



NGI DIVISIONAL COMMAND

2022 NATIONAL GENERAL ELECTION



NATEL OPS 2022

DEBRIEF REPORT

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Date: 19th October 2022



ENB



WNB



NIP



MANUS



***ACP Perou N'dranou, QPM, DPS
Divisional Commander - NGI***

PREFACE

Papua New Guinea is a Constitutional Parliamentary Democracy in which illegible citizens go to the polls every five years to elect new representatives into the National Parliament.

The 2022 National General Elections (NGE) was conducted from April to August 2022. The event saw a major security operation launched and led by the RPNGC with the support from PNGDF and PNGCS to assist the PNG Electoral Commission conduct the 2022 National General Election.

In the New Guinea Islands, a total of ten Open Electorates and four Provincial Seats were contested. All fourteen seats were declared within the re gazetted date without security problem.

As the Divisional Forward Commander, I provided the oversight and guidance to the four Provincial Police Commanders (PPC) whilst they took charge of the execution of the operation in each of their provinces. The Natel Ops 2022 in NGI saw the deployment of more than 1000 security personnel. This resulted in a successful security operation achieving its mission of "A Free, Fair & Safe Election 2022.

I wish to thank the Commissioner of Police David Manning and his deputies DCP Donald Yamasombi, DCP Anton Billie and DCP Joanne Clarkson for the support that was provided to NGI Divisional Command. I also wish to acknowledge the tireless effort of the Natel Planning Team under the leadership of ACP Dr. Phillip Mitna and Chief of Staff Steven Francis for ensuring adequate support in terms of resources was provided to NGI. I also commend and thank the hardworking PPCs for ENB, WNB, NIP, Manus and Group Commander IMG for ensuring the Natel Ops in NGI provinces were successfully delivered.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this brief is to inform the Executive Management of the RPNGC on the conduct of the 2022 NATEL Security Operation in the New Guinea Islands (NGI) region.

The Natel Ops 22 brief covers information on each province; Population, Government, Provincial Command Team, Manpower, Key activities undertaken, Challenges, Achievements and Recommendations.

Total estimated population for the four NGI provinces was about **896, 153**, half of which were Voting Population. The total number of security personnel deployed in the NGI region during the NATEL Ops was about 1,264. From the total manpower strength; East New Britain had 447; West New Britain 357; New Ireland Province 378; while Manus had about 128 security personnel.

Major challenges for the provinces in NGI during the operation included;

1. Lack of radio communication;
2. Late allocation and early withdrawal of hire vehicles for Pre-Natel and Post-Natel phases; and
3. No supply of new firearms and police uniforms.

Major achievements for police in the region was a successful delivery of the 2022 NATEL Security Operation achieving a FREE, FAIR and SAFE Election. The success of the Natel Ops 22 resulted from;

1. Good planning and execution of the Operation;

2. Successful Pre-Natel activities leading to community taking ownership of election process,
3. Good coordination and collaboration among commanders and all security personnel,
4. The decentralization of NATEL funds to the Divisional Command which enabled the PPCs to quickly access funding for their operational requirements.
5. Furthermore, the success of the operations was achieved through Police community partnership.

To ensure any future NATEL Security Operation in the NGI region is successful, it is recommended that the following are considered;

1. ICT Requirements especially radio communication are installed and operational prior to commencement of the operation;
2. Pre-Natel and Post-Natel activities are adequately supported with resources such as vehicles etc;
3. New firearms and police uniforms supplied/issued on time;
4. Election Security Planning are carried out a year early,
5. Effective coordination of the operation by Field and line commanders, and
6. NATEL funds are decentralized to Divisional or Provincial commands to enabled respective Commanders to execute their operation.

PART A: PROVINCE - EAST NEW BRITAIN

DEMOGRAPHY

- **Population:** 328, 369+ (2011 est)

GOVERNMENT

Provincial Administrators

- Provincial Administrator: Wilson MATAWA
- Deputy Administrator Local Level Government: Nicholas LARME
- Deputy Administrator Socio- Economic Services: Levi MANO
- Deputy Administrator Corporate Services: Marakan UVANO

District Administrators

- Kokopo District Administrator: John TALELE
- Rabaul District Administrator: Ben MODE
- Gazelle District Administrator: Hubert WAGUN
- Pomio District Administrator: Hillary SONGTAVA

Local Level Government (LLG) Presidents

Kokopo District

- Kokopo Vunamami Urban LLG: Hon. Isidore BONGA
- Raluana LLG: Hon. Tiolam VAVAGI
- Bitapaka LLG: Vacant
- Duke of York LLG: Hon. Isaac ILOM

Rabaul District

- Rabaul Urban LLG: Hon. Jungle Manuai
- Kombiu LLG: Hon. Michael WARIUM
- Balanataman LLG: Hon. Leonard Maing
- Watom Island LLG: Hon. Enos Pulumen

Gazelle District

- Central Gazelle: Hon. Tiko Meki
- Inland Baining LLG: Hon. Joe Tagira
- Lassul Baining LLG: Hon. Robin Tanda
- Livuan Reimber LLG: Hon. Orim Popol
- Toma-Vunadidir LLG: Hon. Kunai Vartabar

Pomio District

- Central Inland Pomio LLG: Hon. John LALOGA
- East Pomio LLG: Hon. Steven SINGKE
- Melkoi LLG: Hon. Thomas OSA
- Sinivit LLG: Hon. Boniface Gerep
- West Pomio Mamusi LLG: Hon. Paul PAVOL

Elected Members of Parliament (MPs)

- Governor elect for ENB: - Hon. Michael Marum
- Member elect for Kokopo: - Hon. Ereman Tobaining (Jr)
- Member elect for Rabaul: - Hon. Graham Rumet Piniau
- Member elect for Pomio: - Hon. Elias KAPAVORE
- Member elect for Gazelle: - Hon. Jelta WONG

