As an observer in PNG before, during and after the polling period, substantial information on the
general conduct of the election was also gathered from various sources, including the media,
candidates and the general public. However, this report concentrates on behaviour observed at and
around polling stations. The following comments are based on the observation of 25 polling stations
from Saturday 23rd June through to Monday 2nd July, in New Ireland and Morobe provinces; as well
as the counting of votes in Port Moresby for NCD and Central Province. Notes on observations at
individual polling and counting stations are at Appendix A.

The East-West Center mission
One of the main positives of the EWC mission was that it brought together a broad range of
expertise, including anthropological, historical, and electoral. This mix meant that when teams
visited polling stations, we were concentrating on different facets of the process. This should
provide a range of observations that other missions – that concentrate on electoral processes alone
– will not have.

To maximise the value of the EOM, it is important that the report is provided to the PNG
Government and Electoral Commission in the next few months, so that it can be considered along
with other EOM reports.

State of the electoral roll
Many potential voters were turned away at polling stations, as they were not on the roll, or their
names could not be located on the roll. By all accounts, this was a common problem across the
country. In two accurately recorded instances, 25 to 43 per cent of potential voters were turned
away (95 of 373 at Kavieng Town Hall; 108 of 250 at Old Electoral Office, Kavieng). At other times it
was more difficult to ascertain the level of rejections, but from discussions with polling officials and
domestic observers (who were at stations for longer periods), the general level of rejections ranged
from five to 30 per cent. Rejections were higher in town areas, where there was a greater
breakdown of localities (names are listed alphabetically under each locality). This may suggest that
people who were turned away may actually be on the roll, but registered at another location (such
as a home village). There was no capacity for officials to check the roll outside of the hardcopy rolls
they possessed for their local polling area.

Recommendations
1. The PNGEC should consider a form of personal ID that can be used for verifying a person’s entitlement to vote. This may include a tear-off stub that the voter can give to the polling official in return for receiving ballot papers.

2. If an ID system is not implemented, the polling officials should at least have access to a roll for the entire electorate, listed alphabetically, and followed by a person’s locality. This would enable people registered in the electorate to vote, irrespective of where in the electorate they turn up to vote. Polling officials should be supplied with sufficient ballot papers to allow electors from outside the local area, but within the Open electorate, to vote.

3. At future elections, one polling official be dedicated to recording the names of potential voters who have been turned away for not being on the roll. That official to have an electronic copy of the PNG electoral roll to check whether the person is recorded elsewhere, and have registration forms so that people can enrol – and vote – on the day.

4. Election observer missions should send observers during the voter registration period, so that a greater understanding can be gained of the entire voting process, and to be able to make better informed, and detailed, recommendations on improving the state of the roll.

Is There a Need to Have an Electoral Roll?
A question has been posed on the ACE Electoral Knowledge website, asking whether Papua New Guinea actually needs an electoral roll, or whether it would be easier to simply have people turn up on the day, and vote. The question, posed by Wellington academic Jon Fraenkel, is in response to the recurring problems with the accuracy and completeness of the roll that PNG experiences at each election.

Such a process would require confidence in the voter marking method (currently using indelible ink). Also, if the current single-member electorate system were maintained, an incentive would exist for candidates to bus in voters from outside the electorate. It has been suggested that the ‘no roll’ could possibly work if PNG moved to a multi-member or party proportional system, but until PNG developed a stronger and more stable party system.

Queuing or Calling
In Kavieng Open, potential voters would queue and then provide their name to the polling clerk who would scan the various lists to locate the name. When the name could not be found, the person’s name would be recorded (at most, but not all stations), and the person would be sent away. This would invariably lead to some long delays, and polling booths would often stand empty, while the clerks were checking the rolls for one or two people, and others were waiting patiently in the queue.

In Namatanai Open and Markham Open however, polling clerks (sometimes with the assistance of a local village elder) would call out the roll to the waiting villagers, who would then come forward, have their name crossed off, and proceed to vote. This expedited the voting process, as only those on the roll were part of the process. This made it impossible to ascertain accurately the numbers of
people not on the roll, and many would wander away after their name was not called. It can be expected that several of these people would have been entitled to vote if a greater effort was made to find their name on other parts of the roll for that electorate (and if officials had access to the entire Open seat roll).

**Recommendation**

5. Clarify the correct procedure for checking the roll – as both methods – queuing or calling – have the potential to disenfranchise citizens. A more accurate and accessible roll would help to alleviate this, but until a more comprehensive roll is achieved, it is important to ensure that as many people as possible are captured by the election process, either to vote, or to become registered to vote.

