



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

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# Threat on PM

- ▶ **Baki serious about rumoured plot on Somare**
- ▶ **Civil protest organisers call off planned march**

By **ALEX RHEENEY**

POLICE are treating as serious reports of an assassination plot against Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare.

Police Commissioner Gari Baki said this yesterday at a press conference when advising Port Moresby residents and the PNG public that a protest march planned for today to the National Parliament had been cancelled.

"We have reliable intelligence information on that one (Sir Michael's life is under threat) but like I said, why do we have to go to an extent by imposing threats on our political leaders' lives. It's uncalled for (and) it's unheard of in Papua New Guinea anyway, that we adopt those kinds of principles of terror operations.

"We are aware of it (and) we are doing our own assessments," he told reporters. When asked about where the threats were coming from, he said: "You can guess where it's coming from because it is alluded to the mass demonstrations and issues of mass strike - okay, it is emanating from in-between. The source of information comes out to suggest that it is included in that (mass demonstrations). Okay, what I am saying is I don't want to rule that (assassination plot) out."

While he was subtly pointing the finger at the organisers of the cancelled demonstration, two NGO leaders behind the aborted protest march said they only wanted their grievances heard and did not plan to burn Parliament or create chaos.

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