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25/04/2023

**SUBMISSION:
TO PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON REVIEW OF NATIONAL ELECTION
CONDUCT IN PNG**

**Dear Honourable Alan Bird, MP
Governor of East Sepik and Chairman of the National Election Review Committee**

SUB : CHANGES TO AND REVIEW FOR THE GOOD OF FUTURE ELECTIONS - THE EHP MODEL

1. THE ELECTORAL ROLL OR COMMON ROLL

The Electoral Roll is the foundation of any Elections that will be conducted in PNG, either a National Election or a LLG Election the Electoral Roll remains the foundation and will always determine the Elections conducted.

ISSUE ON ELECTORAL ROLL:

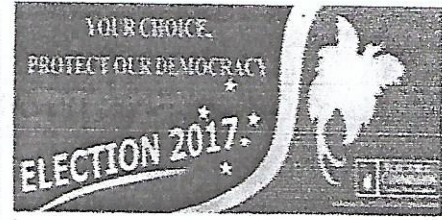
The current Electoral has the following defects;

- Is not accurate
- The current Electoral Roll does not have all the voters in the ward
- The current Electoral continues to have ghost and non-existence voters
- The current Roll does not recognize the voters in the wards
- The Current Electoral Roll is organized in Alphabetical order and our people in the wards and community does not live in Alphabetical order. Rather they live in Family groupings, sub clans clans and tribes.

EHP OPTION ON ELECTORAL ROLL:

PNGEC HQ and The Provincial Electoral Commission Offices around PNG to get do a complete New Electoral Roll. The roll is to be organised and arranged in Family Order , Sub Clan and clans based Electoral Roll

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RESULT :

During the National or LLG Elections, Families to be led by the Family Head to vote. This is transparent and it gives the families more ownership to the Electoral Roll and They will vote without interference from any persons.

WHY IS ELECTORAL ROLL IMPORTANT:

The Electoral roll is very important component of our Elections in PNG as from the Electoral Rolli comes the following;

- The Polling schedule
- Total numbers of Ballot Papers to be printed
- Total numbers of Ballot box to be used
- Total numbers of Teams to be Recruited and sent to the polling stations.
- Total numbers of Election polling and counting Officials to be recruited and engaged
- Total numbers of Voting compartments
- Total numbers of Election materials
- Total numbers of Police, CS & Defense personnel to assist in election operation.
- Number of transports and Fuel to be used
- Importantly Total numbers of Allowances and Advances that will be paid.

The entire National or LLG Elections hinges around the Electoral Roll and we do have problems with the current Electoral Roll.

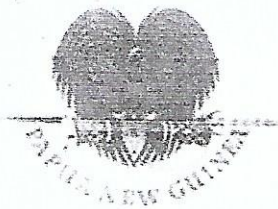
EHP RECOMENDATIONON ELECTORAL ROLL:

- We do a complete New Family Order Electoral Roll in preparations for LLG Election 2024 and 2027 National Election Elections.
- Funds be budgeted and given to PNGEC now and so we start the Family Order Electoral Roll this year 2023 and trial its use in 2024 LLG Elections.
- After the 2024 LLG Elections we can fine tune, address all anomalies and have a good prudent Family Electoral Roll ready to be used by 2027 National Elections.

2. CURRENT VOTING SYSTEM AND USE OF LPV

The current system of LPV Voting system is very Melanesian and must be maintained and In EHP Electoral Office we recommend the following;

- LPV Voting system is very friendly, very Melanesian and must be maintained.
- Creates peace and harmony with other families , Clans and Tribes
- LPV System of voting allows the candidates to receive votes around the Electorates and not only the candidates families or clans
- The Candidates will understand during counting that they have been voted by the electorate



and not a hand full of people

LPV VOTING RECOMMENDATION FROM EHP

- We maintain the LPV Voting system

3. WOMEN HAVING SEPARATE ELECTORAL ROLL AND SEPARATE VOTING POLLING STATIONS

EHP has tried separating the Electoral to have women have their own Electoral Roll and also create a separate Polling Booth during the 2019 LLG Elections and National Elections 2022 and it worked

RECOMMENDATION OF THE TWO NEW INITIATIVE UNDERTAKNE BY ELECTORAL OFFICE – EHP

- Women voters must have a complete new Electoral Roll to vote
- Women to have separate polling booth and they vote on their own as it worked well in the 2019 LLG Elections and the Goroka By Elections in 2021

