‘Limited Preferential Voting’ (LPV) for Elementary, Community and Primary Schools
Introduction

Limited Preferential Voting

The Limited Preferential Voting (LPV) system replaced the ‘First Past the Post”. (FPP) system for Papua New Guinea’s national and provincial elections in 2007. It is important that communities understand and use the LPV system of voting as much as possible. When communities are electing church leaders or school Parents and Citizen (P&C) or Board of Management (BoM) members they should practice using the LPV method of voting. This will help them understand how LPV works, and the advantages of the LPV method.

This flipchart takes the participants through the most commonly asked questions, and helps school organizations to arrange a LPV election.

This flipchart will help provide:

Knowledge of: the importance of good governance: accountability; transparency; how to ensure that all community members are able to exercise their voting rights – especially women; the role of politicians in a democracy; the meanings of all the technical words used to run elections; how to register to vote; the importance of registering your vote; the difference between the LPV and FPP voting systems; an understanding of the advantages and disadvantages of the two systems of voting; illegal voting behaviour and what should be done to stop corruption.

Skills in: running a fair transparent LPV election;

Attitudes of: a sound personal code of ethics, vision, openness, gender champions, honesty, integrity, commitment, care, flexibility to change when necessary, consideration for others, tact, self motivation, experience, fairness, ability to communicate freely with others, caring for the environment; transparency, accountability, good governance, gender equity, their own professional development; etc.

Question for the Introduction
Think of a time when you felt there were unfair elections. Tell the story about that election and why you felt it was unfair and what changes were needed.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NATIONAL SONG</th>
<th>NATIONAL PLEDGE</th>
<th>PRAYER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>O arise all you sons of this land</td>
<td>We the people of Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>Almighty and Eternal Father,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Let us sing of our joy to be free</td>
<td>Pledge ourselves, united in one nation</td>
<td>We thank you and praise you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Praising God and rejoicing to be</td>
<td>We pay homage to our cultural heritage</td>
<td>For the infinite love and mercy,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>The source of our strength</td>
<td>You rain down blessings upon mankind, in spite of their faults and failings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shout our name from the mountains to seas</td>
<td>We pledge to build a democratic society</td>
<td>Bless our nation PNG, and her people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>Based on justice, equality, respect and</td>
<td>We are pilgrims on our way to freedom, with good news for all we meet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Let us raise our voices and proclaim</td>
<td>prosperity for our people</td>
<td>Help us travel lightly, travel together.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>We pledge to stand together as</td>
<td>Learn as we go, we are disciples,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One people, One nation</td>
<td>The mission is urgent,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One country</td>
<td>The journey is long.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Now give thanks to the good Lord above</td>
<td>God bless Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>Help us travel with authority, fearing no one.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For his kindness, his wisdom and love</td>
<td></td>
<td>We are apostles,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For this land of our fathers so free</td>
<td></td>
<td>Opponents of evil.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
<td></td>
<td>Let the cross be our compass, love be our sign.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shout again for the whole world to hear</td>
<td></td>
<td>To lean upon your great strength,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
<td></td>
<td>Trustfully and to wait patiently and serenely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We’re independent and we’re free</td>
<td></td>
<td>For the unfolding of Your Will.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
<td></td>
<td>Amen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 1. What are the meanings of words used during elections?

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<td>Only a few</td>
<td>Scrutiny</td>
<td>Checking that the elections are carried out properly</td>
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<td>Preferential</td>
<td>What you like best</td>
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<td>Has more support than any other candidate</td>
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<td>Has more than half the people’s support</td>
<td>Election Manager (EM)</td>
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<td>The voting scores when the first preferences are given to candidates</td>
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2. What is needed for good government?