PROVINCIAL COMMAND TEAM

- Operation Commander - CIP Januarius VOSIVAI
- Operation 2IC - CIP Gabriel BANDY
- Commander RRU - CIP Cleophas GEYAME
- Field Commander Kokopo - PW Insp. Julie PALAKAI
- Field Commander Rabaul - SIP Neil WEIBA
- Field Commander Gazelle - Insp. Mathew TENDE
- Field Commander Pomio - SIP Stanis PENGA

MANPOWER

AGENCY	DISTRICT/TEAM	STRENGTH	
RPNGC			
	Provincial Command Team	10	
	Investigating Task Force	4	
	Kokopo District	114	76 Reg, 35 Res, 3 NU
	Rabaul District	43	
	Gazelle District	109	
	Pomio District	116	
	SUB-TOTAL	396	
PNGDF			
	Land Element (Army)	33	

	Sea Element (Navy)	27	
	SUB-TOTAL	60	
PNGCS			
	CS Personnel	33	
	SUB-TOTAL	33	
	GRAND TOTAL	499	

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This brief is intended to inform the New Guinea Islands (NGI) Divisional Commander, Assistant Commissioner Perou Ndranou of the outcome of the 2022 National Election (NATEL) Security Operation conducted in East New Britain (ENB) from April to August 2022.

Briefly covered in the report includes; Background, 2022 NATEL Operation, Achievements, Challenges, Lessons Learned, Way Forward, Conclusions and Recommendations.

2.0 BACKGROUND

On the 25th October 2021, the Police Commissioner David Manning MBE, OSTJ,QPM,DPS issued a General Order (GO) for the 2022 National Election. The Commissioner's GO was issued following the official announcement by Papua New Guinea's Electoral Commissioner Simon Sinai in May 2021 of the 2022 National General Election Schedule.

The Commissioner's GO outlined the scope of the 2022 NATEL Security Operation including other requirements for the operation. It also provided guidelines for Divisional Commanders and Provincial Police Commanders to formulate their Supplementary Orders.

The GO also outlined the schedule for the National General Election 2022. The key dates as highlighted by the GO were:

28 th April 2022	-	Issue of Writs
5 th April 2022	-	Close of Nomination
25 th June 2022	-	Polling commence
08 th July 2022	-	Polling ends
09 th July 2022	-	Counting commence
29 th July 2022	-	Return of writs

As per the Commissioner's GO, the Mission of the 2022 NATEL Security Operation was "To ensure the Joint Security Task Force provides a Safe and Secure environment for the National Election 2022".

The NATEL Security Operation as per the Commissioners GO was to be executed in four phases. The four phases included:

- Preliminary Phase
- Pre-NATEL Phase
- Operation Proper Phase, and ● Post- NATEL Phase

3.0 2022 NATEL OPERATION

3.1 Preliminary Phase

The Preliminary phase of the NATEL operation in the province did commence around October 2021. The phase involved:

- Planning & Budgeting
- Conducting Resource Analysis
- Development of Operational Orders

The phase was also supposed to involved the following activities:

- Establishment of ICT
- Intelligence Gathering
- Establishment of Provincial Command Centre
- Appointment of Liaison Officers

Unfortunately, the above did not eventuate due to lack of adequate resources.

3.2 Pre-NATEL Phase

The Pre-NATEL Phase of the Operation commenced in April 2022. The phase involved Media and Community Policing Awareness', Intelligence Gathering and Election Awareness training.

The phase was also supposed to include: Firearm Amnesty at targeted locations, Pre-Deployment Training and Medical checks for all security personnel. However, due to funding constraints, these activities could not be carried out.

Some of the main activities carried out by key sections/district commands in ENB are briefly highlighted below.

3.2.1 Provincial Training Section

During the pre-NATEL Phase, ENB Provincial Training section conducted about four (4) Election Workshops. These workshops were targeted at young constables (see attached Training Debrief Report).

The section was also supposed to conduct a training for Reserves and Special Constables. However, due to lack of funding, the Training could not be conducted (see attached copy of proposal).

3.2.2 Community Policing Section

The Community Policing Section, during the Pre-NATEL phase was involved mainly in carrying out community visits to conduct election awareness and also attend to Inter-Village fights.

The section also conducted combine school visits and awareness with members of the Papua New Guinea Defense Force (PNGDF) (see attached brief).

3.2.3 National Crime Intelligence Office (NCIU)

During the Pre-NATEL Phase, a number of activities were carried out by the Intelligence Officer Detective Sgt Johnny Korong. These activities included:

- Duty Travel to Pomio to conduct Risk Assessment on known crime hot spot areas in the district.
- Conduct risk assessment of known crime hotspots in Kokopo district.
- Profiling of Persons of Interest from Tinganalom after a short firearm surrender ceremony.

3.2.4 Information Communication Technology (ICT)

The Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) Section during the Pre-NATEL phase did attempt to roll out the Police Hytera Network in the province. Unfortunately, due to limited number of radios and also due to a wrong radio program, the new radio sets could not be programmed, hence this limited the capability of the police during the operation.

Despite the limitation caused by lack of proper radio communication, other medium of communication were used especially Landlines and social media platforms such as WhatsApp. Using these other mediums, personnel and units were able to communicate with each other.

3.2.5 Logistic/Transport

During the Pre-NATEL Phase, apart from three new vehicles allocated by Police headquarters, there was not enough police vehicles to support units that were engaged in pre-NATEL activities.

In terms of fuel supply, there was some fuel supplied by Police Headquarters to support the existing vehicle fleet in the province. Most of the vehicles used during the pre-NATEL phase were those on hire under the RPNGC Corporate Hire Arrangement.

3.2.6 Kokopo District Command

During the Pre-NATEL phase of the operation, Kokopo District under the command of PSC Kokopo PW Inspector Julie Palakai had teams visiting communities and conducting awareness'. There were about four teams visiting the four Local Level Governments of Kokopo. The four LLGs are: Kokopo Vunamami, Raluana, Bitapaka and Duke of York. Awareness conducted were

mainly on Electoral Offences, Summary offences, Alcohol and Drugs and also Traffic offences. The awareness were conducted for about two weeks.

