



**ELECTORAL
COMMISSION**
Papua New Guinea

CODE OF CONDUCT

**FOR POLITICAL PARTIES, CANDIDATES AND
PARTY SCRUTINEERS AND SUPPORTERS
(2022 NATIONAL ELECTIONS)**



FOREWORD
Electoral Commissioner
Simon Sinai
PNG Electoral Commission

Ensuring the integrity and credibility of the elections is the responsibility of all electoral stakeholders, not just of the PNG Electoral Commission (PNGEC). All electoral stakeholders, especially the political parties, candidates, and their respective scrutineers and supporters, play a critical role in making our elections free, fair, and peaceful.

This Code of Conduct is essential for achieving this shared objective. It consists of concrete guidelines throughout the electoral process, which the political parties and candidates and their scrutineers and supporters agree to follow and observe.

I commend all the political parties and candidates who signed this Code of Conduct. It demonstrated their commitment to ensure the integrity of the electoral process, foster a peaceful campaign environment and promote the orderly conduct of elections during the nomination, campaign, polling, scrutiny, and after the elections. Through this document, you commit yourselves to promoting, encouraging and participating in an election that is inclusive, peaceful and peaceful, while also being free from manipulation, violation and intimidation of any kind towards voters, candidates, electoral officers and security forces.



STATEMENT
Acting Political Parties Registrar
Mr. Emmanuel Pok
Integrity of Political Parties and Candidates Commission (IPCC)

Political Parties and their candidates and their supporters are key players in the Election process. They have the greater responsibility to make the election free, fair and safe for all stakeholders to participate. The success very much depends on the behavior of candidates and their supporters.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR POLITICAL PARTIES, CANDIDATES AND PARTY SCRUTINEERS AND SUPPORTERS (2022 NATIONAL ELECTIONS)

Through this Code of Conduct, the undersigned political parties and independent candidates have reached an agreement with the Papua New Guinea Electoral Commission (PNGEC) and the Integrity of Political Parties and Candidates Commission (IPGCC) on a series of commitments regarding the activities of their candidates, scrutineers and supporters during the 2022 National Election campaign in Papua New Guinea.

The aim of this Code of Conduct is to ensure the integrity of the electoral process, foster a peaceful campaign environment and promote the orderly conduct of elections.

All political parties and independent candidates that sign this Agreement subscribe to these principles and regard this Agreement as binding on their leaders, candidates, scrutineers and supporters.

The undersigned will publicize and enforce its provisions within their parties. The parties to this Agreement will maintain communication about these commitments and seek to resolve any disputes in a peaceful manner.

1. General Principles

- 1.1. This Agreement, the Constitution, Organic Law of Integrity of Political Parties and Candidates (OLLIPAC), the Organic Law on National and Local Level Government Elections, the Electoral Law Regulations 2007 and all other relevant laws and regulations should be respected and followed by political parties, candidates, scrutineers and supporters before, during and after the elections.
- 1.2. Political parties should use their own disciplinary mechanisms to deter breaches of this Agreement and encourage a free and fair electoral process.
- 1.3. Violations of the constitution, electoral laws and regulations and all other relevant laws and regulations should be reported to the appropriate authorities.
 - 1.4. Party administration should provide information and training to their party officials and candidates so they can carry out their duties in accordance with the law and this Agreement.
- 1.5. Throughout the election period, all political parties and candidates commit to observe and abide by all COVID-19 safety rules and protocols.

2. Nomination Period

- 2.1. Political parties commit to ensure the inclusiveness of the nomination process by encouraging the participation of women, youths and persons with disabilities.
- 2.2. Political parties commit to strengthen their mechanisms for resolving inter- and intra-party or candidate disputes arising from the nomination process.

3. The Election Campaign

- 3.1. The undersigned political parties and candidates commit to conduct their campaign in a man-

ner that respects the rights of all candidates and supporters to campaign freely. Harassment of any kind, including disruption of another party's rally, meeting, march or demonstration or seeking to obstruct another person from attending a political rally of another political party is unacceptable and a violation of the Code of Conduct.

- 3.2. The undersigned political parties and candidates pledge to reach out to marginalized and vulnerable groups to inform them of their programs.
- 3.3. The undersigned political parties and candidates pledge not to influence voters unfairly through gifts, gratuities, threats or promises. The following are examples of prohibited activities:
 - 3.3.1. Giving gifts, money or offers of jobs in return for votes.
 - 3.3.2. Setting up campaign houses in communities.
 - 3.3.3. Using government resources, such as cars or trucks, for campaign purposes.
 - 3.3.4. Obstructing their opponent's campaigns.
 - 3.3.5. Destroying or defacing campaign materials or campaign headquarters of another party or candidate.
 - 3.3.6. Using language that incites hatred or violence in any form against any persons, candidates or political parties or issue any poster or propaganda containing materials that incite people to violence.
 - 3.3.7. Influencing polling officials or staff to favour their candidate in any way.
- 3.4. Political parties and candidates commit to participate in public campaigning based on policy platforms.
- 3.5. Candidates running in the same area pledge to communicate with each other to avoid conducting rallies at the same time, which might lead to clashes of candidate supporters.

