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Organic Law on National and Local-level Government Elections

APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICERS

THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION, by virtue of the powers conferred by Sections 18 (Delegation) and 19 (Returning Officers) of the *Organic Law on National and Local-level Government Elections* ("Electoral Law"), hereby delegates the specific powers and functions listed below and appoints the persons listed in the Schedule to be the Returning Officers during the candidate nomination, polling, and scrutiny periods for the Electorate opposite their names during the 2022 National Election. Their appointments are set from 30th April until 31st August 2022.

I. DELEGATION OF POWERS AND FUNCTIONS

Upon acceptance of their appointment, the Returning Officers shall ensure that the conduct of candidate nomination, polling, and scrutiny in their assigned Electorate are performed in accordance with the provisions of the Electoral Law and the Electoral Law (National Elections) Regulation 2007 ("Electoral Regulations") and under the direction of the Electoral Commission. The Returning Officers shall abide by the Papua New Guinea Electoral Commission (PNGEC) Code of Conduct for electoral officials.

During the appointment period, Returning Officers shall resolve election-related disputes that may be referred to them during the course of nomination, campaign, polling, and scrutiny in accordance with Electoral Law and Electoral Regulations. They shall also complete and submit all electoral forms to the Electoral Commission within the period specified by the applicable law and regulations.

The Returning Officers shall exercise the following powers and functions:

A. Candidate Nomination

1. Attend at the place of nomination for the electorate; publicly produce all nomination papers and electronic advices of nominations received; accept duly qualified candidates for nomination based on the criteria provided by the laws and regulations; and declare the names, addresses, and occupations of all candidates nominated.
2. Refer in writing to the Electoral Commissioner for acceptance or rejection of the nomination of any intending candidate who is objected to in writing by anyone; and any intending candidate for whom the Returning Officer believes on reasonable grounds is not qualified to nominate under the applicable laws.

Appointment of Returning Officers—continued

3. Place the name of the accepted candidate on the Ward Electoral Roll for the Electorate being nominated for, if that person is not enrolled for that electorate and such person is duly qualified to nominate.
4. Accept the withdrawal of the nomination of any candidates who submit the prescribed form prior to the end of the nomination period.
5. At the end of the nomination period, declare a candidate duly elected if he or she is the only candidate nominated for the Electorate, and where more than one candidate has been nominated for an Electorate, conduct and announce the candidate draw.

B. Polling

1. Prepare, publicize, and implement in a timely manner a polling schedule for the assigned Electorate showing the anticipated dates and times within the polling period in accordance with directions from the Electoral Commission.
2. Engage and supervise Presiding Officers, Assistant Presiding Officers, Poll Clerks, Queue Controllers, Ballot Box Guards, and other polling officials.
3. Before the start of polling, ensure that polling booths are set up and furnished with necessary polling equipment and materials, including candidate posters, ballot papers, and the certified list of voters.
4. During polling, resolve all election-related disputes brought to his or her attention by Presiding Officers.
5. At the end of polling, ensure the integrity of ballot boxes, presiding officer journals, certified lists of voters, and other election documents used in polling, and transport the same for scrutiny at the designated count centers.

C. Scrutiny and Count

1. Appoint the place for scrutiny and count and officers to assist in scrutiny and counting.
2. Supervise and conduct the scrutiny and count process in the assigned Electorate.
3. Verify and sign the requisite scrutiny and count forms and deliver the same to the Electoral Commission.
4. At the end of scrutiny and count process, with the express concurrence of the Electoral Commission, declare the result of the election and ensure the winning candidate signs the writ.
5. Return the signed writ to the Electoral Commissioner.

II. LIMITATIONS TO THE POWERS OF RETURNING OFFICERS

The Electoral Commission specifically prohibits the Returning Officers from exercising the following powers and functions.

Returning Officers shall not enter into any financial contract or commitment for goods and/or services in the name of the PNGEC, without the express written permission of the Electoral Commission or his duly designated representative.

Appointment of Returning Officers—continued

Furthermore, the Returning Officers shall not:

- A. Deviate from the procedures specified by the Constitution, Electoral Law, Electoral Regulations, and directives from the Electoral Commission;
- B. Reject any nomination based on formal defect or error, if they are satisfied that the provisions of the Constitution, Electoral Law, and Electoral Regulations have been substantially complied with;
- C. Accept the nomination of any person who submitted his or her nomination after the end of the nomination period as specified in the Electoral Law;
- D. Change the polling date unless so directed by the Electoral Commissioner;
- E. Set aside any ward ballot boxes for dispute during the conduct of the scrutiny and count process within the designated Electorate counting center unless a candidate or scrutineer lodges a written objection with a statutory declaration of the facts for review by the Electoral Commission in line with the applicable laws and regulations; and
- F. Declare a winning candidate without the written concurrence of the Electoral Commissioner or his appointed delegate.

III. RETENTION OF POWERS AND FUNCTIONS

The Electoral Commission retains the sole power to reject an intending candidate's nomination, based on evidence of that person's disqualification under the applicable laws.

Furthermore, the Electoral Commission retains the power to declare a winning Electorate candidate upon the conclusion of the scrutiny and count process based upon the report by the Returning Officer.

The Electoral Commission reserves the right to revise or expand the delegation and/or retention of the powers and functions noted above with due notice under the applicable laws.

IV. APPOINTMENT OF PROVINCIAL RETURNING OFFICERS**SCHEDULE 1**

The following schedule contains the appointment of Returning Officers for provincial electorates in line with Section 19 (Returning Officer) of the Electoral Law.