3.2.7 Gazelle District Command

Gazelle District under the command of Inspector Mathew Tende, Police Station Commander Keravat, did visit communities in the Gazelle district and conducted awareness educating people on the importance of the election (see attached report)

3.2.8 Rabaul District Command

The Rabaul district also had pre-natel activities that included community engagement activities such community visits and awareness.

3.3 Operation Proper Phase

Operation proper phase of the Ops in ENB had two sub-phases; Polling and Counting sub-phases. The Polling sub-phase covered mainly the polling period from 2nd to 8th July 2022 while the Counting sub-phase covered the counting period from 11th to 27th July 2022.

The Operation Proper phase officially commenced on Wednesday 29th June 2022. The phase commenced with an Operation Launching Parade.

The Operation was launched by the Divisional Commander NGI ACP Ndranou. After the launching, all personnel attended an Operation Briefing with PPC ENB Januarius Vosivai.

After the Operation Launching and Briefing on the 29th June, on the 30th the Pomio Contingent were deployed to Palmalmal. The contingent were deployed on a PNGDF navy vessel HMPNGS Francis Agwi.

On the 2nd July, the Sinivit and Lassul Baining Polling teams were deployed to their respective polling sites while on Sunday 3rd, the Duke of York team were deployed.

3.3.1 Polling Sub-phase

As mentioned, the polling sub-phased commenced on the 2nd July 2022. The phase commenced with the deployment of all polling security teams to their respective districts of; Kokopo, Rabaul, Gazelle and Pomio.

On Monday 4th July, polling officially commenced in all four districts. As scheduled, polling was conducted for only five days ending on Friday 8th July 2022. After polling ended, all security personnel returned to their respective district headquarters with their polling teams and ballot boxes.

3.3.2 Counting Sub-phase

On the 11th July 2022, counting commenced in all four districts. From the four district, team Pomio was the first to complete its counting and declaration.

Counting in Pomio was completed on Monday 18th July 2022. Rabaul was the second district that completed its counting. Team Rabaul completed its counting on Tuesday 19th July 2022 followed by a declaration. Kokopo was the third to complete counting and declaration. The counting in Kokopo was completed on Tuesday 26th July 2022. On Wednesday 27th July 2022, Gazelle district completed its counting followed by the Regional count.

3.4 Post NATEL Phase

Post NATEL phase of the operation in ENB involved mainly the deployment of response units to known crime hot spots in the province. It also involved increasing police presence in town through foot-beat patrols. The phase also involved visiting known trouble hot-spots in the communities to conduct awareness on the rule of law.

4.0 CHALLENGES

Common challenges encountered by personnel and units engaged in the operation included:

- Lack of computers and printers for election work
- Lack of sufficient stationary
- No Reserve Training
- Lack of adequate support ie. vehicles to key sections.
- No previous NATEL Debrief Report to consult when doing Operation Planning.
- Lack of updated/accurate Crime Data
- Logistics/Transport (Pre-Natel, Ops Proper & Post Natel)
- Communication (Pre-Natel, Ops Proper & Post Natel). Communication Directorate failed Provinces miserably
- Uniforms- No uniforms
- Firearms - No new issue
- Allowances- Not paid on time
- Not enough training for personnel during pre-natel phase

5.0 ACHIEVEMENTS

The following are some of the achievements for the provincial command:

- No Major Election related incidences
- Nil major injuries encountered by members of security forces except for one or two personnel deployed to Pomio.
- Good coordination of the Operation by Field commanders and Team Leaders.
- **SUCCESSFUL NATEL OPERATION IN ENB**

6.0 LESSONS LEARNED

Some important lessons learned from the 2022 Natel Security Operation in ENB include:

- Prior Planning very crucial to the success of any security operation. Planning should be preceded by good SCOPING from Provincial Election Planning team.
- Adequate support to Field Commanders important for the successful execution of any security operation.
- Establishment of Divisions NATEL Coordinating Team is important for effective coordination of election activities.
- Police Commanders and members to remain neutral at all times during elections and not interfere with any processes of the election.
- Regular visits by Divisional Commander & PPC's to stations and personnel during the election is crucial for strengthening command and control and moral boosting.
- Police Election Liaison Officers play an important liaison role between the police, Provincial Election Steering Committee and other stakeholders.

7.0 CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the 2022 Natel Security operation In East New Britain was successfully executed. During the operation, a total of about 499 Security Force personnel were deployed. This included about 396 Police personnel, 60 members of PNGDF and 33 members of PNGCS. The main challenges encountered during the operation included inadequate resources such as; vehicle, communication equipment/computers, stationery, firearms & ammunition, uniforms including minimal training for Police personnel on election security duties.

Apart from those challenges, some significant achievements included; a violence free National General Election in ENB, a successful Natel Security Operation. Some of the key lesson learned from the the operation included; the importance of prior planning for the success of any security operation; the importance of adequately supporting and resourcing Field Commanders during any operation and the value of having an effective Divisional coordinating team to coordinate the execution of the operation in the Provinces.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

To ensure future NATEL Operation in ENB is successful, the following are recommended:

- That Operation Debriefs are conducted at the end of the Ops and Debrief Reports compiled for future references.
- That updated and accurate Crime Data are maintained by NCIU for consultation when conducting Security Risk Assessment for the Ops
 - Ongoing Intelligence Assessments by Intelligence Officers.
- Coordination of the Ops at the Divisional Level through the NGI Coordinating Team is important.
- That Provincial Supt Ops sync with the Divisional Supt Ops.

PART B: PROVINCE - WEST NEW BRITAIN

1.0 DEMOGRAPHY

- Population: 264,264 (2011 census est.)