**Illegal Campaigning**

New Ireland is generally regarded as one of the quieter and more peaceful provinces in terms of election-related offences and violence. However, a few instances of illegal (or possibly illegal) campaigning in New Ireland were directly observed, and/or verified by Commander O’Ena Efeke, the Police Operational Commander for New Ireland. These occurrences were all related to the campaigns of the People’s Progress Party, it’s leader Sir Julius Chan (MP for New Ireland Province; Byron Chan, MP for Namatanai Open; and Ben Micah, PPP candidate for Kavieng Open).

i. Luburua Village gathering – On Tuesday 26th June, the observer team passed Luburua village, and seeing a large gathering, stopped to inquire. We were informed that they were waiting for a visit from the Governor, Sir Julius Chan MP. We were also told by a village leader that it wasn’t a campaign event, but simply a gathering for the villagers to meet the Governor. Tables of food and drink were laid out in preparation. This was two days before polling occurred in Luburua.

We later heard, and had verified by the Police Commander, that the Commander visited the gathering and instructed Sir Julius and Byron Chan to leave, as they were potentially in breach of the campaigning laws.

ii. Pension cheque distribution – Elderly and invalid New Irelanders receive a 1K per day pension, paid by cheque in quarterly instalments, with beneficiaries often attending in person to collect their cheques. Quarterly payments were due to be paid in Kavieng and Namatanai in the days prior to polling commencing. These payments are generally seen as being provided by the Governor and provincial government. It could not be verified whether the payments were intentionally delayed or timed to coincide with the election. However, the Police Commander intervened following complaints from other candidates, and stated that the payments could at least be perceived as illegal campaigning. He negotiated for payments to be stopped in Namatanai, and the cheques to be held by the provincial administration until after the election.
iii. An East West observer team visiting an island polling station off Kavieng were told by villagers that the food being cooked and distributed for everyone on polling day had been provided by Sir Julius Chan.

iv. At Rawal polling station, a supporter tent was set up about 20 metres from the polling station. PPP supporters were providing drinks to voters, and voters would often return to the shelter after voting. The main organiser was keenly aware of the observer team’s presence, and it was difficult to ascertain if voters were receiving anything more than drink.

I spoke with the Assistant Returning Officer for Kavieng Open, who was at the polling station, and he verified that the shelter was staffed by Ben Micah/PPP supporters. When asked whether this was illegal, he confirmed it was, but with a resigned air, said ‘what can you do.’ – obviously not a lot!

v. At the Old Electoral Office polling station in Kavieng Town, a Ben Micah/PPP scrutineer was positioned within the station area, about two metres from the ballot box. The official scrutineer area was on the opposite side of the polling station. This scrutineer was recording the names of people turned away for not voting, and said he was doing this for the polling officials. This is probably the case, as there were no obvious concerns from the Presiding Officer or other scrutineers. However, this is totally inappropriate, and even if the list of names were later given to the Presiding Officer, gave the scrutineer valuable information that was not available to other scrutineers. That the scrutineer was from the PPP is indicative of the dominant Chan influence in New Ireland.

**Recommendation**

6. As with all other areas of Papua New Guinea, greater resources, powers and education are required to change the culture of corrupt and illegal election campaigning, particularly vote-buying (in cash and/or kind).

**Administration of PNGEC and Security Forces**

Polling in Namatanai Open delayed from Saturday 23rd to Monday 25th, due to the late payment of allowances to police officers. They refused to escort the ballot boxes and polling teams until the allowances were paid, which happened on the afternoon of Friday 22nd. This was sufficient for polling in Kavieng Open to commence on time, but resulted in a delay in the more remote Namatanai Open. By media reports, the non- or late payment of police and polling officials was a regular occurrence across the country. Problems related to this, such as the withdrawal of cash from banks, should have been anticipated and better planned for.

**Candidate Attitudes to Election Administration**

Towards the end of polling, the focus naturally shifts to the count, and a good deal of agitation was observed from some Lae Open candidates about delays and possible fraudulent behaviour by PNGEC officials. The media was also reporting similar conduct in other parts of the country. Given corrupt practices and illegal campaigning that regularly occurs in PNG elections, these concerns have a historical basis, but it is difficult to verify their credibility. In Lae, a Returning Officer was bashed on
the Sunday night the EOM was there, apparently by supporters of a particular candidate. He was hospitalised in intensive care. A group of Lae Open candidates also presented a petition to the Election Manager, with a list of demands including shifting the counting to an outdoor area, for transparency. In the NCD, Governor Powes Parkop took court action against the PNGEC to expedite the start of counting, which had been progressively delayed.

