



**ELECTORAL
COMMISSION**
Papua New Guinea



OFFICE OF THE ELECTION MANAGER-CHIMBU
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Thursday, April 27, 2023

The Chairman
Special Parliamentary Committee on
Election Issues 2022
National Parliament House
P O Box
Waigani. N C D

Dear Sir,

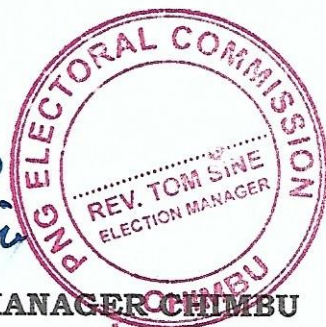
**REF: FIND ATTACHED IS THE SUBMISSION REQUESTING FOR SOME
CHANGES TO BE MADE WITHIN THE ELECTORAL CYCLE**

Pertaining to the said reference matter, find attached is the submission with recommendations for changes to the electoral cycle.

This is Chimbu's recommendations which would offer greater help when these recommendations are considered with those from sister provinces to improve the electoral system in PNG.

Thank you,

TOM SINE
ELECTION MANAGER CHIMBU



INTRODUCTION:

The Marape/Rosso government has approved in the Parliament for a Special Parliamentary Committee (SPC) to assess and evaluate National General Elections 2022 (NGE22) and help to prepare for an improved electoral cycle before 2027 NGE.

The Committee has set about collecting information through interviews and presentations by various stakeholders in elections in this country.

We in Chimbu as a province would also like to offer some of our recommendations which we think to be the best that the Committee can look at and may also adopt to be included for a much improved electoral mechanism workable for PNG

SOME FACT ABOUT CHIMBU PROVINCE:

1. Electorates: Chimbu has 6 Open Electorates. The Regional seat allows for Chimbu to send 7 MPs to the parliament
2. LLG: Chimbu has 20 LLGs. They are listed as in the table shown;

No	Open Electorate	LLG
1	Chuave	Chuave Rural
2		Elimbari
3		Siane
4	Gumine	Digine
5		Kumai Bomai
6		Gumine Rural
7	Kerowagi	Kerowagi Urban
8		Kup
9		Gena Waugla
10		Upper Lower Koronilge
11	Kundiawa Gembogl	Kundiawa Urban
12		Mt. Wilhelm Rural
13		Nilgkande
14		Waiye
15	Salt Nomane Karamui	Karamui Rural
16		Nomane Rural

17		Salt Rural
18	Sinasina Yongomugl	Tabare
19		Suai
20		Yongomugl Rural

3. Wards: Chimbu has a total of 315 Rural Wards and 2 Urban Wards giving a total of 317 wards in the province
4. NGE22, Chimbu returned 7 writs successfully.
5. Budget: A budget was carefully formulated taking into account all activities starting with Voter Education (awareness) to the Return of Writ. The total budgeted to administer election 2022 was at 7.7 million kina
6. Total funded to the province was close to 5 million Kina. These were expended to administer the elections, pay off outstanding service providers
7. Simbu Provincial Government has assisted us with K111,000.00. Funds used and acquittal done and given
8. Some DDA's assisted with some funds during the roll update. These was given direct to RO/AROs to assist with their work. Acquittals for all assistance were done and given back to Districts under my supervision.
9. Service Providers for NGE22: Up to 99% of service providers were settled. Only a handful missed out as a result of having wrong bank account details. When we wanted to settle these, election was over, funds depleted therefore they missed out. We hope to save some funds during LLG election to sort this out
10. Provincial Electoral Office: The provincial election office has the Election Manager and Assistant Election Manager as full time officers. The four main support staff are engaged on casual basis. However, they are very supportive administratively

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the near future, bio data of electors updated, polling done electronically. These machines would already do the count as well. These technologies are available and I have witnessed it in South Korea and may be India as well. Only then, election in PNG will not be corrupted. - personnel responsible for corrupting roll update must arrested and charged for their criminal deeds. Intending candidates must be exempted from contesting as well
2	Funding/Budget:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provincial electoral offices must be funded fully in the 5 years than wait for the election year only when funds are being released - One year before the elections, funds must be released tied strictly to activities. Election officials misusing must be arrested, charged and disciplined. - There must be a provision enacted for how much provincial governments and DDAs can assist with election matters. Not we requesting them and receive negative or nil responses from them - Trust accounts in NGE22 was very helpful. This can be considered as a way forward in future elections - Budgets to be fully funded. Acquittal a must for monies received
3	TEW Data Base:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A data base must be created for Temporary Election Workers (TEW) at both the provincial and HQ level. - Same people who work in elections must be maintained. Experiences over time helps with delivery good election results.

