

2022 NATIONAL ELECTION PUBLIC HEARING CHILDREN & YOUTH OBSERVATORY REPORT

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS :-

- CHAIRMAN HON. ALLAN BIRD
- THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING COMMITTEE
- HON. MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT
- STAKE HOLDERS, THE MEMBERS OF PUBLIC AND THE PEOPLE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

2. INTRODUCTION OF THEME AND THE SUB-THEME

THEME: GENERATION LOST IN THE ELECTION PROCESS

SUB-THEME: INVOLVING TODAY'S YOUNG IN TOMORROW'S DEMOCRACY.

THE 2022 GENERAL ELECTION BROUGHT DARKNESS IN THE MINDSET AND LIVES OF OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE.

MOST OF OUR YOUTHS WERE DRAGGED INTO HEATED DEBATES, ARGUMENTS, HATRED AND BITTERNESS AMONG THEMSELVES.

WE CREATED AN WHITE ELEPHANT AN ENEMY THAT CRIPPLED OUR SOCIETY AND STOLE THE VALUE AND LIVES OF OUR YOUNG GENERATION.

IT IS NOW THE TIME TO INVOLVE TODAY'S YOUNG IN TOMORROW'S DEMOCRACY.

3. I QUOTE VISION 2050 TO BEGIN MY PRESENTATION
PAPUA NEW GUINEA VISION 2050 - IN DECEMBER 2008 THE GOVERNMENT OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA TASKED A NATIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SETTING A VISIONARY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY TO GUIDE THE NATION'S SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

THE RESULT OF THIS WORK IS THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA VISION 2050. THE AIM OF THE VISION 2050 IS THAT IT WILL TRANSFORM THE PEOPLE AND THE NATION BY REFORMING THE MINDSET AND ATTITUDES OF PAPUA NEW GUINEANS. IT IS THOUGHT THAT THIS CHANGE IN MINDSETS AND ATTITUDES WILL PROVIDE THE DIRECTION TO REFORM AND ALIGN THE NATION'S INSTITUTIONS AND SYSTEMS TO MAKE PNG BECOME A SMART, WISE, FAIR, HEALTHY AND HAPPY SOCIETY BY 2050.

4. YOUTH VOTER PARTICIPATION

INVOLVING TODAY'S YOUNG IN TOMORROW'S DEMOCRACY.

DEFINITION OF "YOUTH"

FOR PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT "YOUTH" GENERALLY REFERS TO YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER 30 WITH THE VOTING AGE 18. IN THE VAST MAJORITY OF OUR COUNTRY.

POLITICAL SOCIALIZATION OF THE NEXT GENERATION

YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD VOTE TO DEVELOP A HABIT OF VOTING FROM THE START, AND THUS ENSURE HIGH TURNOUT IN THE FUTURE. GETTING THEM TO VOTE IS PART OF THEIR POLITICAL SOCIALIZATION. IT ENCOMPASSES TWO ASPECTS: BEHAVIOURAL AND ATTITUDINAL. BEHAVIOURAL MEANS ACTING POLITICALLY ON THE BASES OF ATTITUDES, PREFERENCE AND OPINIONS, SUCH AS BY DISCUSSING POLITICS WITH OTHERS, PARTICIPATING IN POLITICAL EVENTS AND THROUGH VOTING.

ATTITUDINAL INVOLVEMENT MEANS ACQUIRING KNOWLEDGE ABOUT HOW GOVERNMENT WORKS AND OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, AS WELL AS DEVELOPING AN INTEREST IN AND OPINIONS ON POLITICAL ISSUES OF THE DAY. THE SOCIALIZATION ARGUMENT IS SPECIFIC TO YOUNG PEOPLE. IT CONSIDERS THE FUTURE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF INADEQUATE POLITICAL EDUCATION.

IF YOUNG PEOPLE FAIL TO ACQUIRE HABITS OF GOOD CITIZENSHIP AND DEMOCRATIC RESPONSIBILITY IN THEIR FORMATIVE YEARS, THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY IS IN QUESTION.

5. ASSESSING AND ANALYSING YOUTH TURNOUT

BEFORE WE CAN DEVISE EFFECTIVE WAYS TO TURN YOUNG CITIZENS INTO ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS, WE MUST ANALYSE THE

SCOPE AND ROOTS OF THE PROBLEM.