EHP RECOMMENDATION ON SEPARATE ELECTOROL ROLL FOR WOMEN

- In EHP where women for the first time were able to vote on their own in the 2019 LLG Election and in the Goroka By Election 2021 and it worked very well.
- This must be accepted and PNG should adopted this to give PNG women a fair chance To vote and also to be voted in if they contest as a candidate

4. COUNTING SYSTEM - THE NEW EHP METHOD

EHP in 2022 used the LLG Counting System and it worked very well. In the LLG CountingSystem setup by my team in the last completed National Election encountered the following positive results;

- Each LLG Assistant Returning Officers [AROs] where able to count their LLG Ballot papers In 2 to 3 days
- Quality checks on ballot papers done completed in LLGs was just 1 Day
- All LLGs combined and amalgamated all ballot figures together and did the Exclusion or Elimination was worked very well.
- All Elimination done took 2 to 4 days to complete
- Results were declared after total of 5 to 7days of counting

POSITIVES ON LLG COUNTING

- All counting and declarations done in less than 7 days which is record and history made in Counting and declarations done in any Elections in PNG.
- Less time and days used for counting whereas before it use to be 21 days , when we only Counted for 7 days and this is a record.
- Saving cost on counting allowances which previously used to be 21 days allowances, we only paid for 7 days. Millions of Kina saved.

RECOMMENDATION FROM EHP FOR COUNTING IN FUTURE ELECTIONS

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We must conduct counting via the LLG Counting method which is very effective, fast, accurate, saving time and cost. And declaration done was timely. We should maintain and introduce The LLG Counting method all over PNG for all our Elections.

5. ALLOWNCES PAID TO ELECTION OFFICIALS DURING ELECTIONS

The Allowances paid to Returning ofcer [RO] , Provincial Returning Officers [PRO], Assistant Returning Officers [AROS] and Polling and Counting Officials has not changed for the last 40 years or so.

TYPE OF ALLWAONCES PAID

- PRO ,RO & ARO are paid between K 500 to K 800.00 a month and at the end of each Election the above officials will collect around K 3,000.00 to K5,000.
- Poling Officials get paid around from K 30.00 to K 55.00 to K 57.00 per day

RECOMMENDATION FROM EHP ON ALLOWANCES

- Increase allowances for PRO, RO & ARO to K 10,000 a month
- Increase Poling Officials allowances to K 200.00 per day
- Counting Allowances to K 30.00 per hour from K 16.00 per hour

RECOMMENADTION FOR ALLOWANCES TO ALL PNGEC STAFF BOTH AT PNGEC HQ & PROVINCES

- All PNGEC HQ staff be paid special Election allowances at the moment there is None
- All Provincial Staff be paid special allowances after successful completion of the National or LLG Elections

At the moment in term of Allowances for PNGEC HQ Officers from the Electoral Commissioner down to the Provincial Election Managers and Officials and staff there is no special allowances of any kind paid to anyone. All the hard work done to conduct National or LLG Elections to put the Government of PNG In place is not that easy as many people would think.

6. PNGEC STAFF WITHSTAND PRESSURE TO CONDUCT NATIONAL AND LLGELECTIONS IN PNG

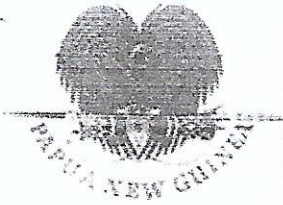
Our PROs, ROs, AROs, Election Managers, AEMs, Provincial EC Staff, Polling Officials , Counting Officials and PNGEC HO Staff undergo huge pressure to deliver The National Elections and put the Government of PNG in place.

7. CANDIDATE NOMINATION FORM

The Candidate Nomination Form is to be amended to reflect the following changes for nominating candidates;

- Have a police Clearance
- Have a medical Clearance
- Must possess at least a diploma minimum

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8. RESTRUCTURE & DECENTRALISATION

Decentralization;

- Establishment of 4 regional offices
- 4 Deputy commissioners at regional offices
- Restructure for permanent positions at HQ and Provincial offices
- EC HQ bottleneck
- Logistics (Budget)
- Financial power to be decentralized to Provinces