**PROBLEMS & ISSUES WITH THE CURRENT ELECTORAL SYSTEM
HIGHLIGHTED AND RECOMMENDATIONS OFFERED FOR SPC**

No	Areas/Issues of concern	Recommendation
1	Electoral Roll	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Electoral Roll must be updated immediately after a national or LLG election - Some electorates in the country must trial out photo roll - Working roll must be displayed in public places giving enough time for electors to identify ghost, death, transferred out names so to be deleted on the roll - with honesty identify people who are over 18 or will be turning 18 before the issue of writ to fill in Form 11 - Enrolment Form - Provinces must have data base for the update to cross check if update work done was captured and printed accordingly - National ICT team must have team of personnel who will ensure what was received from provinces ONLY is being entered and printed - Draft must be printed two years before the election year. Again displayed in public places for public viewing and commentary - Edits done, data entered and once satisfied will print the final copy. This roll must come out one year before election year. The reason being that, if further update is required then, there is still time to attend to this. - the final copy must be made public for public information - Highlands region can update the electoral roll into family order then the normal alphabetical order for 2027. The village recorder books sort of missing in the province can be revisited

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Those who are known to have corrupted the election process must be blacklisted from further engagements - Before the engagement, they must sign their contract that if they falter, they can be arrested, charged and disciplined - Public servants must make bulk of the TEWs. Easy to hold on disciplinary grounds - Second group of people who can be engaged are the church workers and the women folks who has proven to give us honest performance over time.
4	Provincial Elector Office and staff:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The four casuals position should be made permanent so election preparation must be a 5 year work instead of one year or 6 months before the election years - Monthly or quarterly funds made available for all provincial offices to take care of fuel, car service, stationaries and utilities
5	Criteria for Candidates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Criteria for candidates must be updated before 2027. Some of the criteria recommended are; - Must have a first degree from a recognized national tertiary institution - Must have a permanent house/residence in the electorate - Must not be dismissed from any public office - Must declare what he/she owns. Has over K20,000 in personal account - Nomination fees increased from K1,000 to between K5,000 - K10,000 - Financial member of a political party - Police Clearance before nomination

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Medical report qualifying candidate to be medically fit - Candidates must educate supporters. Candidates can be held for violence set about by supporters
6	Open Count Centers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Open Count Centers must be put in the District HQ. This is to minimize crowds flooding into a central count center mainly in the provincial capital - Primary Counts must be done at District centers immediately after polling. Continue with Quality Checks and elimination round if the district count is quiet - However, if threats and intimidation becomes obvious then, Quality Checks and elimination counts can be moved to the central count center - Electoral Commissioner can direct for counts to be done in shifts both day and night to speed up the process. When it is left to us, candidates and supporters dictate to us causing so much delay in counting - Make it mandatory for all counting to be suspended through court order only. - From experience I can say that counting take more than 7 days but less than 14 days to complete - A lawyer engaged must be at the count center during the entire counting period - CCTV must be installed in all count centers. - In the near future, consideration can be given for all counts to be done electronically
7	Voter Education through Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Voter Education through awareness is very important exercise. Population in the

