



Section 75 lot 76, Frangipani Street, Hohola
 P.O. Box 5348
BOROKO, National Capital District
 Papua New Guinea
 Tel: (675) 303 1560/7005 9348
 Email: ssinai@pngec.gov.pg
 Website: www.pngec.gov.pg

OFFICE OF ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER

26th May 2022

PRESS STATEMENT

The Electoral Commission by way of publication in the National Gazette on 06 May 2022 appointed Mr Willie Ropa as the Returning Officer for the Hagen Open Electorate. However, there was another Gazette with the same description that had Mr. Amos Noifa's name as the Returning Officer. The member for Hagen Open Hon. William Duma on the basis of these two different appointments filed Court proceeding in the National Court where he sought for Mr. Amos Noifa to be declared by the Court as the Returning Officer for Mt. Hagen Open Electorate.

On 12 May 2022, the National Court granted an application by Hon. William Duma where interim restraining orders were made restraining myself and Mr. Willie Ropa from interfering with Mr. Amos Noifa in the performance of his functions as the Returning Officer for Mt. Hagen Open Electorate.

I have filed an appeal against the grant of the restraining orders in the Supreme Court. Pending determination of the appeal, I filed an application to stay the restraining Orders granted by the National Court and I would like to advise the public, intending candidates and stakeholders in Mt. Hagen that this morning at around 9:00 am, the Supreme Court granted the stay application and made an order staying the restraining orders of 12 May 2022 granted by the National Court – which in effect authorized Mr Amos Noifa to act as the Returning Officer for the Mt. Hagen Electorate. A consequential order was also made for Mr. Noifa to return all the nominations already made to him, to the duly appointed Returning Officer, Willie Ropa before 4:00 pm this afternoon.

For clarification to the general public, the issue of who is the legally appointed Returning Officer for the Hagen Open Electorate still remains in Court. However, in the interim and in the interest of justice, the Supreme Court has stayed the National Court orders and the proceeding, the net effect of which is that Mr Willie Ropa remains the duly appointed returning officer for Hagen Open Electorate, as per his appointment. Amos Noifa has also been instructed to return all nominations to Mr. Willie Ropa, as directed by the Court.

I appeal to the people of Western Highlands and Mt. Hagen to remain calm respect the processes in place as my office is doing its best to ensure that the elections for the Mt. Hagen Open are conducted openly, freely and fairly.


SIMON SINAI, ML
ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER



Manager Elections P.O. Box 794 MT. HAGEN Western Highlands Phone: 542 2349	Manager Elections P.O. Box 73 MENDI Southern Highlands Phone: 549 1378	Manager Elections P.O. Box 109 WABAG Enga Province Phone: 547 1144	Manager Elections P.O. Box 1031 GOROKA Eastern Highlands Phone: 532 2349	Manager Elections P.O. Box 446 KUNDIAWA Chimbu Province Phone: 535 1204	Manager Elections P.O. Box 424 MADANG Eastern Highlands Phone: 422 2349	Manager Elections P.O. Box 224 LAE Eastern Highlands Phone: 422 2349	Manager Elections P.O. Box 672 WEWAK East Sepik Province Phone: 456 2090	Manager Elections P.O. Box 355 VANIMO West Sepik Province Phone: 457 1187
Manager Elections P.O. Box 811 RABAUL East New Britain Phone: 982 8357	Manager Elections P.O. Box 488 KIMBE West New Britain Phone: 983 5484	Manager Elections P.O. Box 881 ALOTAU Milne Bay Province Phone: 641 0355	Manager Elections P.O. Box 226 LORENGAU Manus Province Phone: 970 9494	Manager Elections P.O. Box 295 KAVIENG New Ireland Province Phone: 984 2317	Manager Elections P.O. Box 62 KEREMA Gulf Province Phone: 684 1074	Manager Elections P.O. Box 86 LAE Western Province Phone: 328 1037	Manager Elections P.O. Box 136 POPONDETTA Northern Province Phone: 629 7167	Manager Elections P.O. Box 5348 BOROKO Central Province Phone: 321 2053