- A government where the people’s views are shared. I.e. ‘Government of the people, by the people, for the people’. (i.e. where all positions are shared fairly amongst all the different ethnic groups in PNG.)
- Voters being able to freely vote for the politicians of their choice;
- Politicians who are committed to serving their province and country;
- Politicians who have integrity (who are honest with themselves and others);
- Politicians who have had experience in voluntary community positions (e.g. church, school and LLG leaders);
- Politicians who are educated and can understand their legal and social responsibilities as politicians;
- Politicians who have never been to jail or who have bad reputations;
- Politicians who have had experience with helping the government to provide services to remote rural communities;
- Politicians who are happy to visit and **listen** to all the communities in their electorate;
- Politicians who are interested in helping all their electorate – not just themselves and their wantoks;
- Politicians who understand their responsibilities in parliament;
- Fair honest elections;
- A good opposition in parliament that can openly criticise bad decisions.
- A free press;
- Political parties with good policies;
- A fair balance between the politicians, the public servants, and the judiciary, where each arm of government understands its responsibilities, and where all respect the laws and the constitution.
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### Discussion questions for point 2
1. Think of a good community leader. List the bullet points that apply to that good leader.
2. Discuss if all the eligible voters in your community are registered? Discuss what your community can do to make sure all the eligible voters are registered. **Answer:** by inviting electoral officers to visit your community to carry out voter registration.
3. Discuss why it is more important for politicians to listen than to talk. Answer: so they can talk about what communities want, when they are in parliament
4. Why should communities not vote for politicians who make many promises or give gifts? **Answer:** because they are corrupt and usually just trick the communities.
5. What happens if politicians have too much power and do not respect the country’s laws? **Answer:** They make bad decisions that only benefit themselves and not the community.
6. Discuss what are the policies of each of the main parties that have candidates in your electorate.
3. What is a democracy?

- **People power**: a government where the decisions are made by the people (Demo – people; Cracy – rule)
- Democratic government started in Greece before Jesus was born, and has been developing ever since.
- Usually a democracy has a government and an opposition. The government is usually the party or parties that have the most votes. The rest of the politicians form an opposition to check that the government is running the country properly.
- Where the people are happy to have their elected members govern them
- Where the majority of votes select the member of parliament
- Where the largest party/parties govern, and the minority is opposition
- Where the constitution is followed (human rights; free and fair elections; people have equality before the law; where the law is respected and followed; where the constitution says what politicians can and cannot do.
- Where politicians are tolerant, respectful, cooperate and compromise to make the best laws for the people
- Where many people from different backgrounds work together to improve the quality of life for all the people in the country through social, economic and political developments.
**What is a democracy?**  
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**Discussion questions for point 3:**  
1. How were decisions made in your community in the past? Were they democratic (made by many people) or did only one person (a chief) make the decisions?  
2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of having only one person make decisions?  
3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of having a democratic government where many people have to work together to make decisions?  
4. Why is it important to have a good constitution that is understood and respected by all the politicians?
5. What responsibilities does a member of parliament have?

- To represent all the people in his or her electorate – even the people who did not vote for him or her
- To follow the laws of PNG and the PNG constitution
- To be a model for the rest of society – especially the children
- Make decisions that everyone in the electorate agrees with (LLG and District planning group discussions are a good way for this to happen)
- Make decisions that are fair to all the electorate (including women)
- Make decisions that are doable and cost effective (effective and efficient)
- Make decisions that are based on what the electorate want - not what the politician wants
- Make decisions that are transparent (everyone knows how the decision was made)
- Make decisions that are accountable (follow the laws of the land)
- Make decisions that are responsible (do not disadvantage anyone)
- Makes decisions that are legal (do not break PNG laws or are corruptly made with payments made under the table by business men or overseas companies)
- To make laws that will help the public servants and the police and law courts do their work better. This will improve the quality of life for all of us.
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<th>What responsibilities does a member of parliament have?</th>
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<tr>
<td>• To represent all the people in his or her electorate – even the people who did not vote for him or her</td>
<td>1. Think of a good national or LLG politician that you have had in your electorate. Discuss which of the list of decision making qualities the politician has.</td>
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<td>• To follow the laws of PNG and the PNG constitution</td>
<td>2. Discuss what you community should do if you know a politician in your electorate is not making good decisions (eg. reporting him or her to the Ombudsman commission or to the police to investigate if they are stealing or misusing public funds.</td>
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<td>• To be a model for the rest of society – especially the children</td>
<td>3. List some political decisions that would improve the quality of life in your community (eg. banning guns; improving roads, building bridges, setting up a market; building classrooms, providing teachers and aid post workers, etc.)</td>
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5. What is the ‘first past the post’ voting (FPPV) system?

- When the person with the most votes in the first count wins – this is like a horse race when the first horse in a race that crosses the finishing line wins.
- In PNG often candidates with very few votes ‘win’ first past the post elections and we have many politicians in parliament with between 5- 10% of the vote. It is like each village putting a horse in a race and the biggest village always winning the race and all the other villages always losing the race.
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- In PNG often candidates with very few votes ‘win’ first past the post elections and we had many politicians in parliament with between 5-10% of the vote. It is like 20 villages putting a horse in a race and the biggest village always winning the race and the other 19 villages always losing the race.