2.0 GOVERNMENT

2.1 Provincial Administration

- Provincial Administrator: Leo MAPMANI (Acting)
- Deputy Administrator Social Services: Robert DAU
- Deputy Administrator Economic Services: Leo Brown
- Deputy Administrator Corporate Services: Phillip TAUBUSO

2.2 District Administration

- Talasea District Administrator: Melchior BABO
- Kandrian Gloucester District Administrator: Peter MANASAPLO
- Nakanai District Administrator: Vacant (New position)

2.3 Local Level Government (LLG)

2.3.1 Talasea District

- Kimbe Urban LLG:
- Talasea LLG: Vacant
- Bali-Vitu LLG:

2.3.2 Nakanai District

- Mosa: Vacant ● Hoskins:
- Central Nakanai: Francis
- East Nakanai: James LAULA

2.3.3 Kandrian-Gloucester District

- Kaliai Kove:
- Gloucester:
- Kandrian Coastal:
- Kandrian Inland:
- Gasmata: Steven PATAK

3.0 PROVINCIAL COMMAND TEAM

- Operation Commander - CIP John IARA
- Operation 2IC - SIP Peter Sanginawa
- Field Commander Kimbe - S/Sgt Ernest Pepe

- Field Commander K/Gloucester - C/Sgt Felix Rangit
- Field Commander Talasea - Sgt Kevin Moni
- Field Commander Bialla - SIP Oscar Tobing **4.0**

MANPOWER

AGENCY	DISTRICT/TEAM	STRENGHT
RPNGC		
	Provincial Command Team	10
	Investigating Task Force	03
	Talasea District	89
	Kandrn/Gloucester District	80
	Nakanai District	80
	Reserve	100
	IMG MS	36
	SUB-TOTAL	398
PNGDF		
	Land Element (Army)	45
	Sea Element (Navy)	20
	SUB-TOTAL	65
PNGCS		
	CS Personnel	11
	SUB-TOTAL	11
	GRAND TOTAL	474

5.0 INTRODUCTION

2022 National Election Operation in West New Britain Province is declared as success. Free, Fair and Safe election was delivered in the province. Through effective cooperation and teamwork by all members of RPNGC, PNGDF and CIS, teams of motivated and diverse security was formed, hence, a desired result was achieved within expected time frame. Presence of Security Personnel was felt all throughout the NATEL period, hence, crime rate reduced, and no election related incidents was reported. Only two election related incidents and

arrest

was

made.

6.0 2022 NATEL OPERATION

7.0 NOMINATION

Nomination opened on the 12th of May 2022, when the Writs was issued, and ended on the 19th of the same month.

Most Candidates walked into the Independence Park in Kimbe Town pride fully with their supporters celebrating in various styles and nominated, while others did nominate privately without public notice. At the close of nomination, it was realised that a total of 88 candidates registered for the three (3) open seat plus the regional seat.

1. Nakanai Open - 17 candidates
2. Talasea Open - 30 candidates
3. Kandrian-Gloucester - 21 candidates;
4. Reginal Seat - 20 candidates

Police Personnel were deployed to specific areas within Kimbe Urban LLG and other critical areas. Members from MS19, MS18, Kimbe Task Force, Public Safety Unit, Traffic Officers, and Community Policing were all present and safe nomination was conducted. No major offence was reported during the nomination period.

8.0 CAMPAIGN IN WBNP

Campaign Period: 20th May to 8th June 2022

All candidates did their campaign within the scheduled time frame safely and successfully in West New Britain Province. No election related offence were reported from all the Electorates. The hotspot areas within the province were frequently patrolled by responsible QRF units, and the presence of Police, PNGDF, and CS personnel had greater impact on the behaviour of general public. Crime rate reduced as a result. All the Major Incident Briefs that we reported to NGI Command Centre in ENBP during the Campaign period were completely unrelated to election.

9.0 POLLING

Polling commenced on the 4th of July 2022 and ended on the 13th July 2022.

10.0 TALASEA ELECTORATE

Polling for Talasea commenced with the Kimbe Urban LLG then on to Talasea LLG and finally Bali Vitu LLG. The Polling official and Security Team were deployed via PNGDF Patrol Boat HMS PNG Roachus LOKINAP. No major incidents reported during polling in these areas.

11.0 NAKANAI ELECTORATE

Polling in the new Nakanai Electorate started in Hoskins LLG, followed by Mosa, Central Nakanai and ending with East Nakanai. No major election related incidences were reported in the electorate

12.0 KANDRIAN-GLOUCESTER ELECTORATE

Polling for Kandrian- Gloucester electorate commenced on the 7th July 2022. Prior to commencement of polling, all Polling and security personnel were deployed to the electorate by PNGDF Navy vessel HMS Rockus Lokinap on the 5th July 2022.

The main mode of transportation from Kimbe to Kandrian-Gloucester Electorate is Sea Transport. Therefore, ballot boxes and Security Personnel deployed to the five (5) LLGs of the electorate travelled aboard PNG Naval Vessel (HMS ROCHUS LOKINAP) on the 5th of July 2022.

12.1.1 Kaliai-Kove LLG

Polling in most of the villages in this constituency was done trouble-free except Somolani village in West Kove and Bagai Primary School at Kaliai inland, where fighting between scrutineers and supporters disrupted people from voting. However, Local community leaders and deployed security personnel resolved the matter and polling continued and ended smoothly thereafter. QRF members also responded later and secure the polling station until voting is done, and they returned to HMS ROCHUS LOKINAP naval vessel with the ballot boxes.

12.1.2 Gloucester LLG

Polling in Gloucester LLG was done smoothly and successfully completed on scheduled time as expected. No electoral offence was sighted and reported.

12.1.3 Gasmata LLG

Transportation is a major problem our security personnel and polling teams faced during the polling period at Gasmata LLG. Despite this disadvantage, polling was completed successfully, trouble-free, within the scheduled period. No electoral offence was sighted and reported.

12.1.4 Kandrian Coastal LLG

Polling in Kandrian Coastal LLG was done smoothly and successfully completed on scheduled time as expected. No electoral offences was sighted and reported.

12.1.5 Kandrian Inland LLG

Like Kandrian Coastal LLG, polling in Kandrian Inland LLG was done smoothly and successfully completed on scheduled time as expected.

13.0 SECURITY OF BALLOT BOXES

All ballot boxes were moved by road and airlifted for Kandrian Glouster Electorate and the Bali Vitu Islands in the Talasea Electorate.

