professionals or Doctors. *(Medical News Today, 2024)*



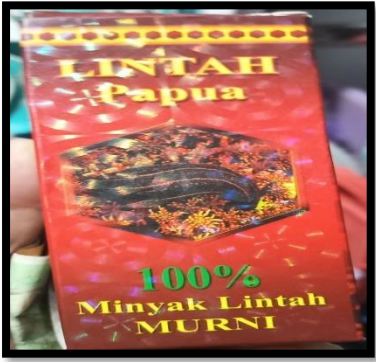
Arabian Oil is a sex oil that's made in the Middle East, it is made from herbal oils and is used to increase the Men's penial sensitivity and acts as a stimulant for sexual intercourse. *(BLOGSPOT, 2012)*



Magic Power tissue wipes, contain a chemical compound known as Benzocaine. Which is a solution known to prevent premature ejaculation in Men. It is a product to cure erectile dysfunction. However, Doctors have advised that side effects include penial irritation, blood disorders and potential infections as negative effects of using Magic Power. *(Blog Source, 2023)*



'Dua Hati Sabun Sari Kesud' is an Indonesian made herbal product, which is specifically made for women's vaginal area. The product is said to tighten a female's vaginal pelvic muscle area. For assumed improved sexual performance. However, this product is not truly medically verified or prescribed. *(SHOPEE online-store advertisement, 2019)*



This is a sex oil product that is made from Leech extracts, and is said to be a penial enlargement oil that increases the size of a males penis. The content language is not in English but in the Indonesian Bahasa language. The product is also not completely medically verified. (Halodoc, 2023)



Packaging of some sex enhancement products also have illicit/explicit pornographic images captured on them. These images depict illicit images that are unsuitable for children to view. (Source Packaging, Image (6))



Galian Rapet Medunten is an herbal sex enhancement product, which is used specifically by women. It is for women who have problems with, vaginal discharge, sliminess, and also is said to tighten up the virginal area. (Beautyshop online-store, 2018)



Africa Black Ant capsules contain the undeclared substance 'Sildenafil' which is the same chemical substance in Viagra. Side effects include, Sever Cardiovascular problems, Flushing (warmth, redness, or tingly feeling), Abnormal vision and upset stomach. (Australian Government website, 2017)

During these field observations, several themes emerged including weak border security, weak compliance and enforcement facilities, lack of coordinated mechanism between stakeholders, amongst others. Though the CIQ Team which includes PNG Customs, Immigration and Citizenship Services Authority (ICSA) and NAQIA focus on their primary roles, PNG Customs make referrals to the Office of Censorship whenever they encounter cases concerning sex enhancement products.

In terms of Censorship Office roles and responsibilities concerning sex enhancement products, Health Quarantine under the National Department of Health plays a very significant role by identifying and verifying sex enhancement products. Apart from the CIQ Team and the Health Quarantine, PNG Defence Force (PNGDF) and the Police (RPNGC) conduct their tasks within and around the Customs Control Area.

This field observation revealed the sale of appropriate and inappropriate cheap Asian goods at Batas Market that attracts many people from within Sandaun, East Sepik, Madang and other parts of the country. With the influx of shoppers from PNG flocking into Batas Market in the Republic of Indonesia, circulation of PNG Kina is twice as much. The findings also highlighted the Customs Control Area as a space that controls border surveillance in order to safeguard PNG's national security, however, observing the compliance and enforcement aspect of the Wutung Border Facility provided valuable insights into the issue of national security and social dynamics of our people living along the border area.



5. CONCLUSION

This study identified the illegal smuggling and impact of sex enhancement products from Jayapura in the Republic of Indonesia through the Wutung Border Facility into Vanimo, West Sepik Province through to the neighboring provinces and other parts of the country.

National Censorship Policy II (2021-2025) identifies sex enhancement product as a cross-cutting issue, therefore focus group interview technique was used to address the issue from different sectoral perspectives.

Sex Enhancement Products is classified as an Objectional Material under the Classification of Publication (Censorship) Act 1989. The findings indicate that not many people are aware of the particular legislation and where it sits, therefore, a holistic approach is needed to conduct effective awareness and advocacy on the legality of sex enhancement products and its negative impact.

The Wutung Border Facility at the Customs Control Area is administered by the national functions, however, there is no visibility of the West Sepik Provincial Administration in terms of regulating and monitoring of sex enhancement products and other contraband materials.

