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OFFICE OF ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER

PRESS STATEMENT Friday 10 June 2022

EX-CONVICTS ARE NOT QUALIFIED TO CONTEST AN ELECTION BY OPERATION OF THE CONSTITUTION

Electoral Commissioner says sufficient information was put out for all citizens in the country including those intending to contest the 2022 National General Elections to be mindful of the electoral laws that guide our elections.

One of the main events that take place prior to conducting election proper in any general elections is the education and awareness program where we conduct massive awareness to the voters and candidates throughout the country on the electoral process. These pre-election activities are an essential part of the election preparations and the Commission through its Information and Communication Awareness Branch ensures that such vital message involving voter education and awareness is communicated to the public, so they understand their rights and the laws which protect and guide the electoral process. Voter education and awareness is an ongoing activity and the people by now should be aware or familiar with the dos and don'ts.

The ruling of the Supreme Court in the Reference entitled SCREF No 6 of 2022 has now clarified the application of Section 103 (e) of the Constitution in respect of eligibility of persons wishing to contest elections. The Supreme Court has clarified that Section 103 (e) of the Constitution operates to permanently disqualify membership of parliament of a person who has been convicted of an indictable offence, after 25 June 2002, irrespective of the length of the sentence and whether they have completed the sentence.

If you are a candidate, and you were convicted of an indictable offence after 25 June 2002, then you are ineligible to contest the elections and not qualified to hold membership in parliament. Those candidates who fall within this category are requested to withdraw your nominations within the next seven days from today (10 June 2022).

Manager Elections
 P.O. Box 794
 MT. HAGEN
 Western Highlands
 Phone: 542 2349

Manager Elections
 P.O. Box 73
 MENDI
 Southern Highlands
 Phone: 549 1378

Manager Elections
 P.O. Box 109
 WABAG
 Enga Province
 Phone: 547 1144

Manager Elections
 P.O. Box 1031
 GOROKA
 Eastern Highlands
 Phone: 532 2349

Manager Elections
 P.O. Box 446
 KUNDIAWA
 Chimbu Province
 Phone: 535 1204

Manager Elections
 P.O. Box 424
 MADANG
 Eastern Highlands
 Phone: 422 2349

Manager Elections
 P.O. Box 224
 LAE
 Eastern Highlands
 Phone: 422 2349

Manager Elections
 P.O. Box 672
 WEWAK
 East Sepik Province
 Phone: 456 2090

Manager Elections
 P.O. Box 355
 VANIMO
 West Sepik Province
 Phone: 457 1187

Manager Elections
 P.O. Box 811
 RABAUL
 East New Britain
 Phone: 982 8357

Manager Elections
 P.O. Box 488
 KIMBE
 West New Britain
 Phone: 983 5484

Manager Elections
 P.O. Box 881
 ALOTAU
 Milne Bay Province
 Phone: 641 0355

Manager Elections
 P.O. Box 226
 LORENGAU
 Manus Province
 Phone: 970 9494

Manager Elections
 P.O. Box 295
 KAVIENG
 New Ireland Province
 Phone: 984 2317

Manager Elections
 P.O. Box 62
 KEREMA
 Gulf Province
 Phone: 684 1074

Manager Elections
 P.O. Box 86
 LAE
 Western Province
 Phone: 328 1037

Manager Elections
 P.O. Box 136
 POPONDETTA
 Northern Province
 Phone: 629 7167

Manager Elections
 P.O. Box 5348
 BOROKO
 Central Province
 Phone: 321 2053

My office will take necessary steps to screen each candidate who have nominated, which is about more than 3,000 candidates, to verify their eligibility. Some candidates are known prisoners while information on others is scarce. My office will liaise and seek assistance from the Court Registry, Public Prosecutor and the Correctional Services and other relevant State Departments, to ascertain and establish the eligibility of each candidate, in accordance with the Supreme Court's ruling.

If you (ex-convicts) insist on contesting despite my request, I will have no choice but to revoke your nomination in compliance with the Supreme Court orders, once your status is confirmed.

A statement will be made, once a report is completed and compiled by my office on the eligibility of all candidates throughout the country.


SMON SINAI, ML
Electoral Commissioner

