



## **DRAFT TALKING POINTS**

### **NBC Radio**

#### **Process of Candidate Nominations and Important Forms**

**7 April 2022 (11:31am)**

#### **Opening Remarks**

- ◆ Thank you for that warm introduction and for inviting me to share information about the process of candidate nomination for the 2022 National Election.
- ◆ In this session, we are going to discuss the basics of the nomination process and the forms that must be submitted by intending candidates to the Electoral Commission.

#### **The PNGEC and its Role in the Nomination Process**

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Part of this is the process for the nomination of candidates, which is very important because without candidates, there can be no elections.

#### **Start of Election Period**

- ◆ National elections are held every five years and the Electoral Commission is making preparations for the 2022 National Election.
- ◆ The issue of the writs will signal the start of the election period for the 2022 National Election.
- ◆ The Governor-General, on the advice of the Electoral Commissioner, is expected to issue the writs for the 2022 National Election on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April 2022.

## **Nomination Period**

- ◆ The day the writs are issued is the day when the nomination period starts, which runs for seven days.
- ◆ Starting at 4pm on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April, intending candidates can submit their nomination documents to the offices of Provincial Returning Officers and Returning Officers.
- ◆ The deadline to nominate is at 4pm on Thursday the 5<sup>th</sup> of May 2022. This period cannot be extended.

## **Importance of nomination**

- ◆ 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.

## **Who can Nominate – Nomination Qualifications**

- ◆ To qualify to nominate for election as a member of the Parliament, a person must:
  1. be a citizen of Papua New Guinea, and
  2. be 25 years of age or older on the date of nomination, and
  3. have been either -
    - a) born in the electorate they wish to nominate for, or
    - b) have lived in the electorate for which they wish to nominate for the last 2 years immediately before their nomination, or
    - c) have lived in the electorate for a total of 5 years at any time, and

They must also

4. have the right to vote or run as a candidate under the Constitution
- ◆ In addition, a person must not be disqualified. This means that they must:
    1. Not hold dual citizenship
    2. Not be of unsound mind
    3. Not be insolvent

4. Not be under sentence of death or for imprisonment of more than nine months, unless an appeal is pending

In addition, under the Constitution and Electoral Law, they also must

5. Not have been convicted under any law of an indictable offence committed after the 25<sup>th</sup> of June 2002
  6. Not have been convicted under the Electoral Law or Regulations where the penalty imposed includes ineligibility to hold elective office
  7. Not have been disqualified for election to public office because of dismissal from office under the leadership code in the last 3 years, and
  8. Not have been convicted in the previous 3 years from the date of the start of the polling period of a prescribed offence relating to elections.
- ◆ For example, if an intending candidate is less than 25 years of age on the date of nomination, then he or she cannot nominate.
  - ◆ For example, if an intending candidate is on parole from a sentence of imprisonment that was for more than nine months, then he or she cannot nominate.

### **How to Nominate**

- ◆ If you want to contest the election, meet all the qualifications and do not have any of the disqualifications, you must be nominated first.
- ◆ Intending candidates for a Provincial Seat must submit their nominations to the Provincial Returning Officer for that province.
- ◆ While intending candidates for Open Seats must submit their nominations to the Returning Officer for that open electorate.
- ◆ Nominations cannot be submitted to PNGEC Headquarters.
- ◆ The intending candidate must also pay the nomination fee of K1,000 via the Bank of South Pacific to the PNGEC trust account.
- ◆ Intending candidates must complete all the nomination forms and other documents, which must be submitted to the Returning Officer or Provincial Returning Officer within the nomination period.
- ◆ Nominations cannot be accepted after 4pm on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May 2022.

## **Nomination Forms and Documents that must be Submitted**

- ◆ The following forms and documents must be completed and submitted by intending candidates to the Returning Officer or Provincial Returning Officer before the nomination period ends.
  1. **Form 29 – Candidate Information.** This form captures the personal particulars of candidates and can be provided to the PNGEC before the nomination period, but can also be provided with Form 23 during the nomination period.
  2. **Form 23 – Nomination of Candidate for Election as Member of National Parliament.** This is the nomination form. The intending candidate must carefully read this form, make sure that all the required information is supplied, and sign the form.
  3. If an intending candidate is endorsed by a political party, he or she must also submit **Form 30 – Political Party Information.**
  4. All of these forms are available from the offices of the Returning Officers or Provincial Returning Officers.
- ◆ In addition to the nomination forms, intending candidates must submit the following to the Returning Officers or Provincial Returning Officers:
  1. **The official, original receipt of payment of nomination fee** – The nomination fee must be paid via the Bank of the South Pacific (BSP).
  2. **4 quality passport size photos**, with a plain background, endorsed on the back with the candidate’s name and, if endorsed by a political party, their party affiliation. Failure to supply a photograph is not a ground for rejecting the nomination but it means that a photo of the candidate will not appear on the Candidate Poster for the National Election.

## **Independent Candidates**

- ◆ Candidates who are not endorsed by a party will be listed as “Independent” on the candidate poster.

## **Witness**

- ◆ It is also necessary that each intending candidate brings a witness with them at the time of submitting their nomination forms and documents.

## **COVID-19**

- ◆ Intending candidates, and their supporters, must follow the COVID-19 Niupela Pasin protocols, such as maintaining social distance and wearing masks.

## **Closing Remarks**

- ◆ Again, to emphasize, the election period starts when the writ for the National Election is issued by the Governor-General. It is also the start of the nomination period. The writ is expected to be issued on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April at 4pm.
- ◆ If you are an intending candidate, you must submit your nomination documents within the nomination period, which is from 4pm on 28<sup>th</sup> of April 2022 to 4pm on 5<sup>th</sup> of May 2022. If you fail to submit your nomination forms during this period, then you cannot contest a seat in Parliament.
- ◆ It is important that all persons intending to nominate know this period and the requirements to nominate.
- ◆ Women and men who want to contest the election are encouraged to nominate if they are eligible as per the legal framework.
- ◆ The success of any election lies with the meaningful participation of all stakeholders, particularly the candidates, either as independent or as a member of a political party.
- ◆ Meaningful participation can only be possible if you know your electoral rights and obligations. You have the right to contest in the election for the members of Parliament if you have all the qualifications and are not disqualified.
- ◆ At the same time, you have the obligation to know the timeframe, procedure and the requirements for nomination.
- ◆ All accepted candidates will be expected to adhere to the laws and regulations guiding elections and to maintain a proper code of conduct to protect the integrity of the electoral process.
- ◆ More information about the nomination process is available on the PNGEC's Facebook page and you can also contact your local PNGEC office.

- ◆ Over the next few radio programs my colleagues and I will provide more information on the candidate nomination process, and timeframes, as well as information on campaign “do’s and don’ts”.

**[END]**