

**Official Brief –Election Manager WHP:
Highlands Region Consultation Meeting; Special
Parliamentary Committee on 2022 General Elections:**

Thursday, 27th May 2023

Welcome

- Chairman- Hon Allan Bird
- Deputy Chairman -Sir Puka Temo
- Other Committee Members
- My Colleagues from the region
- Security Forces , PPC
- Provincial Administrator
- Media and other Observers.

It is a great pleasure and a privilege for me to welcome all of you from me, my colleagues , the Provincial administration and the people of the host province (WHP) and it is being a 1st ever consultation meeting on National Elections after the 47 years of independence and after the 10th parliament;

I've been Elections Manager for the past 3 elections since 2012. And all operational and conduct of elections and its hiccups and problems faced are of same in every elections through to 2022.

WHP Districts/Electorates	4
LLGs	11
Wards	316
Polling Teams	367
Polling Locations	341
Hot spots	20

WHP estimated populations 600,000 plus and almost 400,000 (361,671) were enrolled as eligible voters for the 2022 national general elections.

And all elections Program started very late unusual for anyone election and started with the rolls update in late November, 2021 and data entering in March April 2022 in HQ.

1. Dates for Elections Preparations and Rolls Up Date

As I have said early Rolls updating in the wards started late November,2021 through to the Christmas and new year period and we were given 14 -21 days

To carry out field work and 3 months to produce the Preliminary and the final rolls, is a rush and unusual in any elections history.

Awareness, displaying the working roll 2017 Form 11s, Displaying the Preliminary Rolls Update and Data entering in the Provinces

Receive Data/Confirm Provinces all were rushed and were not done as required.

2. Current roll figures and Rolls Discrepancies

Hagen	85,893- 17,513=68,380+ 9,326 =77,706
Tambul Nebilyer	97,301- 2,979=94,322 +15,330 =109,593
Mul Baiyer	82,989 - 1,854 =80,955 +12,458 = 93,411
Dei	72,573 - 2,621 =70,084 +10,991 =80,961

Total **338,756 (2017)** **361,671 (2021)**

All electorates, lgs and wards figures are considered inflated by existing ghost names and genuine voters are not enrolled.

We really had no time to correct what went wrong on data's that we entered and exported to the electoral commission's main server.

A middle man was contracted to put those data's together to produce the principal roll so inflated and deflated figures appears in most wards

On the final roll figures doesn't corresponds figures we posted per ward.

3. Nominations

Nominations opened on the 19th May for all electorates. However the Nominations should be opened on April but they were postponements through to May 2022.

For Hagen Open 3 different ROs were accepting the Nominations due to court order, Revocation and appointment of different officers during the nomination period alone.,

Nomination Figures 2022

Provincial seat	23 (one female)
Mul Baiyer	26 candidates
Tambul Nebilyer	15 Candidates
Dei	27 Candidates
Hagen	10 Candidates

Total **101 Candidates**

4. Appointments ROs and AROs

Recommended list from Elections office was sent recommending experienced and suitable officers from the districts and provincial office of those that applied. However Most Recommended officers were not appointed by the HQ, We have to work with those Gazette Officers.

We had more problems with these appointments, revocation of appointees and new appointments, candidates not happy and sougning court orders, etc.

Mul Baiyer, 2 ROs appointments /revocation

Hagen 3 x ROs appointments and revocation.

Dei 2x ROs appointment, However first appointee did continue on to declare and return of the writs.

Returning officers and AROs when appointed and gazzetted they seem to be so powerful and prepared to make any decisions under the sun without getting any instructions from the elections managers office or PESC or any authority. Many instructions from my office are been defied by most ROs and AROs, they are said to be communication direct to the commissioner alone.

5. Counterpart Funding /PG

The Provincial do come in with financial assistance but it's often a Boomerang Provincial administration and the PESC do their own budget to reclaim the funds, during every elections year. In 2022 one million Kina was budgeted but election office only given K200, 000.

6. Funding of Elections Operations 2022:

Budget submitted to complete 2022 national in WHP without any carried over debts was **K8, 857.200**

Trainings ROs AROs	K 240, 000
Nominations	K 77,600
Polling officials training	K 665,340
Polling	K2, 773, 806
Counting	K2, 799, 690
Allowances	K3, 375,154

What Received by CFC per Month as follows/Funded?

CFC 1 May	001/2022	K 290,797.40
CFC 2 June	002/2022	K1, 149,585.70
CFC 3 July (1)	003/2022	K1, 358,069.52
Deposit PG July (2)	004/2022	K1, 000,000.00 (K200, 000.00 only)
CFC 4 August	004/ 2022	K 426,231.65
CFC 5 September	005/2022	K 196,060.00
CFC 6 October	006/2022	K 557,531.55

Total Received and expended K4, 978,275.82

7. Outstanding's yet to settle 2017 -2022

Bought forwarded Vehicles Hires, Accommodations bills, Containers hires and enrolments exercise allowances of 2017 was submitted to HQ and supposed to be settled from K200,000,000 that was allocated by the Government but it never eventuated and my claims and clients are yet to be settled . For 2017 we have K2, 300,000. Yet to pay.

For 2022 we have managed to settle all except for vehicle hires, accommodation and fuel bills to settle K450, 000.

Total outstanding 2017- 2022: K2, 750.000

8. Police and Elections security:

We didn't have enough manpower to cover all polling locations and booths and in most remote areas 2 to 3 policemen at a polling location can't do much to stop the voters from committing elections offences, double voting ,sharing or cutting votes or hijacking of ballot boxes and ballot papers and taken it away from designated polling locations.