Column 1 Returning Officer	Column 2 Electorate
Peter Malaifeope	Central
Poevare Tore	Gulf
Ivan Manasi Maraka	Milne Bay
Kila Ralai	National Capital District
Daisy Hombagani	Northern
Max Paul	Western
Thaddeus Ulapapik	East Sepik
Sponsa Navi	Madang
Simon Soheke	Morobe
David Wakias	West Sepik
Livingstone Mangero	Eastern Highlands
Tom Sine	Chimbu

Appointment of Returning Officers—*continued*Schedule 1—*continued*

Column 1 Returning Officer	Column 2 Electorate
Pumar Nuka	Jiwaka
Joseph Mangbil	Western Highlands
Alwynn Jimmy	Southern Highlands
Anton Iamau	Enga
John Tipa	Hela
Emily Kelton	West New Britain
Joab Voivoi	East New Britain
Tony Balema	Manus
Justin Pantumari	Autonomous Region of Bougainville
Benjamin Kliawi	New Ireland

V. APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICERS

SCHEDULE 2

The following schedule contains the appointment of Returning Officers for open electorates in line with Section 19 (Returning Officer) of the Electoral Law.

Column 1 Returning Officer	Column 2 Electorate
CENTRAL	
Colin Lama	Abau
Theodore Maia	Goilala
Leo Ameua	Hiri-Koiari
Henry Oa	Kairuku
Murray Konido	Rigo
GULF	
Marola Meamafu	Kerema
Aua Imura	Kikori
MILNE BAY	
Michael Kape	Alotau
Iba Wanosi Luke	Esa'ala
John Ephraim	Kiriwina-Goodenough
Michael Weta	Samarai-Murua
NATIONAL CAPITAL DISTRICT	
Billy George	Moresby North-East
Vincent Manukayasi	Moresby North-West
Tau Toea	Moresby South
NORTHERN	
Ebamo Uduru	Ijivitari
Paul Kamane	Popondetta
Alex Uranian	Sohe

Appointment of Returning Officers—*continued*Schedule 2—*continued*

Column 1 Returning Officer	Column 2 Electorate
WESTERN	
Kobas Kemoa	Delta Fly
Dilas Muli	Middle Fly
George Nanden Papin	North Fly
Goneyang Yokowor	South Fly
EAST SEPIK	
Pius Numbotai	Ambunti-Dreikikir
John Kambak	Angoram
Vincent Kaugen	Maprik
Vincent Kavi	Wewak
Freddy Pinga	Wosera-Gawi
Francis Kambaka	Yangoru-Saussia
MADANG	
Cyril Retaw	Bogia
Joe Sakipa	Madang
Sucklin Gi	Middle Ramu
Peter Omangen	Rai Coast
Abraham Gene	Sumkar
Terence Baiyo	Usino-Bundi
MOROBE	
Raune Jombert	Bulolo
Esia Batu	Finschaffien
Daniel Wasinak	Huon Gulf
Keteng Ondop	Kabwum
Kusak Meruk	Lae
Willie Pilai lo	Markham
Nande Awape	Menyamyama
Bamun Bange	Nawaeb
Lanslot Kamake	Tewai/Siassi
Fidelis Harrisol	Wau/Waria
WEST SEPIK	
John Awas	Aitape-Lumi
Fernando Yala	Nuku
Nelson Nime	Telefomin
Rodney Kane	Vanimo-Green River
AUTONOMOUS REGION OF BOUGAINVILLE	
Garry Lah Kenehe	North Bougainville
Wendel Tiotorau	Central Bougainville
Chris Toke	South Bougainville
EAST NEW BRITAIN	
John Wartovo	Gazelle
Darius Kunai	Kokopo
John Liskia	Pomio
Babel Umri	Rabaul

Appointment of Returning Officers—*continued*Schedule 2—*continued*

Column 1 Returning Officer	Column 2 Electorate
MANUS	
Theresa Yohang	Manus
NEW IRELAND	
Sylvester Bariu	Kavieng
Tifi Taylor	Namatanai
WEST NEW BRITAIN	
Peter Manasaplo	Kandrian Gloucester
Roland Paponurea	Nakanai
Martin Linge	Talasea
CHIMBU	
Duale Waula	Chuave
Peter Are	Gumine
Ben William	Kerowagi
Michael Palma Gand	Kundiawa/Gembogl
Andrew Awi	Nomane Karimui
Siwi Kuman	Sinasina Yongomugi
EASTERN HIGHLANDS	
John Kopi	Daulo
Bafic Rosawe	Goroka
Waity Eseyamo	Henganofi
Lynette Umpao	Kainantu
Petrus Awi	Lufa
Kevin Kasia	Obura Wonenara
Gima Taigi	Okapa
Dickson Penai	Unggai Bena
ENGA	
Henry Apakali	Kandep
Beto Pokale	Kompiani/Ambum
Waipu Puli	Lagaip
Daniel Aremo	Porgera/Paiela
Ignaz Nembo	Wabag
Kevin Yati	Wapendamanda
HELA	
Simon Olaiya	Margarima
Timothy Kaloma	Komo Hulia
Joseph Kaupa	Koroba Kopiago
Willie Kara	Tari Pori
JIWAKA	
Steven Tepra	Jimi
Jack Waugla	North Waghi
Kemin Komuni	Anglimp/South Waghi

Appointment of Returning Officers—continued**Schedule 2—continued**

Column 1 Returning Officer	Column 2 Electorate
SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS	
Ronald Rambu	Ialibu Pangia
Kelma Pora	Imbonggu
Albert Wens	Kagua Erave
Sebastian Kisambo	Mendi Minuhu
Felix Kundip	Nipa Kutubu
WESTERN HIGHLANDS	
Jameson Nukundi	Dei
Willie Ropa	Hagen Central
James Paraka	Mul Baiyer
Philip Kansol	Tamul/Nebilyer

Dated this 5th day of May, 2022.

S. SINAI, ML,
Electoral Commissioner.