

**ELECTIONS
IN THE
NATIONAL CAPITAL DISTRICT
NATEL 2022**

Introduction

Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen!

Firstly I would like to convey my sincere gratitude to the SPECIAL PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON 2022 GENERAL ELECTIONS, the general public, former candidates, members of Media and of course my fellow colleagues in Elections.

Last but not the least, I would like to thank my Chairman of the NCD Provincial Election Steering Committee (PESC) who has been very supportive in our administration and operational conduct. I thank his team of officers who tirelessly assisted in terms of much needed resources like fuel, transportation and other operational costs as mutually agreed upon in the MOU.

Elections are one of the most important events in the PNG political calendar. held every five years, they are a chance for the people of Papua New Guinea to choose their representatives and government. The Electoral Commission of Papua New Guinea is an independent body that oversees all aspects of the election process. It is responsible for ensuring that elections are free and fair and that the rules and regulations are followed.

Having said that, elections are not easy to run these days as compared to some 10 to 15 years ago. I believe not only in NCD but all across the Nation. Many factors contribute to this contention;

- ✚ Rural-Urban drift
- ✚ Increase population
- ✚ Law and order issues
- ✚ The global effects of global warming
- ✚ The declining economy and
- ✚ Many other issues affecting elections in the National Capital

As you all know, NCD is comprised of a multi-cultural community, people with all walks of life, beliefs, customs and norms. People have become more literate on the process and procedures involved in the elections in the recent years, which is pretty good for our democracy. We also have the international

Community who are observing from very close proximity. In the nutshell, the City is Mini-Papua New Guinea.

Let me walk you through the endeavour covering pre-election, election and the post-election phases.

Preparatory Phase.

Budgetary Allocation

Projected Budget: K10m submitted to Headquarters.

Enrolment figures

NCD Electoral Roll figures from the Final Electoral Roll.

NATEL 2022 Figures

- ✚ MNE: 115, 749 voters
- ✚ MNW: 100, 707 voters
- ✚ Moresby South: 79, 790 voters
- ✚ **TOTAL Voting Population: 296, 246 Voters**
- ✚ **Actual voted: 219, 510** **74%**
- ✚ **Not voted: 76, 736** **26%**

NATEL 2017

- ✚ MNE: 92, 447
- ✚ MNE: 77, 794
- ✚ MS: 62, 721
- ✚ **TOTAL Voting Population: 232, 458**

So 21% increase in NATEL 2022.

Quota for enrolment forms (new enrolment) 6% from the 2017 roll. Mostly Provisional Voters.

Polling

- ✚ One day poll for NCD
- ✚ No. of Polling Teams: 202
- ✚ Polling Locations: 202
- ✚ Five teams (5) polling teams (Ward 9 B – MNE Team No. 137-141) refrained from polling after the ATS shooting. In consultation with the

Security Personnel, the tension was still high hence we were unable to re-deploy for re-poll.

🚧 **196 Teams** successfully polled.

Counting

PNGEC, with its quest to improve election operations we have introduced LLG Count in a Centralized counting center.

Election results

Live results were also transmitted through our PNGEC website for public consumption on real time directly from the respective count centers.

CCTVs (x3 each Count centers) also used during the counting for the first time.

NCD Regional delayed due to intermittent interruptions by candidate scrutineers. However, it was eventually declared in early September 2022.

Partners In Elections

PESC (Provincial Election Steering Committee)

- 🚧 The partnership is with the intention to share resources and election cost.
- 🚧 Appointment of Returning Officers and Assistant Returning Officers. Recommendations are tabled and submitted to SMT/Electoral Commissioner for official appointment.

Security

Our Partners in elections were able to contain fatal incidents that occurred during Polling (ATS Shooting).

Expenditure

The main election Expenses are on:

- 🚧 Accommodation
- 🚧 Cash Advances
- 🚧 Catering
- 🚧 Vehicle Hire (Transport)

- ✚ OBM Hire
- ✚ Venue Hire
- ✚ Equipment Hire
- ✚ Fuel
- ✚ Allowances and
- ✚ others

Enrolment: K253 , 188.00

Polling and counting funds allocated: K2, 184, 330.00

Paid: 2, 095, 106.93

Operational Bills incurred Enrolment – Counting (OUTSTANDING): K4, 259, 44.23

Temporary Election Workers

- ✚ Enrolment – We still have outstanding allowances to be paid due to redeployment of teams and the extended period of Data entry process as a result of (ICT) technical issues.
- ✚ Polling – Due to personal bank account issues of TEWs, the delay in payments from Kundupeii has taken longer frustrating a lot of TEWs.
- ✚ Counting – LLG count has seen increased number of counting officials. Eg. MNE has more than 800 officials with payments more than K2m.
- ✚ TEW alone for NATEL 2022 in NCD caused more than K10m.

Recommendations

- ✚ Enrolment – Eviction exercise has greater impact on the management of electoral with voters migrating to a new location (Transfer-in and Transfer-Out).
- ✚ It is incumbent on the PNGEC Management to employ a credible management and plan for improving the electoral roll. In its neonatal stages, are Biometrics and Photo Roll.
- ✚ Delay in disbursement of elections funds continue to affect our preparations and operations
- ✚ LLG Counting is logistically complex and attracts a lot of resources. PNGEC has to adopt strategies that would improve the scrutiny process.