Sex enhancement products are discreetly sold around Vanimo town through street sales and the price ranges from K5.00 to K500.00 depending on the quality of the product. Due to the accessibility and availability of the products, there is an increase in the smuggling of the product because of the growing market demand, ineffective compliance and enforcement process and procedures within the Customs Control Area, unmonitored areas along the border apart from the border facility and lack of knowledge on the legalities of sex enhancement products.

It is also important to know the reasons as to why sex enhancement products are used mostly by men and a few women. The main reason why sex enhancement product is used due to the exposure to pornography that overpowers the mindset and behavior of a person, hence, develops the desire and urge to have sex. Another reason why sex enhancement product is used is due to Erectile Dysfunction experienced by men especially. The results in this Baseline Study on SEPs reinforces the results in the Research on Media and Sexual Content on exposure to pornography that is the root cause of growing social issues such as sexual violence and rape, promiscuous behavior, HIV Aids and STIs, Unwanted Teen Pregnancies. These adulterated supplements also have the potential to cause severe adverse health effects due to misuse and overuse of sex enhancement products. They may also interfere with other underlying health conditions. It is therefore essential to raise awareness of this potentially significant public health concern and also to take a stricter approach to regulate and monitor sex enhancement products and other contraband materials along the Wutung Border Facility and unmonitored land and maritime boundaries.

6. RECOMMENDATION

6.1 PART B

The following sixteen (16) recommendations are indicated by the 50 respondents in Part B Questionnaire who suggested how effective security measures can be designed at the PNG/Indonesia border to ensure PNG citizens are safeguarded from accessing, using and distributing sex enhancement products and other contraband materials.

1. Carry out effective nationwide awareness/health education in Vanimo and other areas in the Sandaun Province to the East Sepik Province on the negative effects of SEPs. Foster partnership with stakeholders (police, community leaders, churches) to do major awareness campaigns in the province.
2. Existing facilities and manual checks at the Wutung border post needs improvement.
3. Increase the number of security personnel and manpower at the border.
4. Censorship Office must be fully established in Sandaun Province, especially Wutung Border Facility to monitor and control SEPs.
5. Job rotation must be undertaken for all border agency staff. According to the findings, the longer they stay, the more they compromise.
6. Build more border posts along the entire PNG/Indonesia border area down to Western Province, similar to the Customs Controlled Area in Wutung.
7. Conduct proper physical checks at the Wutung Border Facility and all the airport check-in counters.
8. Issue public notice to completely ban the sale, use and distributing of SEPs in the country.
9. West Sepik Provincial Administration must establish a censorship desk to address the compliance and enforcement of SEPs in the province.
10. There must be strict monitoring of frequent border crossers.
11. There must be regular maritime surveillance/sea patrol to monitor the waters.
12. Government should provide support to agencies at border to counter SEPs
13. Office of Censorship to conduct awareness on current Censorship Act to other law enforcing agencies.
14. Border crossing should be accessed using valid Passports only.
15. Minimize everyday shoppers to Batas.
16. Security surveillance should be under Provincial Functions for effective implementation.
17. Have in place only one entry and exit point at the border (Wutung)
18. Develop a Risk Assessment of Border Management in West Sepik Province

6.2 PART C

Part C of the Questionnaire targeted the seven (7) Compliance and Enforcement agencies who provided information on their duties, obligations and responsibilities as well as tools to mitigate risks and recommendations to consider in relation to compliance process and procedures.

PNG Customs Services (PNGCS)

- Upgrade Scanners
- Need for Sniffer Dogs
- Proper Training and more Awareness on SEPs
- Censorship Officers to be stationed along the border areas

PNG Immigration and Citizenship Services Authority (ICSA)

- Currently Customs, Immigration and Quarantine (CIQ) are doing manual checks. A big help will be the use of scanners at the border which Customs will require to effectively check cargoes.

National Agriculture and Quarantine Inspection Authority (NAQIA)

- Proper Border Management approach for all border agencies
- Required machines and scanners for all jobs by each agency at entry/exit points.
- Establish Censorship Office in Vanimo
- Establish MOU with CIQ to act on behalf of Censorship
- Disseminate the clause of your Act (Censorship Act) that deals with SEPs to the CIQ to base on and refer perpetrators to police for disciplinary actions.