Much of this agitation is related to nervousness over transport and security of ballot boxes in the period between the end of polling, and the commencement of counting. In the past, this is typically the period when ballot boxes are stolen, and ballot papers may mysteriously appear in, or disappear from boxes. There is a degree of suspicion about the ability of the PNGEC and its officers to act professionally.

**Recommendations**

7. A greater education program is required, targeted at candidates and their scrutineers, to better explain voting and counting processes, and to clarify what the transport and security arrangements of election materials will be during the election period.

8. Greater resources need to be provided by government to ensure the rapid movement and security of election materials during the voting and counting periods.

9. In the second week of the voting period, less of the advertising budget should be used on polling processes (as most voting has already occurred), and the funds be directed to advertising the next steps of the process – security and counting.

**Layout of Polling Stations**

The layout of all the observed polling stations allowed for voters to mark their ballot papers in secret, and ease of traffic flow. There were two to five separate booths for voters. In stations with the larger number of booths, these were regularly unused due to hold-ups in checking people’s names against the roll. Name-checking was the most time-consuming aspect of the polling process (except for those stations where the roll was called), and if problems with the roll are anticipated in the future (as is likely), additional resources should be assigned to this task. Booths were positioned so that scrutineers and the public could not readily see voters marking their ballot papers.

**Behaviour of Polling Officials and Security Officers**

Generally, PNGEC officials, police and defence force officers displayed a diligent approach to conducting polling in a free and fair way. One concern was the behaviour of some officials in providing assistance to voters who needed help (usually due to illiteracy or infirmity). Usually assistance would be provided by a PNGEC official, or by a relative or friend, with a PNGEC official overseeing this. In some cases, police would oversee this assistance, and in a most disturbing case, one police officer would look over the polling booth to watch each voter record their vote (irrespective of whether they needed assistance or not). Although there did not appear to be any malicious intent – and the officer may have simply wanted to ensure that voters cast a formal vote – this was inappropriate behaviour.
There was a good police presence at all polling stations except in the Morobe station, where there was a defence force presence nearby. PNGEC officials and police officers worked well together in their respective roles.

**Recommendation**

10. The PNGEC should provide greater education of polling officials and security officers on the correct procedures for assisting voters when required. The principle of casting a secret vote should be reinforced.

**Opening Hours for Polling Stations**

Typically, polling stations did not open on time. On some occasions, the Presiding Officer would wait until a crowd had gathered before giving an opening speech and an explanation of the rules. On other occasions, the lateness was a result of late deployment. Stations are required to remain open until 6pm, but at Mutzing Station (Markham Open, Morobe), the station closed at just after 2pm, after the roll had been called four times. An intending voter was observed coming up to officials around 2.15pm, to be told that he had missed his chance to vote.

At Langenia (Namatanai Open), the polling team was calling the roll, and was only half-way through the roll at 6pm. Lights were set up, and voting was continuing at 6.30pm, when the observer team left. It was estimated that voting would continue for at least another hour. Although this was against the election rules, the polling team should be applauded for their flexibility, which enabled citizens, who would otherwise have been disenfranchised, to exercise their voting entitlement.

At several locations (especially where the station was inside a school room or other building), it was extremely dark from 5.30 to 6.00pm. However, this did not seem to overly concern officials or voters.

**Separation of Open and Provincial Voting Booths**

Typically, voters will take both ballot papers, and go to a booth where both candidate posters are displayed. In Namatanai Open however, only one candidate poster (Open or Provincial) was displayed in each booth. Voters would go to one booth, record their vote, and then move to the next booth to record their other vote, before placing both ballot papers in the ballot box. At one station, the Presiding Officer would only provide one ballot paper – the voter would vote, place the paper in the box, and then return to the Presiding Officer to receive the second paper.

The latter process is overly cumbersome, but in regard to the former process, it was explained that this was how Presiding Officers were trained to conduct polling. It was explained that the use of separate polling booths was designed to ease confusion. Initial training in New Ireland was conducted for the Returning Officer, Assistant Returning Officers, and a Presiding Officer, from each Open seat. These three officials then provided training to all the Presiding Officers for their own seat. It is not clear where or by whom the different process for Namatanai Open was determined,
and Returning Officers may have the delegated authority to change the process for their own electorate.