14.0 COUNTING

Despite delays and other issues raised by candidates and their scrutineers, counting went well and completed without any major incidents.

15.0 DECLARATION

The Declarations of all seats in the Province was done in orderly manner starting with the Kandrian Glouster Electorate, followed by the Talasea, the Nakanai and finally the Regional seat.

16.0 MAJOR INCIDENTS

The two (2) election related MIBs are:

IR REPORT NO.: 04/2022

Complainant: Emily Kelton – Provincial Returning Officer (PRO) for WNBK Mrs Kelton informed the OIC CID that she received a threatening text message on her Digicel mobile phone No.: 73448575 on the 20th of July 2022 around 10:30am at the counting venue – White House at Sasindran Muthuvel Stadium. The text reads: "FYI. If you declare Lelang as the member for Kandrian/Gloucester, you will definitely die in the night or the next morning. Kimbe em liklik town tumas. Your house will be in flame and you will die. Think about it. Good luck in your decision." OIC CID followed up on the 21st of July and served a search warrant to Kimber Digicel office but due to their internal processes, the details of the search was not released.

Paskalis Popui (ARO Hoskins LLG) vs. Simon Philip (Scrutineer for Sasindran Muthuvel) The incident occurred on the 23rd of July 2022 around 11:30am in front of the container at Kimbe Police station where ballot boxes were kept. ARO assaulted the Scrutineer when realizing that he was being filmed by the later.

17.0 COMMUNICATION

Communications was the main challenge during the Natel 22 Security Operations. Communications by radio was nil, however the use of Mobile phones was encouraged which still produced results.

18.0 PARTNERSHIP WITH STAKEHOLDERS

The 2022 NATEL Operation in the Province was carried out in partnership with all stakeholders. The support of Stake Holders was very good.

19.0 CONCLUSION

Sincere gratitude goes to all the members of RPNGC, PNGDF and CIS for their tireless performance in achieving the desired goals for this election.

The people of WNBP took ownership of the Elections and voted peacefully despite a poor common roll.

Apart from the two mentioned election related offences reported, there was no other major incident reported.

Despite having a weak communications set up, we have managed to maintain effectively assisted the PNG Electoral Commission delivered a Free, Fair and Safe National General Elections in the Province.

20.0 RECOMMENDATION

To ensure future election operations are successful, the following are strongly recommended:

- Common rolls must be updated in time to avoid unnecessary delays in and disturbances during Polling.
- Logistical support in terms of Uniforms, firearms and ammunition's must be made available before Polling.
- Communications must be improved.
- Mode of transportation by Sea must be reliable to avoid accidents as was the case for Polling in the Bali Vitu islands in the Talasea Electorate

PART C. NEW IRELAND PROVINCE

1.0 DEMOGRAPHY

- Population: 250, 000 plus (as per NIP VRB (Village Record Books Data 2019.)
- Police Regular Strength: 73
- Ratio (Police:Civilians): 1: 3,400
- Population Growth Rate: 4.5 Percent comparison to 3.8 in PNG

2.0 GOVERNMENT

2.1 Provincial Administration

- Provincial Administrator: Lamiller Pawut
- CEO Administration: Moses Taram
 - Director HR & Assets: Shirley Mariole
 - Director Public Order, Disaster & Emergency: Edward Wesley
- CEO Social Sector: Benson Apelis
 - Director Education: Wesley Siangat
 - Director Health: Martha Salihombo
 - Director Community Development: Dennis Kossam
- CEO Planning & Finance: Richard Andia
 - Director Planning & Finance: Gregory Roaveneo
- CEO Subsidy: Mactil Mais
- CEO Economic Sector: Edward Lasisi
 - Director DPI & Fisheries: Gideon Bogosia
 - Director Mining, Lands & Commerce: Alfred Ling
- CEO Transport & Infrastructure: Vacant
 - Director Transport & Works: Vacant
 - Director Legislative: Vacant
 - Director Autonomy, District & LLG Affairs: Ricky Fugonto

2.2 District Administration

- Kavieng District Administrator: David Lens
- Namatanai District Administrator: Neville Tomon

2.3 Local Level Government (LLG)

2.4 Kavieng District

- Kavieng Urban: Pres. Sikal Kelep
- Lavongai LLG: Pres. Andrew Minkiong
- Murat LLG: Pres. Edwin Maingen
- Tikana LLG: Pres. & Deputy Governor

2.5 Namatanai District

- Konoagil LLG: Pres. Isaac Tosel
- Namatanai LLG: Pres. Joshua Takin Soi
- Matalai LLG: Pres. Augustine Topi
- Nimamar LLG: Pres. Stanley Tunut
- Sentral Niu Ailan: Pres. Ben Sakbua
- Tanir LLG: Pres. Felix Kaltubim

3.0 PROVINCIAL COMMAND TEAM

- Comdr of the Joint Security Forces - CIP Felix Nebanat, **CVS**
- Contingent Comdr Kavieng - CIP Maurice ITORO
- Contingent Comdr Namatanai - SIP Gabriel N'DRIHIN
- Field Comdr Taskul - Sgt Andrew KOMA
- Field Comdr Lakurumau - Sgt Tosinel Watong
- Field Comdr Namatanai - S/Sgt Wilson SONGANG
- Field Comdr SNA - PWS/Sgt Josephine VENAIN
- Field Comdr Nimamar - C/Sgt Michael KEREU

4.0 MANPOWER

Agency	District/Team	Strength	Total
RPNGC	Provincial Command Team	6	
	Investigating Task Force	4	
	Reservist/CAPs	240	
	Mobile Squad 17	20	
	Regular	63	313
PNGDF	Land Element(Army)	42	42
PNGCS	CS Personnel	11	11
		Grand Total	366

5.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Electoral Commission of PNG who's the host of the National General Elections 2022 in its coordinated efforts with the RPNGC being the lead security planner and supported by the PNGDF, PNGCS and other of their relevant associate agencies presented a National Security Coordinated Operational Plan to run the NATEL 2022.