PNG Defence Force (PNGDF)

- Rebuild all existing facilities that are currently rundown.

Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary (RPNGC)

- A comprehensive and collaborative training should be conducted to all agencies working along with the border authority (Customs) to better deal with SEPs when encountered in the course of their duty.

National Department of Health (NDoH)

- Improvement in checking facilities here at the border. Conduct more public awareness on what is acceptable and not acceptable to bring into PNG.

Post PNG

- Do more awareness and provide us with posters for display in the post office for Post PNG officers to be aware of and deal with customers who bring us these items (SEPs).

7. REFERENCES

1. Australian Government [Website]. 2017. African Black Ant Capsules.
<https://www.tga.gov.au/africa-black-ant-capsules>
2. Fbeauty Shop [Online Store] 2008. Jamu Galian Rapet.
<https://fbeautyshop.com/jamu-galian-rapet-medunten/>
3. Halodoc [News Site]. 2011. Artikel Mitos.
<https://www.halodoc.com/artikel/mitos-atau-fakta-minyak-lintah-bisa-memperbesar-ukuran-mr-p>
4. Jualanterkini [Blog Site]. 2012. Arabian Oil.
<https://jualanterkini.blogspot.com/2012/01/arabian-oil.html>
5. Medical News Today [Online]. 2024. Viagra.
<https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/viagra>
6. National Constitution of Papua New Guinea. *Sections & Abstracts of the Constitution of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea*. (1975).
7. National Censorship Policy II. (2021- 2025). ‘Chpt 3, Policy Focus Areas and Strategies-3.12 Crosscutting Issues, 3.12.1 Sexual Enhancement Products. P.38’.
8. Office of Censorship, Classification of Publication (Censorship) Act (1989). *Censorship Board, Section 11, Section 12. P. N/A*.
9. Post Courier. (2020, June 22) *Illicit drugs, sex toys, porn materials set on fire*
<https://www.postcourier.com.pg/illicit-drugs-sex-toys-porn-materials-set-on-fire/>
10. Post Courier. (2019, April 04), *The senseless use of high risk and questionable penis enlargement products*
<https://www.postcourier.com.pg/senseless-use-of-high-risk-and-questionable-penis-enlargement-products/>
11. Post Courier. (2016, March 16), *18, 000 illegal items destroyed*
<https://www.postcourier.com.pg/18000-illegal-items-destroyed/>
12. Shopee [Online Store]. 2010. Sari Kesed Dua Hati.
<https://shopee.com.id/Sabun-Sari-Kesed-Dua-Hati-Original-i.2396846.41455491>
13. The National Newspaper. (2012. June 26) *Batas Market a hotspot for illegal trade*
<https://www.thenational.com.pg/batas-market-a-hotspot-for-illegal-trade/>
14. The National Newspaper. (2023, November 28), *Chief Censor backs decentralization*
<https://www.thenational.com.pg/chief-censor-backs-decentralisation/>
15. West Sepik Province Censorship Committee, Terms of Reference, 7. Responsibility. 2023. P.04.



APPENDICES

1. BASELINE STUDY BRIEF

2. AUTHORIZATION LETTER

3. RESEARCH QUESTIONNAIRE

4. PRIOR INFORMED CONSENT FORM

5. FIELDWORK ITINERARY

1. RESEARCH BRIEF

BASELINE STUDY BRIEF

There are concerns about the increasing importation of sex enhancement products and other objectionable materials slipping through the PNG/Indonesia Border in the West Sepik Province. According to the *Classification of Publication (Censorship) Act 1989*, Section 2 on Interpretation defines “Objectionable publication” as a publication that-

(a) describes, depicts, expresses or otherwise deals with matters of sex, drug misuse or addiction, crime, cruelty, blasphemy, immorality, violence or revolting or abhorrent phenomena in a manner that is likely to be offensive to a reasonable adult person and is undesirable in the interest of the public; or (b) depicts a child (whether engaged in sexual activity or otherwise) who is, or who apparently, under the age of 18 years, in manner that is likely to cause offence to reasonable adult person and is undesirable the interest of the public.

National Censorship Policy II (2021-2025) Chapter 3 Policy Focus Areas and Strategies, Chapter 3.12 Cross-cutting issues, 3.12.1 Sex Enhancement Products (SEPs) states that the use and illegal importation of sexual enhancement products have become prevalent in the country streaming in from Asian countries through the Indonesia/PNG entry point. The use and consumption of sex enhancement products may lead to many health problems, family and health issues and high-level sexual abuses.