The Counting Process
In Port Moresby there was some confusion about the processes, especially in regard to disputed ballot boxes. At the Moresby North-West Open centre, the Returning Officer burnt a ballot box, apparently under pressure from scrutineers. This Returning Officer was subsequently stood down by the Electoral Commissioner, which was the correct decision.

Recommendation
11. The PNGEC should ensure that all scrutineers are provided with a scrutineer’s handbook, detailing the counting process, their rights and responsibilities in regard to challenging decisions by the Returning Officer or Assistant Returning Officer.

12. PNGEC officials, while respecting the need to inform scrutineers of the counting process, should assert their authority, and not allow scrutineer concerns from overly delaying the counting process.

Informal Votes
A significant cause of informal voting appears to be confusion between Open and Provincial ballot papers.

Open and provincial candidates are given a number, starting from 10: so that voters aren’t confused by candidates being numbered 1, 2 and 3. The risk of informal voting arises because voters may mix the numbers between open and provincial seats. For example, in the National Capital District provincial seat there were 27 candidates, numbered 10 to 36. In the Moresby North-East Open (which is within NCD) there were 48 candidates, numbered 10 to 57.

During the count for NCD Provincial it was observed that one ballot paper was marked 39, 17, 40. This was an informal vote as there were no candidates numbered 39 or 40 in the NCD Provincial election. It is most likely the voter intended voting 39, 17, 40 for the Moresby N-E election, but mixed up the ballot papers.

It is possible that, on their Moresby North-East ballot paper, this voter may have marked three numbers between 10 and 36, thinking this was their NCD Provincial vote. Although this ballot would be formal, as the numbers are within the range for the Open seat, the vote doesn’t reflect the voter’s intended choice.

Only a small sample of informal papers were directly observed – of which 8 of 15 papers were informal due to the voter writing the names of candidates from the corresponding seat (Open for Provincial, or vice versa) – additional anecdotal evidence from counting officials suggests that this is a significant issue.
Recommendation
13. Analyse informal voting rates in New Ireland results, Comparing Namatanai Open figures (where separate booths were used for Namatanai Open and New Ireland Provincial ballots) with Kavieng Open results.

14. Conduct a broader analysis of informal ballot papers.

15. Make the colouring of candidate posters more distinct – for example, by making the background colour red or blue, rather than the current coloured strip across the top of the poster.

Ballot Boxes
There were a few occurrences observed of broken seals on ballot boxes. These appear to have occurred innocently, through handling and in transit – for example, it was reported by a Presiding Officer that a seal had broken between being loaded at the police station, and arriving at the polling station. This was supported by scrutineers, who also believed that the break occurred by movement in the back of the vehicle.

At the Moresby North-West counting station, two ballot boxes were observed with broken seals when unloaded from the shipping container they were stored in. Such breakages can inflame suspicion of corrupt practices, and delays the voting and counting processes.

The shift from metal to plastic ballot boxes otherwise appeared to work well. They were easier to transport and handle, and the translucent nature of the plastic showed the presence of ballot papers. Ballot papers could occasionally be read when pressed against the plastic by the weight of other papers, and when voters had not correctly folded the papers before casting their vote.

Recommendation
16. Obtain a stronger system of securing ballot boxes for future elections.

Counting Centres
Counting was observed at two centres in Port Moresby. In both cases, security arrangements were excellent, with a high police presence, secure counting rooms, and orderly control of scrutineers and counting officials. Counting officials, scrutineers, and security officers all appeared to be well aware and cognisant of their respective roles. However, it should also be noted that NCD counting centres would be expected to be able to draw upon a generally higher level of educated people, including public servants and teachers.

Nomination Fees
Although not an issue that is primarily related to conduct at polling stations, it is worthwhile to consider whether an increase in the nomination fee would assist the conduct of elections, with two main benefits:
• An increase may reduce the total number of candidates (the average number of candidates per seat was 31 in 2012), making it easier for voters to make an informed choice, and lessening confusion. To have the required impact though, the increase would need to be significant – for example, from the current 1,000K, up to about 5,000-10,000K, and this may unfairly disadvantage those without substantial financial resources.

• The money received from an increase in the nomination fee, for example from 1,000K to 2,000K, could be used in part to fund a hard- or soft-copy of the electoral roll for each candidate. This would place all candidates on an equal footing, and may have a minor impact on reducing the total number of candidates.