Operational and Administrative planning for the RPNGC was synchronized and tasked upon all operational Directorates and Provincial Police Commanders to execute. PPC NIP like other PPCs in the country then reorganized its efforts through a Provincial Supplementary Operational Plan code named: OPS HIGH SPEED was Freely, Fairly and Safely executed resulting in the Successful Declarations of the provinces parliamentary members namely Sir Julius Chan

as governor, Ian Ling Stuckey and Walter Schnaubelt as Open Members for the Kavieng and Namatanai Electorates respectively.

Stakeholder partnership as well as the local populace taking ownership of the election process and partnering with the police in its efforts to safely deliver the NATEL 2022 saw this come to fruition.

6.0 OBJECTIVE

It is intended that through this NATEL 2022 debrief, we can anatically and critically **Identify** discrepancies and shortfalls, **Fix** and **Sustain** (IFS) them and in doing so, the RPNGC Planning Team can be better armed to do a better plan come NATEL 2027.

6.1 ACHIEVEMENTS

- ❖ Strong partnership established through our **SMART COP SMART POLICING** concept prepared us well in terms of establishing trust and confidence with our service providers.
- ❖ From the Pre-Election phase, we managed to run our awarenesses with the limited resources available. In most instances on credit basis.
- ❖ Awareness phase prepared our New Ireland people to take ownership of law and order during NATEL 2022 through our effective platform of information dissemination through social media and mainstream media and not to mention "word of mouth" with the intention to make them understand the critical role that security plays during this biggest National event that comes every five (5) years.
- ❖ Aggressive use of digital media platform, YouTube and social media (Facebook) and the Mainstream Media (Newspaper, TV and Radio) played a vital part in awareness, information dissemination, educating our voters, candidates and supporters, influencing and basically getting our people to understand and take ownership of their own security. It also carried the spin-off benefit of having the mass populace appreciate and embrace our work as the Joint Security Force.
- ❖ Consistent, firm and fair representation of the NATEL Security operation plan in the Provincial Election Steering Committee (PESC) and the Provincial Control and Monitoring Committee (PCMC) plus other vital stakeholders played a crucial part in influencing decisions from appropriate Provincial authorities that was done with Security being of paramount importance e.g., the consolidation of counting venue for the regional seat which was a first for the province.
- ❖ Ninety-five (95) polling teams polling 246 polling places throughout province ensured sufficient police security manpower in each polling team even though local police had only 300 personnel to police a population of 250,000 civilians.
- ❖ PNGDF and Islands Mobile Group personnel's deployment into the province was a major manpower boost which played a crucial part in ensuring that NATEL 2022 was peaceful until the declarations.
- ❖ Wi-Fi set up established through the AFP Funded project made communication and reporting more efficient with the central network with

Headquarters.

6.2 CHALLENGES

- ❖ Delayed release of funds from the Divisional Headquarters due to continuous power blackout was a challenge
- ❖ Continuous power black outs affected provincial admin
- ❖ Political Candidates not understanding the demarcation line between the Security Force and the Electoral Commission, especially the process by which to submit petitions if and when allegations are made.
- ❖ Early extraction of foreign QRF, PNGDF and MS17 personals which left us with limited manpower but we managed with our Local QRF.
- ❖ Our Operational Centre was never fully utilized as envisioned due to lack of funds and the hectic schedule that had us focus on other fragments of the operation.
- ❖ Field uniforms and PPE are what were needed by our troops. It would have made us proud to be dressed in new uniforms during NATEL 2022 Ops. Until now we have not received our uniforms.
- ❖ Firepower not to the standard
- ❖ Ammunition not made available before or during elections but supplied after collapsing of NATEL 2022
- ❖ No gas in provincial armoury. If was needed could not be accessed.
- ❖ There was no proper training or refresher course for our local QRF
- ❖ The lack of understanding of the Electoral Commission process, especially polling and counting and the Laws that guides the process can cause confusion and havoc if misled.
- ❖ Formation of the Electoral Structure does not allow for a fair representation from the four (4) Regions.
- ❖ Political fights between supporters of candidates e.g., "Pire Incident"
- ❖ Political interference in POST ELECTION related criminal investigations
- ❖ Delayed election allowances for our personnel
- ❖ Delayed payments for our Service Providers
- ❖ Information not properly disseminated or misunderstood by the recipients has the potential to cause confusion and havoc.

6.3 LESSONS LEARNT

- ❖ **Ops High Speed** was a major learning curve for everyone involved in the NATEL 2022 Joint Security Force Operation from the Contingent Commanders to the Field Commanders, the team leaders and right down to our Community Auxiliary Police Officers.
- ❖ Understanding of the electoral process, especially during polling and counting gives one the upper hand having the information readily available. This is crucial to ensure we know where we come in with our responsibility as securities of the operation and where our demarcation lines are drawn in order to stand our grounds when allegations are made against the Force at any one time.