According to National Department of Health, unauthorized sex enhancement products may pose serious health risks.

The Baseline Study aims to acquire contextual information and establish a baseline data to enhance regulation and monitoring of censorship matters in West Sepik Province through a Censorship Committee as indicated in a Terms of Reference signed on 24th November 2023 between the Office of Censorship and West Sepik Provincial Administration.

The Terms of Reference specifies responsibilities accorded to the Censorship Committee as part of the decentralization of Chief Censor’s powers, duties and functions at the provincial level.

The baseline data will attempt to identify key factors and gaps that contribute to the inflow of objectionable materials in the form of sex enhancement products, medical drugs and dietary supplements from the PNG/Indonesia border facility, to explore the impact of consuming sex enhancement products and other contraband materials in the West Sepik Province, to strengthen effective partnership with key stakeholders such as the PNG Customs Services and the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary to develop innovative interventions and initiatives in improving compliance process and procedures; and to offer guidance and direction on the specific needs of the West Sepik Province Censorship Committee with regards to their roles and responsibilities indicated in the Terms of Reference.

From the findings and recommendations of the baseline study, it is anticipated that a Strategy and Action Plan will be developed to implement the roles and responsibilities of the West Sepik Province Censorship Committee.



2. AUTHORIZATION LETTER



OFFICE OF CENSORSHIP
Office of The Chief Censor
Ministry for Youth, Religion & Community Development
P.O. Box 1745 Boroko, NCD
Central Government Office, Tower A, 4th Floor



29th April, 2024

Reference: CC-001: Ja/Hi
Action Officer: HI
Des Officer: P. Research Officer

MR. CONRAD TILAU

Acting Provincial Administrator
West Sepik Provincial Administration
PO Box 373

VANIMO

West Sepik Province

My Dear Acting Provincial Administrator,

**SUBJECT: SEEKING APPROVAL TO CONDUCT RESEARCH IN VANIMO, WEST SEPIK
PROVINCE**

Following the signing of the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the formation of the West Sepik Province Censorship Committee on Friday, 24th November 2023 at the Golden Medallion Hotel in Vanimo, Office of Censorship hereby seeks your approval to conduct field research to establish its baseline data on the movement and impact of sex enhancement products within Sandaun Province.

The absence of censorship roles and responsibilities at the provincial level, especially in the country's bordering province has created an influx of foreign sex enhancement products and other contraband materials from Asia through Republic of Indonesia. The main objective of the research is to acquire contextual information, establish baseline data and work towards enhancing regulation and monitoring of censorship matters through the West Sepik Censorship Committee (WSCC) as indicated in the ToR.

The baseline data will assist the Office of Censorship to identify key factors and gaps that contribute to the inflow of objectionable materials in the form of sex enhancement products, medical drugs and dietary supplements, explore the impact of consuming sex enhancement products and other contraband materials, strengthen effective partnership with key stakeholders such as the PNG Customs Services and the Provincial Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary to

Ph: 323 5154 / 3231456 Fax: 325 0488 Website: www.censorship.gov.pg

develop innovative interventions and initiatives in improving compliance and enforcement process and procedures; and offer guidance and direction on the specific needs of the West Sepik Province Censorship Committee with regards to their roles and responsibilities indicated in the Terms of Reference.

The research team anticipate to arrive in Vanimo on Sunday, 05th May 2024 and depart for Port Moresby on Thursday, 16th May 2024, therefore, I hereby request the research team pay a courtesy visit to your good office to inform you of their research objectives and itinerary.

Office of Censorship deeply appreciates your support and looks forward to working closely with you and all other concerned stakeholders.

Please find attached, a research itinerary for the research officers to conduct fieldwork.