		<p>province and electorate must understand the election process well. When the populace is being properly educated, we anticipate some degree of Free, Fair and Safe election can eventuate. Therefore, this awareness must start very early paving way for electoral roll update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Church groups, Civil Society Organization (CSO), must be involved. Chimbu post-election violence such as tribal fights has declined dramatically. We conclude that, awareness has played its part in educating the electors and the general population well - During the 8 weeks of campaign, voter education can step up its awareness - Campaign houses in the Highlands Region must be discouraged and banned totally
8	Appointment of ROs & AROs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HQ can advertise positions, EOI to be sent to provincial election office under the supervision of the EM. - Provincial electoral office compiled all application and have them brought to the PESC to deliberate and arrive with their short list. This then is sent down to the HQ for their approval. - Election Managers must be vested with powers to hire and fire key election officials such as ROs and AROs if complaints are raised against them for compromising their positions during the execution of their official duties. - Election Official deliberately does something wrong and it becomes obvious with substantial evidences, then he/she must be arrested and charged

9	Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Security in the Highlands for electoral staff is very important during the election year- Security personnel must perform their duties without fear or favor. Electoral staff doing electoral duties and security personnel performing securities duties
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SUMMARY:

Working with the organization since 2012, I have had fair knowledge what was done and what needs to be done to improve the electoral process in this country. Chimbu as a province is generally good when it comes to election. People are educated on election matters. However, only a few isolated issues created by candidates who only appear during election time and are gone when elections are over, are the ones who created situation that needs some changes to stop these opportunists from using innocent people for their own gain by leading them astray.

Therefore, I humbly submit this brief submission on behalf of Team Chimbu for the SPC to consider and if SPC finds some recommendation quite good and workable may adopt for the good of the electoral system.

May God bless you

Compiled by Team Chimbu for SPC



TOM SINE
Election Manager Chimbu

BRIEF 2022 NATIONAL ELECTION DATA

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	FIGURE(S)
1	TOTAL NO. OF POLLING TEAMS	469
2	TOTAL NO. OF POLLING OFFICIALS	3,752 60
		3,812
		(EST REGIONAL COUNT)
3	TOTAL NO. OF ELECTORS	310,170
		based on ballot papers issued
4	TOTAL NO. OF PEOPLE WHO ACTUALLY VOTE	285,600
		(MINUS 24,570 ESTIMATED NOT VOTE)
5	TOTAL FUNDS RECEIVED FROM PNGEC	280,000 3,000,000 1,000,000 4,280,000
		NOMINATIONS POLLING FINAL PAYMENTS
		686,689
		4,966,689
		SUPPLEMENTS ie: tew o/s & rejects etc...
6	TOTAL FUNDS RECEIVED FROM 6 DDA's / SPG	100,000 100,000 60,000 15,000 275,000
		DDA - GUMINE for Roll Cleansing DDA - CHUAWE for Roll Cleansing DDA - KUNDIAWA for Cleansing DDA - SNK for Roll Cleansing
7	TOTAL UNPAID SERVICE PROVIDERS	240,000
		(est 2012 - 2017 outstanding)

8	TOTAL O/STANDING TEW - 2022	ESTIMATE
		85,000
	<p><u>EXPENDITURES</u></p> <p>a) accommodation</p> <p>b) catering</p> <p>c) tew (allowances)</p> <p>d) transport hire</p> <p>e) various services provided ie: venue hire, fuel, TA's etc..</p> <p>f) unrelated accumulative funds to 2022 NGE</p> <p>g) nominations acquittals - 2022 NGE</p> <p>h) allowances etc for Chuave Eleclorate</p> <p>i) allowances etc for Gumine Eleclorate</p> <p>j) allowances etc for Karamui Eleclorate</p> <p>k) allowances etc for Kerowagi Eleclorate</p> <p>l) allowances etc for Kundiawa Eleclorate</p> <p>m) allowances etc for SSY Eleclorate</p> <p>n) various services provided ie: venue hire, o/s TA's etc..</p> <p>o) polling rejects</p>	<p>225,989</p> <p>604,299</p> <p>768,334</p> <p>511,357</p> <p>524,795</p> <p>686,689</p> <p>266,796</p> <p>124,878</p> <p>115,474</p> <p>115,876</p> <p>122,384</p> <p>121,400</p> <p>118,100</p> <p>478,413</p> <p>115,827</p> <p>first phase payment</p> <p>from HQ for bank rejects, unpaid tew allow etc</p> <p>second phase payment</p>
	<p>Total expenditures:</p>	<p>4,900,611</p>
	<p>Kina:</p>	