HIV/AIDS Awareness
In New Ireland there was a concerted program of distributing male and female condoms at polling stations. Typically a handful would be left on the polling clerk’s desk, so that voters could take some when being processed. In addition, awareness posters were also displayed at polling stations. These initiatives, part of an AusAID project, appeared to be positively received, and worthwhile for raising awareness. The take-up rate appeared to be low, and the suitability of providing female condoms in such a public way (with the possible repercussions for women taking up the offer), may have limited value, but on an awareness level, the program seemed to be successful.

An AusAID officer (Margaret) who was monitoring the implementation of this project, told me at a Kavieng station that the roll-out was not even across the country. Indeed at the Mutzing Station polling station in Morobe, there were no condoms or awareness posters. I was told there by a researcher from the Melanesian Institute that if any attempt had been made to distribute condoms, the local church group, Body of Christ, would have shut down the operation.
## Observer Notes – Norm Kelly

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seat</th>
<th>Polling Station</th>
<th>Station Observed</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday 22(^{nd}) June</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>In transit, Port Moresby to Kavieng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday 23(^{rd}) June</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kavieng Open</td>
<td>Sivasat Village</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8.00am – 1.00pm</td>
<td>Police (2) present at 8.00am, PNGEC team arrived at 8.30am and proceeded to set up, opposite Kavieng Hospital. Informed by a scrutineer that this was the wrong location, so relocated to the correct location a couple of kilometres away. Polling commenced about 10.30am. About 33 voters per hour. An open air site, and voting halted due to a rain shower.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kavieng Open</td>
<td>Lamusmus</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5.00pm – 5.30pm</td>
<td>278 voters through during the day, with only 12 (5 man, 7 meri) turned away for not being on the roll. Was a need to relocate due to rain earlier in the day. Polling closed at 5.30pm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday 25(^{th}) June</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Namatanai Open</td>
<td>Liedan Village</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9.20am – 10.30am</td>
<td>On our arrival, Presiding Officer was explaining the rules to the gathered crowd (about 80 people). Station declared open at 9.50am, and voting commenced about 10am. At this station, the PO would provide only 1 ballot paper, which the voter had to fill out and cast, before receiving their other ballot paper. This made for a slow process. 9 votes processed in first 20 minutes. The roll was called in alphabetical order.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Namatanai Open</td>
<td>Lambuso</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>11.00am – 12.30pm</td>
<td>Steady rain, PNGEC tables and polling booths had tarp covers, voters peacefully queued in the rain. About 50 processed in 90 minutes (c. 34 per hour).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Namatanai Open</td>
<td>Kanabu</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1.00pm – 2.30pm</td>
<td>Police officer too heavily involved in checking how people were voting – standing next to booth and leaning over to watch how each person recording their vote. Did not appear to be any malicious intent, but was inappropriate. Apparently the team started late, about 10am. Was initially in the wrong location, so had to relocate. Commenced about midday.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Namatanai Open</td>
<td>Langenia</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5.45pm – 6.30pm</td>
<td>About 15 voters waiting to cast their vote, after being inked, but before receiving their ballot papers. Such a long line, especially in near darkness, could create an issue for the line not to be secure (such as others joining the line without being inked, as the PO did not appear to be checking inking when he was issuing the ballot papers). Did not appear to be abused though. Lights set up at 6pm as voting continued, due to only being half-way through calling the roll. Estimated that there would be at least another hour of voting after we left at 6.30pm. PO would issue only one paper, and voter would have to return to get second paper. Proceeding at a rate of about 40 voters per hour after the delay to instal lighting.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Tuesday 26th June**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Observation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kavieng</td>
<td>Lugagun (Mengop HS)</td>
<td>11.10am – 12.40pm</td>
<td>Started voting at 8.30am, about 75 voters through at 11.20am (about 27 per hour). Checking the roll clearly the slow point in the process, with at times all four booths empty for extended periods. Recording names of people not on roll. During one 40 minute period, 18 voted (including six assisted), seven rejected for not being on the roll, and one rejected for having already being crossed off, though had not been inked. May have been due to his father having already voted. Asked to return later to lodge a declaration vote. Two spoilt ballot papers to this time. Using Ballot Box 2, as BB 1 had a seal broken in transit. BB1 was then secured and returned to police station with police escort.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kavieng</td>
<td>Luburua</td>
<td>1.20pm</td>
<td>Visited village gathering, waiting for the arrival of Governor Sir Julius Chan. Informed by a senior villager that this was a gathering and not campaigning. Observer team left, but I was later informed by the Police Commander that he visited after complaints from other candidates, and asked Sir Julius to leave the gathering as it was campaigning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Namatanai</td>
<td>Lemakot</td>
<td>1.45pm – 2.20pm</td>
<td>Potential for people waiting to vote (after receiving ballot papers) could observe voters filling out their ballot papers, but this did not seem to be occurring. Separate queues for man and meri prior to name being checked on roll, apparently for cultural reasons, but they would then intermingle after receiving their ballot papers. Talked to PO, who said he was very happy with the training he had received. Polling teams had received two days training the previous week. 192 voters through at 2.10, hadn’t started until 9.30 due to a lack of a crowd (so about 45 per hour). PO kept police outside the station (said this was the correct procedure). One police officer inside, by the BB due to a PNGEC official on a break.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Namatanai</td>
<td>Put Put</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Team started about 8.15am, 291 voters through at 2.50pm, so at least 44 per hour. Only one voter walked up in 20 minutes there. Told by domestic observer that ‘plenty’ had been turned away.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kavieng</td>
<td>MSC Centre</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Quiet station. TI observer had counted 80n turned away for the day. 224 voters through at 3.30pm. Only nine through in the 30 minutes there. Couple of candidate supporter cars bringing in voters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kavieng</td>
<td>Rawal Community Centre</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Location had been shifted from the Rawal Primary School earlier in the day, apparently due to power issues. There was a long queue of about 100 people – the longest queue observed. Candidate Ben Micah’s (PPP) supporters had set up a shelter 25m from the station, distributing drinks, possibly other benefits, as voters would return to this shelter after voting. Tina engaged with the organisers of the shelter, but they generally acted secretively, and were highly aware of our presence, and our interest in what they were doing. I discussed this with the Assistant</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Returning Officer for Kavieng Open (Harold), who expressed his powerlessness to do anything about this breach, and stated it should be at least 200m away. TI observer said 81 people had been turned away for not being on the roll.

