

If our Government does not provide us with these simple things, we all have the right to complain and demand these basic services. But we must also remember, that once we receive these services it is our responsibility to look after our hospital, schools, roads and water systems to make sure they benefit our future generations.

We also have the right to live in free, fair and peaceful community, but it is our own responsibility to ensure this. We must act in a way that keeps our own families and communities free, fair and peaceful.

The responsibilities of candidates

Candidates, like every other member of your community and citizen of Papua New Guinea, are required to obey the law at all times – especially during the campaign and election period. Candidates may spend a lot of money on advertising and events to tell as many people as possible about themselves in order to get more people to vote for them. If the candidate is part of a political party, this money must be accounted for at the end of the election, when the PNG Electoral Commission reviews how much money was spent by the candidate, and what it was spent on.

The law is clear for all candidates and voters:

- Do not offer or accept bribes.
- Do not steal or change ballot or nomination papers.
- Do not pretend to be someone else in order to vote for them.
- Do not supply ballot papers unless you are employed by the PNG Electoral Commission to do so.
- Do not encourage or be involved in block voting.
- Do not destroy, take, open, or interfere with ballot boxes or ballot papers.

These are serious offenses for which there are serious penalties, such as cash fines and up to 2 years in prison. Don't be a part of it. Stop corruption and encourage others to make an active choice against getting involved with candidates who are involved in these activities.

How can 1 vote give me 3 choices?

Explaining the LPV system

The LPV system is designed to make the voting process a lot more fair. In the past, the person with the most votes (or X's in their box) won the election. This meant that a candidate could win with the support of only a few people in the electorate. This simply was not fair.

The LPV system which we will be using in 2007 means that you can choose 3 people who you think would do a good job as a Member of Parliament, representing you and your community. The person with the most votes will win, but only once they have received more than half of the votes of the whole electorate. Now that's fair!

You will only vote once, but you will put 3 choices on your ballot paper. This is the way it works:

- Vote 1 for the person you think is the very best candidate and who you would like most to be elected.
- Vote 2 for the person you think is the next best candidate, who would do a good job if your number 1 was not elected.
- Vote 3 for the person you think is the next best candidate, who would do a good job if your numbers 1 and 2 were not elected.

Remember: There is only one winner!

Things you should remember:

- More and more women are becoming interested in running for the 2007 election. Consider giving at least one of your preferences to a good, honest female candidate.
- You do not have vote for your wantok or family member if you do not believe that they are honest. Remember, your decision will affect the lives of everyone in your electorate for the next 5 years. That's a long time to pay for a poorly made decision!
- You MUST make 3 choices on your ballot paper or vote will not be counted.
- All men and women over the age of 18 have the right to vote.
- You can only go to the polling place in your electorate and cast your vote once. If you vote more than once you are being unfair to your fellow-citizens and community members, as well as to yourself. It is a basic right that every legal voter (man or woman ages 18 or over) should have the same voting power in choosing their leaders. Clearly if they don't the MPs will listen most to those with the most voting power. It is also against the law to vote more than once.
- No one else can vote on your behalf. If someone offers to cast your vote for you, say "No" and go to the polling booth yourself. It is your right to cast your own vote.