Yours Sincerely,


JIM ABAN
CHIEF CENSOR





3. RESEARCH QUESTIONNAIRE



SECTION A: INFORMANT DETAILS

1. Name:
2. Gender: Male Female
3. Age: 15-25 26-35 36-45 46-55 56 or
more
4. Place of Origin: _____ District: _____
5. Place of Residence: _____
6. Occupation: _____
7. Organization: _____
8. Contact Details: _____

9. Do you speak English Tok-Pisin Motu

If other, please specify _____

10. Do you write English Tok-Pisin Motu

If other, please specify _____

PART B

No	QUESTION	Yes	No	Unsure
1	Are you aware that Sex Enhancement Products (SEPs) is classified as Objectionable Materials under the <i>Classification of Publication (Censorship) Act 1989</i> ? When a material is classified as Objectional, it is considered Illegal. Are you aware of this information? Are you aware that SEPs is illegal under the <i>Censorship Act 1989</i> ?			

No	QUESTION	Yes	No	Unsure
2	Does the West Sepik Provincial Administration have an established process in place for regulating and monitoring Objectionable Materials such as SEPs?			
	Please explain your answer?			

No	QUESTION	Yes	No	Unsure
3	Have you seen SEPs sold locally in Vanimo town?			
	Indicate price range?			
	Indicate specific location(s)?			

No	QUESTION	Yes	No	Unsure
4	Do you think there is an increase in the illegal smuggling of SEPs into Vanimo and Sandaun Province?			
	What causes the increase?			
	Could you provide some supporting data/statistics?			

No	QUESTION	Yes	No	Unsure
5	What causes people to use Sex Enhancement Products?			
i	Exposure to Pornography			
ii	Erectile Dysfunction			
iii	Peer Pressure			
iv	Accessibility and Availability of SEPs sold cheaply at Batas			

No	QUESTION	Yes	No	Unsure
6	Do you think Sex Enhancement Products could have been easily smuggled through the unmonitored areas of the Border?			
	Please explain how and why?			

No	QUESTION	Yes	No	Unsure
7	Do you think Sex Enhancement Products is a contributing factor to the increasing social issues in Vanimo and Sandaun Province?			
	Please explain why and share experiences			

No	QUESTION	Yes	No	Unsure
8	Do you know of anyone within your community that has experienced health defects/issues from using SEPs?			
	Please provide details			
	What type of SEPs did they use? <input type="checkbox"/> Pills <input type="checkbox"/> Sex Toys <input type="checkbox"/> Cream <input type="checkbox"/> Gel <input type="checkbox"/> Spray <input type="checkbox"/> Sex Oils/Lubricants <input type="checkbox"/> All of the above			

No	QUESTION	Yes	No	Unsure
9	How does SEPs affect the mindset and behaviour of a person?			
	Please explain your thoughts			

No	QUESTION	Yes	No	Unsure
10	Should there be more effective security measures designed at the PNG/Indonesia Border to ensure our citizens are safeguarded from accessing and using Sex Enhancement Products and other contraband materials?			
	Please explain how			

PART C: COMPLIANCE PROCESS AND PROCEDURES AT THE BORDER FACILITY

1. PNG Customs Services

1	Please explain how effective you conduct your respective roles and responsibilities at the Border Facility?
2	Do you consider SEPS and related contraband materials in the process of performing your duties?
	If you do, how do you manage it?
3	What other effective measures can you suggest to enhance compliance process and procedures at the Border Facility?

2. Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary (RPNGC)

1	Please explain how effective you conduct your respective roles and responsibilities at the Border Facility?
2	Do you consider SEPS and related contraband materials in the process of performing your duties?
	If you do, how do you manage it?
3	What other effective measures can you suggest to enhance compliance process and procedures at the Border Facility?

3. PNG Deference Force (PNGDF)

1	Please explain how effective you conduct your respective roles and responsibilities at the Border Facility?
2	Do you consider SEPS and related contraband materials in the process of performing your duties?
	If you do, how do you manage it?
3	What other effective measures can you suggest to enhance compliance process and procedures at the Border Facility?

4. PNG Immigration and Citizenship Services Authority (PNG ICSA)

1	Please explain how effective you conduct your respective roles and responsibilities at the Border Facility?
2	Do you consider SEPS and related contraband materials in the process of performing your duties?
	If you do, how do you manage it?
3	What other effective measures can you suggest to enhance compliance process and procedures at the Border Facility?

5. National Agriculture & Quarantine Inspection Authority (NAQIA)

1	Please explain how effective you conduct your respective roles and responsibilities at the Border Facility?
2	Do you consider SEPS and related contraband materials in the process of performing your duties?
	If you do, how do you manage it?
3	What other effective measures can you suggest to enhance compliance process and procedures at the Border Facility? Facility is 60% effective. Scanners there but no power, no water. Checks are done manually. Lack manpower.