| Kavieng Open | Bagail  | 12 | 4.50pm – 5.20pm | About 30 people in line. Typical slow and steady booth, no-one turned away while present. PO mentioned that he was unable to use spare ballot papers from previous days – was only given enough ballot papers for those on the roll, plus five spares for spoilt papers. |

**Wednesday 27th June**

| Namatanai Open | Pire | 13 | 12.05pm – 12.50pm | PO Blaise Koltes – Did his training with Namatanai RO and ARO about six months ago (in Kavieng). He was selected from all Namatanai POs. Training held for Namatanai POs previous week in Namatanai – training over 2 days, Blaise helped RP and ARO, given his earlier training. He is a town planner, formerly a school teacher. 141 (64m/77w) through at 12.35pm. Team scheduled to poll at a different village this afternoon, but will stay at Pire all day, and move on tomorrow. Calling the roll, and using separate booths for Open and Provincial ballots. |

| Namatanai Open | Bulu | 14 | 2.45pm – 3.10pm | Calling the roll. Team had done another location that morning, operating here since about 2.30pm. 41 (15m/26w) through to 3.10pm. Three villagers helping to identify individuals when names were called. |

| Namatanai Open | Lasigi | 15 | 3.45pm | Although the schedule listed Lasigi for today, villagers advised us that polling had been conducted yesterday, and that the polling team was at a village up on the plateau today (Lasigi is a coastal village). |

| Namatanai Open | Amba | 16 | 4.10pm – 4.30pm | In Sentral Niu Ailan Rural LLG. Using a small classroom, with scrutineers and others crowded around outside, watching through open windows. Space for about eight scrutineers inside the classroom. 172 (89m/83w) through at 4.15pm. Calling the roll, and a reasonable crowd waiting patiently. |

| Kavieng Open | Madina | 17 | 5.05pm – 5.20pm | A quiet booth, with the main delay being finding names on the roll. Getting quite dark at 5.15pm. Voting started about 9am according to TI observer, with a lot being turned away this morning for not being on the roll. |

