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Organic Law on National and Local-level Government Elections

ELECTION DATES, EXTENSION OF TIME FOR THE NOMINATION PERIOD, AND INCREASE IN THE POLLING PERIOD FOR THE 2022 NATIONAL ELECTION

I, **SIMON SINAI, ML**, Electoral Commissioner, by virtue of powers conferred by the Constitution of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea ("Constitution") and the *Organic Law on National and Local-level Government Elections* ("Organic Law"), hereby give notice of the indicative and revised election dates for the 2022 National Election:

1. On 26th April 2022, under the authority of Section 73 (Writs for General Elections) of the Organic Law, the Electoral Commission advised the Head of State to issue Writs for the eleventh (11th) National General Election for Members of Parliament in accordance with Section 105 (General Elections) of the Constitution.
2. The Head of State was informed that the number of Writs to be issued for the Provincial Electorates is twenty-two (22), including the National Capital District and Autonomous Region of Bougainville, and the number of Open Electorate writs to be issued had increased from eighty-nine (89) to ninety-six (96) following the 10th Parliament's acceptance of the Electoral Boundaries Commission's recommendations for seven (7) new Open Electorates in line with Section 35 (Open Electorates) and Section 41 (Determination of New Electorates) of the Organic Law and *National Gazette* No. G257 (Determination of New Electorates) on 7th April 2022; therefore, the total number of Writs is now one-hundred and eighteen (118).
3. The Electoral Commission also advised the Head of State on the indicative electoral calendar for the 2022 National Election as provided for by Section 75 (Form of Writs) of the Organic Law and listed in Column 2 of the schedule below.
4. On 26th April 2022, the Head of State endorsed the indicative dates set for the 2022 National Election.
5. On 12th May 2022, the Head of State issued 118 Writs (pursuant to Section 73 (Writs for General Elections) of the Organic Law.

**Election Dates, Extension of time for the nomination period, and increase in the Polling Period for the 2022
National Election—continued**

6. On 13th May 2022, the Electoral Commission advised the Head of State that special circumstances arising from the death of the Honorable Sam Basil, MP, on 11th May 2022 required the extension of time for taking of nominations from 19th May to 26th May 2022, in order to enable political parties and candidates the reasonable opportunity to reorganize themselves as needed, pursuant to Section 177(1)(b) (Extension of Time) of the Organic Law.
7. The Electoral Commission also informed the Head of State that special circumstances involving a request by the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary (RPNGC) from 7th January 2022 to increase the polling period from 14 to 21 days required a change in the start of the polling period from 9th July to 2nd July 2022, in order to provide the security forces sufficient time to deploy in urban and rural areas of the country, pursuant to Section 79(2) (Date of Polling) of the Organic Law.
8. The Electoral Commission then advised the Head of State on the revised electoral calendar for the 2022 National Election as provided for by Section 75 (Form of Writs) of the Organic Law and listed in Column 3 of the Schedule below.
9. On 13th May 2022, the Head of State approved the new dates set for the 2022 National General Elections. Given the issue of Writs on 12th May 2022 and the existence of two sets of special circumstances that required an extension of time for taking nominations and increasing the polling period, and allowable by the electoral legal framework, the Electoral Commission, hereby, revokes the previous indicative election dates specified in Column 2 of the Schedule and confirms the revised and endorsed election dates as specified in Column 3 set out opposite the name of the event in Column 1.

SCHEDULE

Column 1 EVENT	Column 2 Previous Election Dates Endorsed on 26 April 2022	Column 3 Revised Election Dates Endorsed on 13 May 2022
Issue of Writs/Nomination Opens	Thursday, 12th May 2022 @ 4pm	Thursday, 12th May 2022 @ 4pm
Nomination Closes	Thursday, 19th May 2022 @ 4pm	Thursday, 26th May 2022 @ 4pm
Interval Period	Thursday, 12th May 2022 Friday, 8th July 2022	Thursday, 12th May 2022 Friday, 1st July 2022
Polling Period Starts	Saturday, 9th July 2022	Saturday, 2nd July 2022
Polling Period Ends	Friday, 22nd July 2022	Friday, 22nd July 2022
Return of Writs	Thursday, 29th July 2022	Thursday, 29th July 2022

Dated this 18th day of May, 2022.

S. SINAI, ML,
Electoral Commissioner.