



DRAFT TALKING POINTS

NBC Radio

Nominations: Key Steps and Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

14 April 2022

Opening Remarks

- ◆ Thank you for that warm introduction and for inviting me to share information about candidate nomination for the 2022 National Election.
- ◆ Last week the Electoral Commissioner and Deputy Electoral Commissioner provided information on the nomination process, including the period for accepting nominations, the qualification criteria, and the key steps for nominating a candidate.
- ◆ Today, I will also cover key points on the nomination process so that those intending to contest the elections are properly guided.
- ◆ And I will also address some frequently asked questions.
- ◆ As we know, the 2022 National Election is coming.

The Nomination Period

- ◆ The nomination period for the 2022 National Election will start at 4 pm on the 28th of April. That is also when the writs for the elections will be issued.
- ◆ Therefore, intending candidates who want to contest the elections should prepare to nominate starting from April 28, at 4 pm.
- ◆ They only have one week to nominate, with the end of the period set for 4 pm on the 5th of May.
- ◆ If they fail to nominate during this one-week period, then they will not be able to contest.
- ◆ Again, I would like to reiterate and emphasize, the nomination period is only from 4 pm on the 28th of April to 4 pm on the 5th of May. This period cannot be extended.

Qualifications and Disqualifications

- ◆ If someone wants to contest for a parliamentary seat, then they must first make sure that they are duly qualified.
- ◆ The Constitution and the electoral law list the following qualifications to nominate:
 1. You must be a Citizen of Papua New Guinea, and
 2. You must be 25 years of age or older on the date of nomination, and
 3. You must have been -
 - a) born in the electorate you wish to nominate for, or
 - b) have lived in the electorate for which you wish to nominate for the last 2 years immediately before your nomination, or
 - c) have lived in the electorate for a total of 5 years at any time, and
 4. You also must have the right to vote or run as a candidate under the Constitution.
- ◆ If someone does not have a qualification, for example, if they are under 25 years of age on the date of nomination, then they cannot nominate.
- ◆ It is not enough, however, that someone has all of these qualifications.
- ◆ According to the Constitution, they cannot have any of the following grounds for disqualification.
- ◆ Therefore, they cannot nominate:
 1. If they have dual citizenship;
 2. If they are of unsound mind;
 3. If they are insolvent;
 4. If they are under sentence of death or imprisonment for a period of more than nine months, unless an appeal is pending;
 5. If they have been convicted under any law of an indictable offence after 25th June 2002;
 6. If they have been convicted under the Organic Law or Regulation where the penalty imposed includes ineligibility to hold elective office;

7. If they have been disqualified for election to public office because of dismissal from office under the leadership code in the last 3 years; or
 8. If they have been convicted in the previous three years of a prescribed offence relating to elections
- ◆ Under the law, the Electoral Commissioner can reject a nomination if a person does not possess **all** the qualifications OR if they have **any** of the disqualifications.
 - ◆ Another person may also object to a nomination if he or she has evidence to show that someone is not qualified.

Steps to Nominate

- ◆ Intending candidates, once they are sure that they are qualified and are not disqualified to nominate, should please follow these steps.
 1. Between 4pm on the 28th of April and 4pm on the 5th of May, with a witness, go in person to the office of the:
 - Provincial Returning Officer of the provincial electorate if they are contesting a provincial seat or
 - The office of the Returning Officer for the open electorate seat that they wish to contest.
 2. Complete all the nomination forms and other documents. These are:
 - **Form 29** (Candidate Information)
 - **Form 23** (Nomination of Candidate for Election as Member of National Parliament), and
 - If an intending candidate is endorsed by a political party, **Form 30** (Political Party Information).

All of these forms are available in the office of the RO or PRO where the intending candidate seeks to nominate.
 3. Make sure that the form is completely filled in. For example, if someone fails to indicate that they have not been dismissed from Office for misconduct this can be a ground to reject their nomination.

So, pay attention to details. Do not rush the nomination forms.

4. Once all these forms are completed, submit them to the PRO or RO.
5. At the same time, proof is required of having paid the nomination fee of K 1,000.00.
 - The RO or PRO will not accept cash. The nomination fee must be paid at a Bank of the South Pacific (BSP) branch.

The RO or PRO can provide the account details.

An intending candidate must submit to the RO or PRO the original of the official receipt.

6. Four quality passport size photos must be submitted, with a plain background:
 - The intending candidate's name must be written clearly on the back of each photo, and
 - If the person is endorsed by a political party, the name of the party also needs to be written on the back of the photo.

If no photos are supplied then no photo will appear on the Candidate Poster for the National Election.

- ◆ Women, men, and persons with disabilities who are qualified under the legal framework and who wish to represent their communities are encouraged to nominate as candidates.

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

- ◆ I will now address some frequently asked questions.
- ◆ We are sometimes asked if a person can nominate for more than one electorate at a time, and the answer is **no**. By law a candidate can only nominate for one electorate at a time.
- ◆ Another question is about whether an intending candidate can change the electorate that they have nominated for.
 - This is **allowed**. However, if a person wants to change the electorate they have nominated for, they can do this **only** if the nomination period has not ended and they must first withdraw their former nomination by submitting Form 26 – Withdrawal by Candidate of Consent to Nomination.

- ◆ Sometimes people ask whether a person can nominate for an electorate that they are not currently enrolled in.
 - The answer to this is **yes**. The law allows for a person to nominate for an electorate they are not currently enrolled in, so long as they have all the qualifications and none of the disqualifications. And remember, to qualify to nominate an intending candidate must:
 - have been born in the electorate they are nominating for; or
 - they must have resided in the electorate for a continuous period of two years immediately preceding their nomination; or
 - they must have resided in the electorate for a period of five years at any time.
 - Importantly, under the law, nominations submitted by an intending candidate who is not enrolled in the electorate close earlier, they close at 4pm on the 3rd of May.
- ◆ And finally, your listeners may be wondering what happens if a person submits a nomination but they do not qualify. The Electoral Commissioner has the power to reject the nomination of an intending candidate if there is evidence that the person does not have all the qualifications and/or if the person is disqualified in any way.

Closing Remarks

- ◆ The nomination process is important because no person is qualified to be elected as a member of the Parliament unless he or she has been duly nominated and the nomination is accepted by the Electoral Commission.
- ◆ To conclude, the nomination period for the national election is strictly from 4 pm on the 28th of April to 4 pm on the 5th of May. This cannot be extended. If a person fails to submit their nomination forms during this period, then they cannot contest a seat in Parliament.
- ◆ When nominating, intending candidates:
 - must appear in person with a witness at the office of the RO or PRO of the electorate where they intend to contest;
 - must have with them the necessary nomination forms completed and other required documents and photos;

- must provide proof of having paid the nomination fee; and
- must make sure they complete this before 4 pm on the 5th of May.
- ◆ More information about the nomination process is available on the PNGEC's Facebook page and people can also contact their local PNGEC office.

[END]