**Thursday 28th June**

<p>| Kavieng Open | Kavieng Town Hall | 18 | 8.30am – 10.30am | Polling team setting-up the station at 8.30am. By 9.30am there was a queue of about 40, standing in the rain, with station set up on the veranda of the town hall. At 9.45am, only 21 (9m/12w) through. About 15 scrutineers, several of whom were checking names of their copies of the roll. In a 40 minute period, 27 voters were processed, and another four turned away for not being on the roll. Two polling clerks checking the roll, making the process a lot quicker than some other stations where only one clerk was doing this task. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time Period</th>
<th>Observations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kavieng Open</td>
<td>11.10am – 11.35am</td>
<td>152 (72m/80w) through at 11.15am. Station opened about 8.10am, so processing about 50 per hour. Using four booths. About 16 scrutineers, mostly just keeping track of numbers and gender mix.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kavieng Open</td>
<td>12.00pm – 12.40pm</td>
<td>124 (62m/62w) through at 12.15pm. About 15 scrutineers. Informed here of what transpired two days earlier, when there was a gathering for Sir Julius Chan’s visit. Alerted to the police intervention that had occurred, which we later verified with the Police Commander.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kavieng Open</td>
<td>1.20pm – 1.50pm</td>
<td>About 120 through at 1.25pm. Told that polling team arrived at 8.00am, and that people started arriving around 8.15am. A quiet booth, with just the occasional voter coming through while we were observing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kavieng Open</td>
<td>2.00pm – 2.10pm</td>
<td>Station was not operating while observer team was present. They had temporarily packed up in anticipation of an approaching rain storm and strong winds. Therefore unable to get a sense of positioning and flow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kavieng Open</td>
<td>2.40pm – 6.00pm</td>
<td>About 25-30 on the queue at 3.00pm. Line was closed at 5.20pm (and it was getting quite dark), with remaining people then being processed. 310 (160m/150w) voters through for the day, so about 40 per hour. 59 turned away for not being on the roll. According to TI observer, 320 voted yesterday, with 39 being turned away. After line closed, scrutineers and police allowed to vote. Last vote lodged at 5.45pm. PO then read out serial numbers of spoilt papers – 4 in total. 95 turned away for the day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kavieng Open</td>
<td>9.15am – 10.30am</td>
<td>About 20 scrutineers, quiet booth, no queue, steady but slow process. In a 40 minute period, 14 people voted and six turned away for not being on the roll. One scrutineer’s count was 35 voted for the day so far, with another 10 turned away.</td>
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</table>
| Kavieng Open                  | 10.40am – 3.40pm                 | Queue of about 15-20 people. About 15 scrutineers. As with the same team on previous day, works efficiently with three booths operating, but choke point is in checking the roll for names. This slows or stops the process, so that there are periods of time where none of the booths are being used. For example, at one point about 10 minutes was spent looking for two names. One scrutineer (for Ben Micah, PPP) was positioned close to the ballot box, within the station and away from the scrutineers area. A policeman said he may be helping polling staff, as there was no attempt by the PO to move him. Scrutineer then observed stopping people turned away for not being on the roll – he recorded took their names, and may have been doing this for the PO. Did this for each person turned away. Other scrutineers were not complaining. At 3.20pm, a queue of about 15. Micah scrutineer continuing to take names. At 3.40pm, 142
(87m/55w) voted and 108 turned away.

| Kavieng Open | Mongol | 3.50pm – 4.10pm | At 3.50pm, 130 (70m/60w) voted. A 4WD, heavily tinted, with election vehicle ID (though this was not verified whether it was legitimate), parked, engine running, but then left. A little suspicious and possibly a candidate’s car. |
| Kavieng Open | Old Electoral Office, Kavieng | 4.25pm – 5.25pm | Spoke with New Ireland provincial Administrator, Monovi Amani, who said there is a candidate standing in Kavieng Open who is not on the roll, therefore should not be a candidate. Matter has been referred to the Electoral Commissioner, who apparently has discretion to allow or disallow the candidate to be included in the counting process. |

**Saturday 30th June**  
No accessible polling – conducted a recorded interview with the Police Commander.

**Sunday 1st July**  
In transit, Kavieng to Lae, via Kokopo

**Monday 2nd July**  
| Markham Open | Mutzing Station | 25 | 11.30am – 2.30pm | On arrival, no obvious police or defence force presence. Defence force presence at closing of the station. Four booths operating. Roll being called. At 11.50am 191 (88m/103w) had voted. 429 on the roll. Team was on to their 2nd ballot box, 1st had already been filled. Team stopped for a 30 minute break after completing their 2nd call of the roll. After completing 3rd call of remaining unmarked names on the roll (at 12.50pm), scrutineers asked for a 4th call. 35 voters came through in the 3rd call. 4th roll call commenced at 12.55pm. 13 voters in 4th round. Final total – 239 (107m/132w) voters. PO closed the station at 2.05pm. An intending voter was then observed shortly afterwards coming up to the station, being told he had missed his opportunity to vote. LLG vehicle collected polling team and ballot box, proceeded to police station nearby with defence force escort. Unused ballot papers were kept in an unsecured cardboard box. At police station, observers and others observed ballot box being locked away in a shipping container. |