4. PRIOR INFORMED CONSENT FORM



OFFICE OF CENSORSHIP

Ministry for Youth, Religion & Community Development

P.O. Box 1745 Boroko, NCD
Central Government Office, Tower A, 4th Floor

PRIOR INFORMED CONSENT FORM

Upon signing the Prior Informed Consent Form, you **acknowledge** and **authorize** the Researcher from the Office of Censorship to conduct interview with you, photograph and voice record you for purposes of documentation in an effort to gather contextual information and baseline data on Sex Enhancement Products and other related contraband materials in Vanimo, Sandaun Province.

Office of Censorship will restrict access of your information to anyone unless consent is given by you.

I, hereby **GIVE CONSENT** to the Office of Censorship on, **May 2024**, to participate in a research conducted by the Research Team.

Signature	
------------------	--

This is an initiative of the Office of Censorship

Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

May 2024



5. FIELDWORK ITINERARY

ITINERARY FOR BASELINE STUDY ON SEPS IN VANIMO



Monday 06th May 2024

Courtesy Visit to the West Sepik Provincial Administration Building.
Insert (from L-R) Office of Censorship Executive Assistant Ms. Cynthia Bena, Principal Research Officer Ms. Hale Lahui, WSPA Acting Provincial Administrator Policy & Technical Services Mr. Eric Sakin, West Sepik Division of Community Development Provincial Women's Officer Mrs. Elsie Sumun, Office of Censorship Research Officer Ms. Margaret Talingapua and Records Officer Mr. Michael Kare

Sunday, 05th May 2024

Depart Pom – Vanimo, Hotel Check-in, Team Briefing

Monday, 06th May 2024

Courtesy Visit to the West Sepik Provincial Administration

Tuesday, 07th May 2024

Focus Group Discussion (Social Sector – West Sepik Provincial Administration)

Wednesday, 08th May 2024

Focus Group Discussion (Social Sector NGOs, Churches, LLG)

Thursday, 09th May 2024

Focus Group Discussion (Border Compliance and Enforcement Team)

Friday, 10th May 2024

Focus Group Discussion with Health Sector and Lujan Home for Girls

Saturday, 11th May 2024

Observation at the Wutung Border Facility

Sunday, 12th May 2024

Team Evaluation and Briefing

Monday, 13th May 2024

Focus Group Discussion with Law & Justice Sector

Tuesday, 14th May 2024

Focus Group Discussion with Wutung Community

Wednesday, 15th May 2024

Observation at the Wutung Border Facility with a Senior Executive from the Office of Censorship and a representative from DNPM

Thursday, 16th May 2024

Depart Vanimo-Pom

Tuesday 07th May 2024

Focus Group Discussion
with the Social Sector from
the West Sepik Provincial
Administration

Session Duration: 10:00am
to 01:00pm



Wednesday 08th May 2024

Focus Group Discussion with the Social Sector from Churches, NGOs, Local Level Government.

Session Duration: 10:00am to 01:00pm



Thursday 09th May 2024

Focus Group Discussion with
the Border Compliance and
Enforcement Team.

Session Duration: 10:00am to
01:00pm



Friday 10th May 2024

Focus Group Discussion with
the Health Sector.

Session Duration: 10:00am
to 01:00pm



Friday 10th May 2024

Focus Group Discussion with
the Lujan Home for Girls.

Session Duration: 02:00pm
to 04:00pm



Saturday 11th May 2024

Observation at the Wutung
Border Facility/Customs
Control Area

Session Duration: 10:00am
to 04:00pm





Monday 13th May 2024

Focus Group Discussion with
the Law and Justice Sector

Session Duration: 10:00am to
01:00pm



Tuesday 14th May 2024

Focus Group Discussion with the
Wutung Community in
Bewani/Wutung Onei Rural LLG.

Session Duration: 10:00am to
02:00pm



Wednesday 15th May 2024

Observation at the Wutung Border Facility with a senior executive from the Office of Censorship and a representative from the Department of National Planning and Monitoring (DNPM).

Session Duration: 10:00am to 02:00pm



Thursday 16th May 2024

Focus Group Discussion with Salame Community in Vanimo Urban LLG.

Session Duration: 04:00pm to 06:30pm