Most offence committed and report was destroying of ballot boxes at polling places, hold up on transiting to the counting area to destroy votes.

We had tribal fighting before the elections was it was contained because police awareness before elections.

Security forces at the counting venues were minimized and controlled and allowed only few with strict instruction from PPC and elections ops Commander.

Have no record of offenders charged for elections offences, only an ARO was caught smuggling 2,000 marked ballot papers at the counting Centre. Was taken by police and charged.

9. Election Disputed Returns:

Three electorates are on court of disputed returns and all are committed on to trial.

Mul Baiyer, Tambul Nebilyer and Dei electorate

10. Ballot Papers 2022

Both Provincial and open to be in one page differentiated by colour to be teared and deposited in its ballot boxes two separate boxes used.

Dei 94,300 BPs, Hagen 88,750, Mul Baiyer 85, 600, Tambul Nebilyer 108,100 BPs

Total BPs 376,750

11. Logistics

We had enough ballot boxes and other materials to complete our polling's, counting and declarations, Transportation was made possible also by Australian Hercules Planes and they've been much help in 2017 also.

12. Election Staffing in the Province:

We have only two permanent staff all through out until staff strength increase before the updating rolls or months before issue of the writs during election years. Only this two staff cannot do all to prepare for the population that we have.

And our salary grades are very low compared to all public servants in the country, we supposed to be graded according to area of responsibility, like geographical area we cover and number of population.

EM is on Grade 13 and the AEM on Grade 10.

Because of that the Provincial Returning Officer, the Returning Officers and the AROs can easily defy our instructions and orders because all senior districts are of Grades 15 to 18.

As this result we have many election disputes because our advices on good elections are ignored.

13. Nil Provincial operational funds;

No yearly operational funds are allocated to provinces during non-election years. We can't run the office, our vehicles can't be maintained and so forth, our current official vehicle was last bought in early 2013, it is 11 years of using this vehicle I see risk that we are taking every day moving around with it

Recommendations:

- 1. Election activity funds be made available a year after completion of the last election.**
- 2. All wards Rolls updating, data processing and rolls printing be centralized to the provinces.**
- 3. No third person be contracted to process data's**
- 4. Transfer all funding to the provinces to settle outstanding's.**
- 5. Immediate Re structure of the PNGEC and increase man power in the provincial offices.**
- 6. Allocate operational funds to the provincial offices.**
- 7. Replace the aging vehicles in the provinces.**
- 8. Provincial Governments should also fund the Provincial Election offices annually.**
- 9. Find, improve and better ways to have accurate wards rolls.**
- 10. An appointment committee be establish to appoint ROs and AROs.**
- 11. Elections offenders must be charged using elections laws.**

On that note, I again would like to thank you all, the powerful parliamentary committee members, PESC members and my colleagues

Thank you!

Philip Telape

Election Manager. WHP 27th April, 2023

WHP ELECTORATE SUMMARY - HAGEN CENTRAL

LLG	2021 WORKING ROLL	TOTAL ELECTORS REMOVED Ghost/Dup/Gones/U-Age	TOTAL ELECTORS AFTER REMOVAL	ELECTORS TO BE ADDED New Ent/Trf-ins/Prov Enrol	TOTAL ELECTORS ON NEW COMMON ROLL
HAGEN URBAN	16,422	1,793	14,629	2,340	16,969
HAGEN RURAL	69,471	15,720	53,751	6,986	60,737
GRAND TOTAL	85,893	17,513	68,380	9,326	77,706

WHP ELECTORATE SUMMARY - DEI

LLG	2021 WORKING ROLL	TOTAL ELECTORS REMOVED Ghost/Dup/Gones/U-Age	TOTAL ELECTORS AFTER REMOVAL	ELECTORS TO BE ADDED New Ent/Trf-ins/Prov Enrol	TOTAL ELECTORS ON NEW COMMON ROLL
MUGLAMP	44,008	1,305	42,705	6,581	49,284
KOTNA	14,856	333	14,341	2,212	16,553
MALA/KINJIBI	24,125	216	23,909	3,665	27,574
GRAND TOTAL	82,989	1,854	80,955	12,458	93,411

WHP ELECTORATE SUMMARY - MUL/BAIYER/ LUMUSA

LG	2021 WORKING ROLL	TOTAL ELECTORS REMOVED Ghost/Dup/Gones/U-Age	TOTAL ELECTORS AFTER REMOVAL	ELECTORS TO BE ADDED New Ent/Trf-ins/Prov Enrol	TOTAL ELECTORS ON NEW COMMON ROLL
MUL	35,014	1,341	33,805	5,161	38,855
BAIYER	25,581	874	24,707	4,013	28,720
LUMUSA	11,978	406	11,572	1,817	13,386
GRAND TOTAL	72,573	2,621	70,084	10,991	80,961

WHP ELECTORATE SUMMARY - TAMBUL NEBILYER

LLG	2021 WORKING ROLL	TOTAL ELECTORS REMOVED Ghost/Dup/Gones/U-Age	TOTAL ELECTORS AFTER REMOVAL	ELECTORS TO BE ADDED New Ent/Trf-ins/Prov Enrol	TOTAL ELECTORS ON NEW COMMON ROLL
NEBILYER	39,455	1,588	37,867	6,028	43,836
LOWER KAGUL	22,630	691	21,939	3,430	25,369
MT GILUWE	35,216	700	34,516	5,872	40,388
GRAND TOTAL	97,301	2,979	94,322	15,330	109,593