4. Election Day

The undersigned political parties and candidates give their commitment to ensure that:

- 4.1. the polling process is free and fair.
- 4.2. no campaigning will take place inside or outside the polling place.
- 4.3. they, as well as their scrutineers and supporters, will not be engaged in any form of voter bribery, including the provision of transportation to voters to the polls, and should report to the PNGEC or police authorities any incidents of voter bribery.
- 4.4. they, as well as their scrutineers and supporters, will not threaten or intimidate voters or electoral officials or staff in anyway.
- 4.5. they, as well as their scrutineers and supporters, will not support the practice of block voting and should ensure that the right of an individual to secret voting is upheld.
- 4.6. they, as well as their scrutineers and supporters, will not support the practice of grabbing votes or any effort to manipulate the polling process.
- 4.7. They, as well as their scrutineers and supporters, will respect the role of domestic and international election observers. Political party scrutineers should not interfere or seek to influence domestic and international observers in any way.
- 4.8. They acknowledge the importance of impartial adjudication of election complaints and undertake to submit and pursue complaints through official channels if they observe any irregularity.

ties in the electoral process.

5. Counting and Tabulation of Results

- 5.1. Political parties, candidates, scrutineers, and their supporters pledge not to do or attempt to do any of the following practices:
 - 5.1.1. Bribe or threaten poll workers or counting staff to influence the election in favour of a certain candidate(s).
 - 5.1.2. Interfere with or disrupt, unless for obviously valid reasons, the counting and tabulation process or disrupt transportation of election materials in anyway.
- 5.2. Party or candidate scrutineers at polling and counting centres commit to follow the procedures and regulations set out by the PNGEC and the IPPCC. The parties and candidates will ensure that their scrutineers receive sufficient information and training about electoral law, procedures and regulations to properly carry out their duties.

6. Post-Election

- 6.1. The undersigned political parties and candidates commit to take their disputes to court and not take part in or allow their supporters to take part in any post-election violence.
- 6.2. The winning candidates commit to return to their constituent communities to report on their work as a Member of Parliament (MP), regardless of whether the village or community voted for them.
- 6.3. Winning candidates commit to represent the interests of all constituent communities, regardless of whether they voted for them or not, as this is a legal duty.

The undersigned, with assistance from PNGEC and IPPCC, agree to publicize and enforce its provisions within their parties. The parties to this Agreement will maintain communication about these commitments and seek to resolve any disputes in a peaceful manner.

Name of Party: _____

General Secretary: _____

Party President: _____

Campaigns Do's

- ✓ Political parties and candidates should engage in an ethical campaign and follow the election laws and regulations. They must familiarize themselves with the important provisions of the law on campaigning.
- ✓ Political parties and candidates should develop clear and easy-to-understand messages that they can communicate to the voters.
- ✓ Political parties and candidates should respect the right and freedom of all other candidates to campaign, and disseminate their political ideas and principles without fear.
- ✓ Political parties and candidates should conduct themselves in a manner that respects the rights of other candidates and respects the rights of voters and other members of the community.
- ✓ Political parties and candidates should engage all voters including women, youth and persons with disabilities, and other marginalized groups for an inclusive campaign.
- ✓ Political parties and candidates should seek guidance from the PNGEC if they have questions about the electoral process.
- ✓ Political parties and candidates should encourage voters to be actively engaged during the campaign.

Campaigns Don'ts

REMEMBER: The Electoral Law and the Criminal Code penalize certain acts during the campaign. Below are the most common violations of the law.

- ✓ Political parties, candidates, and their supporters should not engage in voter bribery or vote buying or commit undue influence.
 - Aside from being criminal offenses, these acts are also grounds for election petitions to invalidate election results.
 - According to the Supreme Court, bribery, treating and undue influence in the nature of duress are corrupt practices.
- ✓ Political parties, candidates, and their supporters should not engage in the following acts either verbally or through the use of social media:
 - making or publishing a false and defamatory statement in relation to the personal character or conduct of a candidate.knowingly publishing a false statement of the withdrawal of another candidate at the election, whether committed before or during the election.
- ✓ Political parties, candidates, and their supporters should not engage in any of the following conduct:
 - harassing or obstructing other candidates or their supporters in the conduct of their own campaign activities.
 - disrupting, destroying, or frustrating the campaign efforts of other candidates.
 - preventing the distribution of handbills and leaflets, and the display of posters, of other candidates.
 - defacing or destruction of posters of other candidates.
 - preventing other candidates from holding rallies, meetings, marches, or demonstrations.
 - preventing any person from attending the political rallies of other candidates.
 - encouraging the supporters of political parties or candidates to do anything prohibited by the Organic Law, the Electoral Regulations, or the Criminal Code.

