



DRAFT TALKING POINTS

NBC Radio

Update on Roll Update Exercise

31 March 2022

Opening Remarks

- ◆ Thank you for that warm introduction and for inviting me to share information about 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 Free, Fair and Safe 2022 National Election.

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.
- ◆ Enrolment Agents visited all wards between January and March 2022 to conduct the Roll Update Exercise.
- ◆ During this stage, everyone was encouraged to take the opportunity to check their enrolment status.
- ◆ If their name was not on the roll for the ward in which they have resided for 6 months and intend to vote, they had the opportunity to submit a claim for enrolment with the Enrolment Agent.

- ◆ If a person needed to update their details (e.g. to record change of surname after marriage or to correct information), they had the opportunity to tell the Enrolment Agent at this time also.
- ◆ The updated information and claims for enrolment from this time are currently:
 - Being data processed;
 - Going through additional quality checks; and
 - Being vetted by PNGEC headquarters to produce the Preliminary Roll.

Preliminary Roll Display and Claims Period

- ◆ In April, before the writs for the election are issued, PNGEC will display the Preliminary Roll for the 2022 National Election.
- ◆ Display of the Preliminary Roll will occur progressively throughout April – meaning that it will be displayed on a rolling schedule.
- ◆ PNGEC Provincial Electoral Offices, Ward Enrolment Committees, Enrolment Agents, and awareness officers will communicate the start of the display of the roll update in each ward.
- ◆ People should listen out for radio announcements, check community notices, and visit the PNGEC provincial offices or Facebook page for additional updates to the timing of this in their area.
- ◆ I encourage everyone to inspect the Preliminary Roll when it is made available for public display.
- ◆ This will be the **last opportunity** before the 2022 National Election for people to submit a claim for enrolment or to update their details.
- ◆ Under the law, no new claims for enrolment or transfer can be accepted after the issue of the writs for the election.
- ◆ It is important that everyone understands:
 - 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
- 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;
- A person cannot be registered on the electoral roll in more than one ward at the same time; and
- 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**”. Ask the Enrolment Agent in your ward about how to enrol provisionally.
- ◆ If you are not on the roll in the ward in which you are eligible and intend to vote, you **must** submit a claim for enrolment during the Preliminary Roll display period – **this will be your last opportunity to enrol**.
- ◆ All new and transfer electors will be given a receipt as proof of having lodged their forms.
 - Keep the receipt safe and do not give it to another person. You do not need to bring it with you to vote.
- ◆ Only people who are on the roll can vote in the 2022 National Election.
- ◆ PNGEC Provincial Electoral Offices, Ward Enrolment Committees, Enrolment Agents, and awareness officers will communicate when display of the Preliminary Roll starts in each area.
- ◆ People should listen out for radio announcements, check community notices, and visit the PNGEC Facebook page for additional updates.
- ◆ People can also check the **PNG Voter Look Up application** to check their enrolment status at each stage of the Roll Update Process. The app is free and available for download via Google Play on android phones.

Active Enrolment

- ◆ I also want to remind people that 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 with the Enrolment Agent.
- If you are not enrolled, submit a claim for enrolment with the Enrolment Agent.

First time youth voters

- ◆ First-time youth voters are a key priority for the Roll Update Exercise.
- ◆ I encourage all first-time youth voters to contact their Enrolment Agent as soon as the Preliminary Roll display starts in their ward – it's free, it's easy, and you don't need an ID.
- ◆ And tell your friends and family to enrol too!
- ◆ It is important that young people have the opportunity to enrol as required by the electoral law AND participate in the democratic process.
 - This election needs all our voices.
- ◆ And please remember:
 - Being enrolled at school or university 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.
 - Your name must be on the electoral roll in order to vote.
 - This means you must actively enrol to vote by:
 - checking your enrolment status
 - submitting a claim for enrolment with the Enrolment Agent if required, and
 - updating your details if required
 - **April will be the last opportunity to enrol before the 2022 National Election.**

- ◆ Follow and use the hashtag #YouthEnroll2Vote on social media!
- ◆ Become a voter and enrol to vote as soon as it is possible in your ward!

Closing Remarks

Roll Update

- ◆ 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 Agents 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 when the Preliminary Roll display starts in each area.
- ◆ And remember, only your Enrolment Agents can add your name to the electoral roll.
- ◆ More information about the Electoral Roll Update is available on the PNGEC's Facebook page.

Nominations

- ◆ I would also like to share with your listeners that PNGEC is preparing for the Candidate Nomination period, which will start on the day the writs for the election are issued.
- ◆ 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.

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