

Papua New Guinea

Background	Name of EMB:	Papua New Guinea Electoral Commission (PNGEC)
	Status:	Permanent
Establishment of the EMB	Number of commissioners:	One commissioner and no chair.
	Number of full-time EMB staff:	200 permanent staff employed
	Constitutional and/or legislative provisions for establishment of the EMB:	The PNG Electoral Commission is established under the Constitution of PNG and the organic law on national and local-level government elections.
	EMB's mandate:	The responsibilities of the Papua New Guinea Electoral Commission are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> organise and conduct elections for the national, parliament and local-level governments, and for industrial organisations, as provided for under the constitution; prepare and maintain an accurate electoral roll for the purposes of an election event; educate and inform the community on electoral-related matters; support the work of the Boundaries Commission.
Appointment, tenure and removals	EMB model:	Independent
	What standards are established in the constitution or other legislation for democratic legitimacy?	With respect to the appointment of electoral commissioner, the Electoral Commission appoints a committee comprising the Prime Minister as chair and opposition as a member as well as three other members. The committee appoints the electoral commissioner.
	Provisions for the appointment of commissioners:	Appointments are based on experience, sound knowledge and the level of skills and qualifications, with consideration for regional, ethical and gender balance.
	Political status of commissioner:	He or she must not have any direct affiliation with any political parties.
	Chair qualifications:	The commissioner must be qualified to at least a minimum of master's degree level in management, business, law and/or public policy and management, with more than 15 years' experience in public administration.

	Commissioner qualifications:	The commissioner must be educated to at least master's degree level in management, business, law and/or public policy and management, with more than 15 years' experience in public administration.
	Tenure of chair and commissioners:	The commissioner is appointed for a six-year renewable term.
	Provisions for the removal of commissioners:	The commissioner can be removed by the Appointments Committee if he or she is found guilty of an indictable offence, for long-term absenteeism from office and not performing his/her functions, or in case of his/her death.
	Provisions for the appointment of EMB senior staff:	Senior staff of the PNG Electoral Commission are appointed by the Selection Committee, while the Department of Personnel Management also sits on the committee.
	Tenure of EMB senior staff:	The term for EMB staff is a three-year contract that is subject to renewal.
	Provisions for the removal of EMB senior staff:	Senior EMB staff can be removed if they die, or are found guilty of an indictable offence, under their employment contract.
Funding arrangements	Setting and control of EMB's budget:	The PNGEC submits the electoral budget. This is also controlled by the EMB – the PNG Electoral Commission.
	Financial autonomy:	The PNG electoral commissioner does not have financial autonomy or the authority to re-appropriate finance. Clearance from the Treasury is required under the Public Finance Management Act.
	Legal provisions for financial autonomy:	Even though the Election Act is designed with the intention of granting financial independence to the commission, the subsequent enactment of the Public Finance Management Act has denied the commission's financial independence and abilities to some degree.

Electoral system	Number of chambers/houses within the legislature:	The PNG parliament is unicameral.
	Voting system:	Limited preferential voting (LPV) system.
	Amendments to electoral laws:	Any amendments to the organic law on national and local government elections can be proposed by the electoral commissioner to the National Executive Council (NEC). After the NEC approves the changes and amendments, written instructions to the draft amendments are given by the NEC to the First Legislative Council for drafting. Once the draft is completed, the proposed amendments are presented to parliament for approval.
	Drafting of electoral regulations:	PNGEC can propose changes in the regulations, but does not have the authority to approve such changes. All approvals of regulations go to the NEC.
Electoral disputes	Electoral dispute resolution mechanisms:	Disputes are settled at two levels: pre-poll disputes are determined by the commission and the courts of disputed returns deal with electoral disputes after polling.
Other issues:		
Secretariat	Administrative autonomy:	No, the EMB does not have the power to create, promote and abolish staff posts.
	Women in senior positions:	Yes, the director of human resources, the director of information, communication and awareness, four operation managers, an election manager, and an assistant election manager are all women. Half the staff are female in the PNG Electoral Commission.
	Administrative structure:	The structure is vertical and like a pyramid, with one electoral commissioner and two deputy electoral commissioners; one is responsible for corporate services while one is responsible for election administration. There are six branches, with three of these under each of the deputy commissioners.