6. STRATEGIE OF ACTION

* WHAT OFFICIAL POLICY MAKERS CAN DO:-

1. REGISTER VOTERS
2. EDUCATE VOTERS
3. SUPPORT MOCK ELECTIONS
4. LOWER VOTING AGE (16 YEARS)

* WHAT NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION CAN DO:-

1. VOTER EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS
2. COMMUNICATION CHANNELS.

7. ELECTION CULTURE

- ELECTION CULTURE - THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS SEEMS TO BECOMING A CULTURAL THING IN THE PAST AND PRESENT, WHERE MOST OF OUR PEOPLE, OLD AND YOUNG, TRIBES, FAMILIES AND CLANS ARE ALL CONFINED INTO.

WE NEED TO BREAK AWAY FROM THIS ELECTION CULTURAL NORMS AND VALUES THEREFORE I SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING:-

1. CONDUCTING MOCK ELECTIONS IN SCHOOLS.- CHILDREN WILL BE EDUCATED IN THE EARLY STAGE TO KNOW THE OF THE ELECTION. PROCESS

2. LOWERING VOTING AGE

LOWER THE VOTING AGE OF 18 YEARS TO 16 YEARS, THIS WILL GIVE MORE CONSISTENCY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE MORE EFFECTIVELY.

3. BIO-METRIC SYSTEM

THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION MUST UTILIZE THE BIO-MODAL ACCREDITATION SYSTEM (BVAS) TO VERIFY AND AUTHENTICATE VOTERS AGAINST THE VOTER REGISTRY ON ELECTION DAY USING EITHER FINGERPRINT OR FACIAL CAPTURE.

4. APPOINTMENTS OF RETURNING OFFICERS

1. MUST BE AN LAW ABIDING CITIZEN

2. OR MUST BE AN FORMER OR CURRENT MILITARY PERSONAL (eg. 2017 MORESBY SOUTH RETURNING OFFICER)

5. SEPARATE YOUTH ROLL

THIS WILL HELP US ON CLEAR INDICATION OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLES PARTICIPATION IN THE NATIONAL ELECTION.

8. CONCERNS IN THE 2022 NATIONAL ELECTION

THE SAME OLD ADMINISTRATION MISTAKES WERE DONE OVER AND OVER BY ELECTORAL COMMISSION IN NATIONAL ELECTION TIMES:

1. LACK OF ELECTION AWARENESS
2. DELAYING OF ROLL UPDATING
3. DELAYING OF ALLOWANCE FOR TEMPORARY EC STAFF
4. LACK OF FUNDING
5. POOR COORDINATION AND FACILITATION ON THE ROLL OUT OF THE 2022 ELECTIONS
6. POOR ORGANISATION AND AWARENESS
7. ELIGIBLE VOTERS MISSING OUT.

9. RECOMMENDATION

1. INSTITUTIONALIZATION

QUESTIONING THE CREDIBILITY AND FUNCTIONS OF INSTITUTIONS THAT CATER FOR THE ELECTIONS SUCH AS THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION.

FACILITATION OF THE ELECTION MUST BE TAKEN PLACE IN ADVANCE 2-3 YEARS PRIOR TO THE NGE'S

- TRAINING MUST BE CARRIED OUT TO PREPARE ON THE GROUND ELECTORAL OFFICERS.

- HIGH COMPETENCY AND TRANSPARENCY MUST BE PRORITISED.

2. ELECTORAL VOTING SYSTEM

LPV - CHANGED DUE TO CURTAIL, ETHNIC CONFLICTS OR
ELECTORAL VIOLENCE

- REVIEW THE CURRENT VOTING SYSTEM.

10. CONCLUSION

IT IS MY PLEASURE ON BEHALF OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE
LET ME THANK THE PARLIAMANTARY COMMITTEE FOR
TAKING THIS CHALLENGE TO PUT OUR NATION PAPUA NEW
GUINEA FORWARD BY ACCEPTING VOICE OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.
IN THE PROCESS OF 2022 GENERAL ELECTION PUBLIC
HEARING.

I WILL BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THIS
COMMITTEE IF MY SERVICE IS NEEDED.

WISHING YOU ALL THE BEST IN ALL YOUR ENDEAVORS
MAY GOD'S PEACE, JOY AND WISDOM GUIDES YOU ALL IN
YOUR DECISSION MAKING.

COMPILED BY

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