

Country: Papua New Guinea

Theme: Role of Information and Communication Technology for Voter Education & Feedback

Title of The Best Practice / Case Study: Voter education through the use of technology

Area of Coverage: 6,186 Wards in 290 Rural LLGs & 29 Urban LLGs altogether in 319 LLGs in 89 Districts of all the 22 Provinces in Papua New Guinea

Period of implementation: 2016 - 2017

Background: The Papua New Guinea Electoral Commission's (PNGEC) ICT department's role in voter education needs to be strengthened in order to provide and promote technological solutions for the PNGEC. Special attention shall be given to provide all provincial managers and assistant provincial managers the necessary equipment so that it can receive voter feedback and analysis, the accuracy of the electoral roll, communication and transmission of results, among others, are properly addressed.

Brief Description of Best Practice: PNGECs outreach on voter education and civic awareness is driven through the media, materials development and advocacy through civil society. Media communication include a mix of advertisements, weekly information programs, television commercials, radio jingles, feature articles and special videos. Material development includes related posters on voter enrolment, good governance, cross-cutting issues, LPV system of voting, training materials for civil society advocacy groups and merchandise (t-shirts, caps etc.) PNGEC recently launched its website in June 2016 and mobile application where people can be able to lookup their names online to Confirm their enrolment ,Request for enrolment when name cannot be found, Request for amendments when changes needs to be made Since the launching, so far up to September this year more than 9,000 people have visited our website for information. Electoral Roll update including new enrolments at all Provinces is expected to commence in September, 2016 in preparation for the 2017 National General Elections. So the Awareness Strategy will mainly be focused on this activity. Aims and Messages. The Electoral Commission is conducting an enrolment exercise to update the Electoral Roll to ensure that all eligible electors have the opportunity to enrol to vote for the 2017 elections. Advise options available to people who are not present when the Enrolment Team calls or who turn 18 subsequently. Qualifications for enrolment (i.e. 18, lived in area etc.) How we are going to do it. When we are going to do it. To encourage people 18 years and over to enrol. Target audience. All electors currently on the roll. Eligible electors who are not on the roll, including those who have attained voting age since the last election.

Problems: Ineligible people wanting to get on the roll e.g. 17 year old, Geography, Literacy, Movement of people to new locations because of disaster or tribal fights. Activities require for Technology support Following are activities that we will be doing that require the use or

support of technology: Civic Education & Voter Awareness Materials (Printing), Posters (A2), Posters (A3), Brochures (3fold), Inserts (flyers, lift-outs etc.), Flipcharts, Merchandize (t-shirts), Polo Shirts - Round Neck, Reprint of CSO Training Handbook, Review/Reprint of PNG Communication, Strategy, Resource Center Materials, Library books, catalogs, magazines etc. Racks, Media Center Equipment, Computers, Video Camera, Video editing software, Adobe illustrator, Photography equipment, Tape recorder, Radio mixing software, Printer, UPS, Large camera memory card, Tripod, Computer monitors, Commodities, printing technical books, Provincial Offices Support, Laptops for Election Managers and Assistant Election Managers, UPS for provincial offices, Printers/Scanners for provincial offices-Support for Results, Tablets for results recording and transmission.

Challenges : In preparation of the 2017 National and LLG elections PNGEC is confronted with a major challenge to promote its awareness activities mostly due to limited or lack of funding strategies. PNGEC has developed a proposal that aims to request direct assistance from interested donors or agencies to provide support to the PNGEC in delivering its voter education and civic awareness activities across the country as well as technological equipment to equip all twenty-two provincial offices and devices that will be required during results recording and transmission. With less than eight months remaining before the issue of writs for the 2017 General Elections, PNGEC is pressed for time and resources

Outcome: Since the website launching, there has been an increase in number of callers seeking information to have their names on the roll as well as emails coming through to the info@pngec.gov.pg for information on voter registration and others. Also the SMS Blast from Digicel reached 2.5 Million subscribers nationwide prompting voters to call in to seek information