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BOROKO, National Capital District
Papua New Guinea
Tel: (675) 303 5501 Fax: (675) 325 7418
Email: pgamato@pngec.gov.pg
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OFFICE OF ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER

Observation of the 2017 PNG National Elections

Declaration of Principles for International Observers:

Genuine democratic elections serve to resolve peacefully the competition for political power and are central to the maintenance of peace and stability. Elections are an expression of sovereignty, which belongs to the people of a country, the free expression of whose will provides the basis for the authority and legitimacy of government.

Code of Conduct:

Respect for Sovereignty and Human Rights

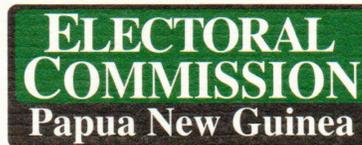
- Observers are to respect the sovereignty of Papua New Guinea as well as the rights and fundamental freedoms of its people.

Respect the Laws of the Country and the Authority of PNG Electoral Commission

- Observers must follow lawful instructions from the PNG Electoral Commissioner, Commissioner of Police, and members of the Security Forces on duty. Observers must maintain a respectful attitude towards electoral officials, security forces, and other authorities.

Respect the Integrity of the Observers – International & Domestic:

- Observers are expected to attend to all briefings, training, and de-briefings, and to ensure they are familiar with the election laws, regulations, procedures, and other relevant laws. Observers must avoid situations of conflict of interest, and any improper behavior must be reported to the leadership of the Mission.



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Maintain strict political impartiality at all times

- Strict political impartiality to be exercised at all times – must not express or exhibit any bias on contentious issues in the election process or conduct any activity that could be perceived as favoring a party or individual candidate – such as wearing or displaying symbols, colors, banners or accepting gifts of value.

Do not obstruct the election process

- Observers must not obstruct any part of the electoral process: campaigning, voting, scrutiny of ballots, vote count, or the declaration of results.
- Observers may bring to the attention of election officials irregularities, fraud, or significant problems but must do so in a non-obstructive manner and must at all times avoid being seen to *direct* the election process.
- Observers may ask questions of and get answers from voters, but must not ask them to reveal what party they support or for whom they voted.

Provide Appropriate Identification

- Approved identification must be worn at all times.

Maintain the Accuracy of their Observations & Professionalism in Drawing Conclusions

- Observations must be accurate and comprehensive, and judgments should be made according to very high standards, backed by accurate information and impartial analysis. Conclusions are to be factual, based on verifiable evidence, and avoid any premature conclusions.



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Refrain from Making Comments to the Public or Media before the Mission Speaks

- Individual members of observer groups are to avoid making personal comments on their observations or conclusions to media or to members of the public before the Mission issues its statement. However, the Mission may allow its representatives to explain the nature of observation, its activities, or its terms of reference.

Co-operate with other Election Observers

- Since there will be several Missions, we urge cooperation between each of the Missions.

Maintain Proper Personal Behavior

- We urge proper personal behavior, respect for others, and sensitivity to PNG cultures, traditions, and customs. Observers are to exercise sound judgment in personal interactions and display the highest level of professional conduct all times, during and after working hours.

Violations of this Code of Conduct

- Where a serious breach of the Code is found, the concerned Observer Mission accreditation may be withdrawn, or the individual responsible for the violation may be terminated from observation. The authority to either withdraw or terminate will rest with the PNGEC in close consultation with the Commissioner of Police and the leadership of the Mission.



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Pledge to Respect the Code of Conduct

Each participant must read and understand this Code of Conduct and sign this Pledge to follow it.

- i. I have read and understand the Code of Conduct for Observers.
- ii. I will maintain strict political impartiality at all times. I will make my judgments based on the highest standards of accuracy of information and impartiality of analysis, distinguishing *subjective* factors from *objective* factors, and will base my conclusions on facts and verifiable evidence.
- iii. I will respect the national laws and authority of the PNG Electoral Commission.
- iv. I will not obstruct the election process.
- v. I will protect the integrity of the Observation Mission and will follow the instructions of the Mission.

Signed : _____

Print name: : _____

Date : _____