- ❖ Created exposure for our local QRF and opened up an avenue for networking and partnership within the Force and also externally, cementing trust with our stakeholders, partners and most importantly, the community.
- ❖ Positive moral boost for our local QRF to have rubbed shoulders with the PNGDF and Mobile Squad personnel.
- ❖ Provided a clarity for us to identify individual police officers (commander's) capacity in terms of character, commitment, political affiliation and performance which affects team work and overall output of the Ops.
- ❖ Team work opportunities avail itself during this kind of ops where we are reminded of "ESPRIT DE CORP" brotherhood and our Oath to God, Queen and Country.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❖ We intend to continue with our **SMART COP SMART POLICING** concept to strengthen our partnership with our stakeholders, partners, business houses, service providers, our sister forces and most importantly the community.
- ❖ **Provincial Financial Autonomy** - Funding to be decentralized to Provincial centres to make it more accessible with stringent measures and to hold PPC's responsible for breach of financial mechanisms.
- ❖ Communications - Installation of HF Radios in the province for external communications, 5 kilometre radius hand held walkie talkies for internal communications. All these must be fixed in 4 years preparing into NATEL 2027 and wait to the last minute.
- ❖ Proper training and capacity building is a must next 4 years for our local QRF in advance for 2027 (manpower and tactical resources)
- ❖ Proper training must be done for our Provincial Management Team that should in turn prepare our personnel to conduct proper stakeholders, partnership and community awareness.
- ❖ Inclusion of a brick NCD based Dog Unit with one (1) canine and handler.
- ❖ Inclusion of Media Unit for all Provincial Centres.
- ❖ Decentralization of the Electoral Commission structure as a control mechanism at the regional level by having Divisional Electoral Commissioners who will be responsible for each region forming a bridge between the Electoral Commissioner and the Provincial Election Managers. This creates a streamlined foundation from which a consolidated office ensures the election process is managed and rolled out effectively for each region. In turn it takes off a lot of burdens from the Electoral Commissioner while at the same time, it serves the purpose of having a transparent, safe and secure election. It will be beneficial for Security due to the fact that we already have that structure in the RPNGC hence planning our operations in relevance to a uniform structure like that would be more tactical and very effective.
- ❖ Continue to maintain 95 polling teams throughout province however, do concept of roll-over doing 3 days each district. This will ensure sufficient police security manpower in each polling team
- ❖ High Way Patrol establishment, recruitment of Reserve Constables, retire aged CAPs recruit grade 12 CAPs

- ❖ Activation of liquor ban. Must not be influenced by politics. Relate to Pire incident. It would not have happened if there was a ban on liquor. Everyone of WDS supporters and sympathizers drunk DURING THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT (In fact the member elect was under the influence of liquor during the time of his signing of Writ)

PART D. MANUS PROVINCE

1.0 DEMOGRAPHY

- Population: 60,485 (2011 census est.)

2.0 GOVERNMENT

2.1 Provincial Administration

- Provincial Administrator: Mr Oka NUNGU
- Deputy Administrator CTCSS: Mr Poyap PONAUA
- Deputy Administrator Corporate Services: Mr George POLON

2.3 Local Level Government (LLG)

2.3.1 Lorengau District

- Aua- Wuvulu LLG: Saroa BAI
- Balopa LLG: Jack KOLOSOM
- Bisikani-Soparibeu LLG: Melki KANG
- Lelemadih-Bupi Chupei LLG: Pomaiau POIIL
- Lorengau Urban LLG: Joe TANAKA Kumar
- Los Negros LLG: Vincent Pokas KOLOPEN
- Nali Sapat LLG: Nura POKOP
- Nigothem LLG: Leonard JOHNLY
- Pobuma LLG: Pomaleu LANGISAN
- Pomutu-Ndrehet Kurti Andra LLG: Hubert MOLEAN
- Rapatona LLG: Len MOSIM
- Tetidu LLG: Mark MANGEU

3.0 PROVINCIAL COMMAND TEAM

- Operation Commander- CIP Kiweri KESAMBI
- Operation 2IC - C/Sgt Pake TUKON

4.0 MANPOWER

AGENCY	DISTRICT/TEAM	STRENGHT	REMARKS
RPNGC			
	Provincial Command Team	5	
	Investigating Task Force	2	
	Lorengau District	73	
	Quick Response Force	10	

	SUB-TOTAL	90	
PNGDF			
	Land Element (Army)	30	
	Sea Element (Navy)	23	HMS Ted Diro
	SUB-TOTAL	53	
PNGCS			
	CS Personnel	8	
	SUB-TOTAL	8	
	GRAND TOTAL	151	

1. ACHIEVEMENTS

Successful election outcome without any violence or destruction in Manus Province.

- ❖ Pre Natel Ops on Election related offences and awareness on safe, secure and fair election.
- ❖ During campaigning period; NBC Manus was utilised to drive awareness on road safety. Also awareness on small craft act on overloading, getting the boats registered etc..
- ❖ Polling period, security personnel deployed to 38 polling places throughout 12 LLGs of Manus.
- ❖ Counting centralised at Main Manus market, security personnel patrol both inner & outer perimeter.

2. CHALLENGES

- i) Manpower shortages of Regular members.
Engaged local recalled Reservist, PNGDF personnel from Lombrum Naval Base and CS Lorengau base officers. Also a section of QRF personnel's from Tomaringa's presence added a boost to our local security personnel.
- ii) Communications – Police 2 ways radio network.
Nonexistence since last NGE or more.
Very difficult to relay messages & communicate with vast majority of people at once. Utilise mobile phones to communicate & set up Manus Election Update forum as a medium of communication.
- iii) Provincial Admin Officer (PAO) Manus has been bed ridden since last year, 2021. His absenteeism has created a big problem for us accessing our funds on time to effectively perform our duties.

All election claims were sent to DHQ at Kokopo for processing. This has greatly affected our job performance.

3. LESSONS LEARNED

- Manus Province used to be the first province to declare its leaders than other provinces in PNG.
- Increased number of candidates.
- Voters being bribed (vote buying) prior to polling.
- Candidates with scrutineers protesting & unnecessary delaying of counting.
- Candidates & scrutineers demand arrest of polling officials (Tampering) without concrete evidence.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Increased number of security personnel by involving more local PNGDF & CS officers here in Manus.
- Police 2 ways radio network should be serviced/visited a year prior to NGE time/year.
- Appointment of a competent PAO for Manus immediately.

PART E. ISLAND MOBILE GROUP (IMG) - NGI

1. Introduction

The Island Mobile Group Command at Tomaringa under the Special Services Division Directorate was engaged and played the roles as support units to the four (4) Provinces. Support units were allocated to various Districts during the polling and counting to provide security. These support unit team consisted of Quick Response Force (QRF) and Rapid Response Force (RRF) as per the Supplementary Operation Order from the Director Special Services Division (SSD).

Disposition of Troops

As per the Operation Orders from Director SSD following instructions were adhered to for Squads deployment in the Region. Other deployments to sister Provinces were requested by the respective PPCs through ACP Islands. Deployments with the Region was as per the Operation Plan,

A total of 119 SSD members from IMG Command were engaged in the NATEL Operations in the Region. Majority of the SSD members were deployed as Quick Response Force (QRF) to other three Provinces including ENBP.

