



DRAFT TALKING POINTS

NBC Radio

Update on Electoral Calendar and Roll Update Exercise

25 November 2021

Opening Remarks

- ◆ Thank you for that warm introduction and for inviting me to share information about the **Electoral Calendar** and the **Electoral Roll Update**.

PNGEC

- ◆ As many of your listeners know, the PNG Electoral Commission is the electoral authority under the Constitution, and it is tasked with organising and conducting all elections for the National Parliament and legislative arms of the Local-level Governments.
- ◆ National Elections are held every five years and we are working with our stakeholders to deliver a Genuine, Credible, and Safe 2022 National Election.

Electoral Calendar

- ◆ The Acting Electoral Commissioner Simon Sinai has announced the following key **indicative dates** for the 2022 National Election:
 - **The issue of writs** will be on the 28th of April 2022, this also marks the start of the candidate nominations period
 - The **candidate nomination** period will end on the 5th of May
 - The **polling period** will start on the 25th of June, and run for 14 days; and
 - The **writs will be returned** to the Governor General on, or before, the 29th of July.

Electoral Roll Update

- ◆ Before anyone can vote in the 2022 National Election, their name must be on the electoral roll for the ward they will vote in.
- ◆ So a key priority for the Electoral Commission is the development of an **updated and accurate** Electoral Roll for the 2022 National Election.
- ◆ PNGEC will soon be **visiting all wards** to conduct the Roll Update Exercise.
- ◆ It is a **legal requirement to enrol** to vote if a person:
 - Is a citizen of PNG, and
 - Is 18 years of age or older, and
 - Has lived in their ward for six (6) months or more
- ◆ People who are 17 years old and who will turn 18 on or before the day the writs are issued (currently scheduled for 28 April 2022), can also enrol to vote under what is called “**Provisional Enrolment**”.
- ◆ It is important that everyone understands:
 - Enrolment, and keeping their place of residence updated, is a legal responsibility of all voters;
 - A person can only vote once in the ward they are enrolled in; and
 - A person cannot be registered on the electoral roll in more than one ward at the same time.

Photo Roll Trial

- ◆ Managing the Electoral Roll and improving its integrity are **ongoing processes** and PNGEC has been looking at how we can make improvements now, and into the future:
 - We have recently conducted a trial in the Motu Koita areas of the National Capital District to develop a photo roll.
 - A photo roll includes photos of voters to make it easy to identify them accurately during polling.
 - Lessons from that trial will inform how we could expand the photo roll to other areas in the future.

- ◆ However, roll update processes take **time and resources**.

Conventional (National Roll Update)

- ◆ With **five (5) months until the intended issue of writs**, PNGEC has been working with the Department of Provincial and Local Government Affairs to conduct a more **conventional roll update exercise** in most wards.
- ◆ There will be **3 key elements** to this:
 - Firstly, **starting at the end of this month/early next month there will be a working roll update process**
 - Enrolment Agents will assist electors to update their details, and identify the number of new and transfer electors in each ward.
 - It is very important that people contact their Enrolment Agent and check their enrolment details during this first stage.
 - If they are not on the roll, they must register their intention to enrol with their Enrolment Agent.
 - Only people who register with the Enrolment Agent will be able to submit a claim for enrolment during the next stage.
 - Next, **in early 2022** Enrolment Agents will visit wards again.
 - Eligible electors who registered their intention to enrol in the first stage can then complete a claim for enrolment or transfer.
 - All new and transfer electors will be given a receipt as proof of having lodged their forms.
 - During this stage, others can also update their details if required.
 - If a person finds that their name is not on the electoral roll, they must register with the Enrolment Agent so they can submit a claim for enrolment during the third and final stage.
 - Finally, around April 2022, there will be a **public display and verification of the Preliminary Roll**.

- This will be the last opportunity for eligible voters to make sure their name is on the Electoral Roll for the ward in which they are eligible to vote.
 - It will also be the final opportunity for people who have previously registered their intention to submit a claim for enrolment.
- ◆ As an integrity initiative, we have established **Ward Enrolment Committees** in each ward, to support local ownership and oversight of the roll update process.
- ◆ And we have invested in the use of **technology**, including:
 - Using technology to facilitate faster and more accurate cross-checking of details before enrolment forms are issued; and
 - Making available for download via Google Play the **PNG Voter Look Up application**, so that people with Android devices can check their enrolment status at each stage of the Roll Update Process. The app is free.

Active Enrolment

- ◆ Enrolment is an active process and your name must be on the electoral roll to vote.
 - Being enrolled at school or university, or just being a resident somewhere does **not** automatically mean you are enrolled to vote.
 - Having a National Identification (NID) card does **not** mean that you are automatically enrolled to vote. You do not need an NID card to enrol to vote.
- ◆ You **must actively enrol to vote by**:
 - Checking your enrolment status and registering with the Enrolment Agent if you are not enrolled;
 - Submitting a claim for enrolment with the Enrolment Agent; and
 - During the public display and verification of the Preliminary Electoral Roll, confirming your enrolment status.

Closing Remarks

- ◆ Enrolling to vote is both a democratic right and legal responsibility.
- ◆ Before anyone can vote in the 2022 National Election, their name must be on the electoral roll for the ward they will vote in.
- ◆ I encourage everyone to check their enrolment details and talk to their Enrolment Agent in their ward. Tell your friends, family, and neighbours to do this too.
- ◆ PNGEC Provincial Electoral Offices, Ward Enrolment Committees, Enrolment Agents, and awareness officers will announce the start of the roll update in each ward, and they will provide information on how to contact your Enrolment Agent.
- ◆ I encourage all first-time youth voters to contact their Enrolment Agent as soon as the Roll Update starts in their ward.
- ◆ Only your Enrolment Agent can add your name to the electoral roll.
- ◆ More information about the Electoral Roll Update is available on the PNGEC's Facebook page.

[END]

[See next page for Questions and Answers]