

PRESS RELEASE

CPNG LAUNCHES ELECTORAL EDUCATION AND AWARENESS PROGRAM FOR THE 2022 NATIONAL GENERAL ELECTIONS

The Issue of Writs for the 2022 National General Elections is 72 days away from today (February 15). We, therefore, would like to acknowledge the Marape Basil Government through the mandate of the PNG Electoral Commission for ensuring resources and funding are provided for this very critical democratic process in the country. It is a time too, where our people are given the opportunity and power to decide on their future for the next five years.

Caritas PNG believes that women and youths can only vote for good representatives if they know their rights and responsibilities, the value of their votes and are also given the opportunity to vote without fear or favor. This is possible if we all rally behind the women and youth of this nation to make their mark on the ballot papers, free from all forms of violence and intimidation.

Caritas PNG hopes to see more youth participate in this National General Elections as statistics indicate that youth participation in the last Elections was very poor. This same concern was expressed by Archbishop Anton Bal, the President of the Catholic Bishops Conference Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, in a media statement last December.

With support from a generous donor and in partnership with the PNG Electoral Commission, Caritas PNG aims to empower the eligible voters of this nation to make the right decisions when casting their votes. Some materials have been developed to achieve this objective and they are: posters targeting women, youth and a theme poster showing the cause and effect of a good and bad voting; an election guide booklet; and a jingle.

The posters and booklets have translations in Pidgin and Motu and will be delivered nationwide particularly to the remote areas through Caritas PNG's extensive network, involving its Diocesan Caritas Coordinators and volunteers.

Tertiary students from the University of Papua New Guinea, Divine Word University, University of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Goroka and the University of Technology will also be engaged in disseminating vital information.

Overall, Caritas PNG is targeting a population of 3 million Papua New Guineans through community visits, radio and TV messaging, social media and SMS blasts.

Caritas PNG will also be working in partnership with law enforcement officials and leaders from the public service and tribal leaders in the country to promote justice and peace during the Elections.

Endorsed by:



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