The Quick Response Force (QRF) deployed to the sister Provinces are utilized by the respective PPCs and their Field Commanders for daily tasks.

Apart from Quick Response Force (QRF), Ten (10) Rapid Response Force (RRF) who were available also assisted New Ireland and West New Britain Province respectively.

For ENBP after the completion of polling the members were then inserted into the four (4) counting venues, Kokopo District for Provincial and Kokopo Open Seat, Rabaul District for Rabaul Open and Gazelle District at Gaulim for Gazelle Open Seat. Pomio District has Quick Response Force (QRF) members sent with the polling team to Pomio to assist with the security duties during the polling period and the counting Centre at Palmalmal Station. For the ENBP Seats members continued to maintain presences at the counting venues till the declarations were made in the respective Districts.

Other sister Provinces also did the same with the Quick Response Force (QRF) maintaining the Police presence at the counting venues till the declarations of the Members Elect for the Electorates.

<u>Squads</u>	<u>Provinces/Districts</u>
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MS 18	- WNB
MS 19	- ENBP
MS 17	- Section to NIPS

- MS 17 - Section to MANUS
- MS 17 - Section (RRF) Tomaringa
- IMGHQ - Pomio District
 - Open Bay Timbers (Lasual Baining LLG)
 - Warangoi (Sinivit LLG)

2. Command and Coordination

The coordination of the QRF and RRF were okay however minor issues were encountered due to the immediate change in the Squad Commander 18 and the Squad 2IC's position in WBNP which has left a vacuum in the Group 2IC position.

However, in terms of the control and coordinating of members carrying out task during the Polling and Counting period was executed well by the responsible Team Leaders. As per the NATEL Operation Plan for IMG Command Respective Team Leaders appointed to lead their groups were task to take charge.

The QRF Team Leaders appointed as per Operation plan took charge of their respective Units and Sections while liaising with respective Field Commanders for day to day tasks. The Quick Response Force (QRF) engaged to other Provinces also reports directly to PPCs for their daily tasks.

The Command and Coordination as per the task matrix by the Quick Response Force and Rapid Response Force under PPCs and respective Field Commanders have been well commended.

3. Election Outcome Result

Thus the Election conducted in the respective Provinces is well commended for the outcome in which all the Provincial and Open Seats have been declared unhindered. They include:

- Four (4) Provincial Seats
- Ten (10) Open Seats

The National General Election 2022 has been delivered giving the citizens' rights to cast their votes freely, fairly and safely without intimidation. All the writs for NGI Region seats were returned to Government House within the time allocated unlike some Provinces.

The **declarations** of all the seats in the Region demonstrated the leadership, commitment and the diligent performance by the everyone engaged in the NATEL Operation 2022.

4. Challenges Encountered

Here are some of the issues encountered during the conducting of National General Election during the polling and counting period.

- **Firearms**

Request submitted for additional firearms were not given and IMGHQ were deployed without firearms to Pomio, Open Bay and Sinivit LLG warangoi.

- **Logistics**

Support vehicle for QRF in Pomio District to patrol and monitor NATEL Operations did not eventuate.

- **Communication**

Not many of the Team Leaders deployed out were on CUG network. The office land line is also out and no access network to internet.

- **Allowance**

Couples of QRF members missed out on deployment payments.

5. Recommendation

For a proper and well executed National General Election in 2027, following recommendation are made:

- To improve Police communication network
- Telephone landline, Internet and CUG
- To provide training for Police on electoral offenses.
- To gather Intelligence reports for operational plan.

Generally, the conducting of NATEL in NGI Region and the four Provinces were executed well and the credit goes to the Policeman and Women who committed themselves to see this Election delivered in a timely manner free, fair and safe.

Congratulations to all Field Commanders, PPCs of respective Provinces, the Office of ACP Islands, Deputy Commander and Staffs for a Job Well Done.

PART F: MAJOR CHALLENGES & ACHIEVEMENTS

MAJOR CHALLENGES (What didn't work)

As expressed individually by all four Provincial Police Commanders including the the Group Commander for Islands Mobile Group, the major challenges are as follows;

1. No radio communication system to use to control and deploy teams by their field commanders,
2. Limited transport to adequately move and insert and extract teams during polling. And for Security Force to deployed to incidents when reported,
3. No uniforms supplied for the Natel Ops 22, forcing our personnel purchasing their own.
4. Joint Security Force personnel were used as Electoral officials in deploying polling teams, organising polling boots, transporting election resources, etc. (a dangerous precedent),
5. Many eligible voters were denied their rights to vote. Their names were not found in the common rolls forcing our personnel making explanations on behalf of the Electoral Commission.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT

1. The National General Election of 2022 for NGI was successfully completed with all Provincial and Districts seats declared. There were few incidents which were dealt with accordingly despite the declarations were made late well after the first gazetted date.
2. The use of Operational Accounts to the division commands enable better preparations and deployments of teams.

This resulted in NGI conduct of its Natel Ops 22 **SUCCESSFUL**.

IMPORTANT LESSONS LEARNED

1. The conduct of the Nate Ops 22 in the four NGI Provinces was generally quite due to the people of NGI taking ownership of each process until the declarations,
2. The people wanted to vote for their leaders without disruptions and so delivered,
3. Despite the best Op plan, it didn't work as planned. We had to make adjustments.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

The key recommendations from the NGI command are as follows;

1. Urgent attention to be made to address the same problem of radio communications that we have also faced in previous Natel Ops,
2. Attachment of two senior Police officers with Electoral Commission from next year to plan for 2027 Natel Ops,
3. Improve procurement of Natel Ops logistics,
4. Secure appropriate funds for future Natel Ops,
5. Design Biometric voting system for future Natel Ops.

This is the NGI Division Natel Ops 22 debrief discussion points for the Executive management to consider in the future operations.

Yours Sincerely,

PEROU N'DRANOU, QPM, DPS
Assistant Commissioner of Police
Divisional Commander - NGI