**Tuesday 3rd July**  
Accessible polling finished, waiting for counting to commence

**Wednesday 4th July**  
In transit, Lae to Port Moresby

**Thursday 5th – Saturday 7th July**  
Organising observer passes, waiting for counting to commence in NCD, meetings on CDI-related work. Delay in getting passes issued, due to no initial response from US Embassy. Eventually made contact, and with help from Phil Whelan, passes issued Saturday afternoon. Did not impact on coverage of counting, as the start of counting was repeatedly delayed, and finally scheduled to commence on Saturday afternoon.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Sunday 8th July - Counting</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moresby North-West Open</td>
<td>IPA Hall, Waigani</td>
<td>2.45pm – 4.00pm</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Spoke to Returning Officer – Joe Fraghi – he mentioned an incident the previous night with scrutineers, and that he had to be firm with them, explaining that he makes the decisions. He did not want to explain what the incident was, but I later learnt that he had burnt a ballot box. This was apparently done under pressure from scrutineers, and he was stood down by the Commissioner a few hours after I talked to him. Informal votes – out of one box there were 14 informal votes, of which 7 were due to listing Provincial candidates on the Open ballot paper. 12 police and 1 PNGDF present inside the counting centre. This may have been a reaction to the previous night’s incident. Spoke with one counting official – Benson Tegia – who was PO at the disabled polling station. He said that people were bussed to the station on election day, and that generally the process worked well. Took about an hour to count one box of about 660 papers. Provincial papers were being counted as a total (i.e. not by candidate) and bundled. Not clear whether 1st votes would be counted later at this centre, or transferred to the Provincial counting centre for counting. An even gender mix among counting officials – 37/37. Good layout and plenty of space for all.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moresby North-East Open + NCD Provincial</td>
<td>John Guise Stadium, Waigani</td>
<td>4.10pm – 5.30pm</td>
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<td>Informal – confusion of Open/Provincial shows up when voter lists names, or numbers exceed number of candidates in Provincial seat (i.e. only 27 candidates in Provincial, so candidate numbers are 10 to 36). One Provincial informal paper listed 39-17-40, so obviously intended as an Open vote. Spacious venue (indoor sports stadium) for conducting Open and Provincial counts, with a dividing screen between.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Monday 9th July</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moresby North-West Open</td>
<td>IPA Hall, Waigani</td>
<td>10.30am – 12.50pm</td>
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<td>Met replacement Acting Returning Officer – Karo Tiana – who replaced Joe Fraghi. Sounded determined that he was in control. Counting was meant to start at 10am, but at 10.40am ARO was waiting for scrutineers to arrive. He went outside at 11am, where scrutineers were waiting patiently under trees outside. Assistant went to container with scrutineers to get next batch of boxes for counting. Two boxes had missing or broken seals. This caused a good deal of discussion, which was only resolved when the ARO came out and took charge. Boxes to be dealt with in sequence, so the decision on the broken seal boxes unknown. Box 19 count – 829 papers issued, 533 used, 5 spoilt, 528 estimated in ballot box. 8 informals of 528 total. Only 1 due to Open/Provincial confusion. Four due to 1 only. 2 due to having 1P</td>
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| **15** |  |  |
and 2P as numbers. 10min to sort, 30min to distribute, 10min to count, 10min to call and record the count. 6 police inside centre.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kairuku-Hiri Open; Central Provincial</th>
<th>Murray Barracks</th>
<th>3.30pm – 5.00pm</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Watched completion of 1st box. Apparently counting started at 11-12, completed 4.30, so approx. 5 hours to count – 3756 votes, with 103 (Provincial) and 76 (Open) informal. Counting both Open and Provincial votes, but only a tally board for open. Very hot and crowded room – an army gym room. Votes bundled in envelopes for each candidate (but not listing ballot box number on the envelope). Then but in a ballot box and sealed (with double seals on all sides). 38 ballot boxes for this Open seat. Spoke with the RO. Counting originally planned to be day-only, but due to the delays in commencing the count, a night shift is being organised, but this will not commence for another day.</td>
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**Tuesday 10th July**

| In transit, Port Moresby to Wellington, NZ |