### Discussions Questions for point 5

- List the reasons why the ‘first past the post’ system of voting is unfair (**Answer:** It does not represent the majority of the people in an electorate; the winner often only looks after his or her own village, and not the other villages, etc.)
6. What is the Limited Preferential Voting (LPV) system?
In the Limited Preferential Voting system each voter has three votes, so they are not just voting for someone from their own village or community, but also for two other candidates from other villages or communities. This helps them think of who is the best person to represent their village as well as other villages. It helps voters to think of who has done good things in other communities eg. on their LLG council; on their school BoM or P&C; or on their church committees. It is important that voters find out about the truth of many other candidates so that they only vote for good people. Some candidates will try and trick voters and will tell you not to vote for candidates that they know are good people and who will spoil their chances of being elected. Do not listen to these humbugs, and do not vote for them or PNG will continue to have corrupt politicians.
In our cartoon picture of the three horses in the horse race, the winner will not be the first horse past the post, but the horse that the majority (more than 50%) of people voted for. It may be that the horse that came 2nd or 3rd gets more overall votes than the first horse past the post. This is because more people included that candidate in their 2nd and 3rd preferences.

Sample of a ballot paper

How to vote
• Write the candidate number or name of your first choice candidate beside number 1
• Write the candidate number or name of your second choice candidate beside number 2
• Write the candidate number or name of your third choice candidate beside number 3

DO NOT PUT ANY OTHER MARK ON THIS BALLOT PAPER

1 [ ] ______________________________
2 [ ] ______________________________
3 [ ] ______________________________
What is the Limited Preferential Voting (LPV) system?
In the Limited Preferential Voting system each voter has three votes, so they are not just voting for someone from their own village, but also for two other candidates from other villages. This helps them think of who is the best person to represent their village as well as other villages. It helps voters to think of who has done good things in other communities eg. on their LLG council; on their school BoM or P&C; or on their church committees. It is important that voters find out about the truth of many other candidates so that they only vote for good people. Some candidates will try and trick voters and will tell you not to vote for candidates that they know are good people and who will spoil their chances of being elected. Do not listen to these humbugs, and do not vote for them or PNG will continue to have corrupt politicians. In our cartoon picture of the three horses in the horse race, the winner will not be the first horse past the post, but the horse that the majority (more than 50%) of people voted for. It may be that the horse that came 2nd or 3rd gets more votes than the first horse past the post. This is because more people included that candidate in their 2nd and 3rd preferences.

Discussion questions for point 6
1. How many votes does a person have under the LPV system of voting (Answer: Three)
2. Why is this system of voting fairer? (Answer: It means that the winning candidate has over 50% of the people’s votes – the majority of votes.)
3. How will some candidates try and spoil the LPV system. (Answer: by telling people not to use their second and third votes for good candidates but to use their 2nd and 3rd votes for weak candidates.)
4. Why is the LPV system hard for some people to understand? (Answer: because the counting system is more complicated with 1st, 2nd and 3rd votes.)
5. How can people learn about the LPV counting system? (Answer: by practising using the LPV system when they are electing BoM or P&C Presidents or Chairpersons.)
6. Why was the Limited Preferential Voting system introduced?

- So members of parliament would be elected by a majority of the voters – not a minority of the votes like most members of Parliament currently are. NB. In the 2002-2007 parliament only 3 politicians had a majority of votes. 104 politicians had minority votes with one politician being elected with only 5% of the vote.
- So politicians would start thinking about other villages and other language groups, and helping everyone in their electorate. Now politicians know that unless they help everyone they will not be re-elected.
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<td>• Discuss the picture, and how under LPV, preference votes from each of the villages are important.</td>
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<td>• So politicians would start thinking about other villages and other language groups, and helping everyone in their electorate. The politicians know that unless they help everyone they will not be re-elected.</td>
<td>• List the ways that the LPV system of voting should help politicians support the whole electorate – not just their own community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Tell stories of how candidates are now visiting more communities during their campaign. Discuss if you think this is a good thing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Tell stories of candidates who are trying to improve the quality of life in villages and communities. Check if they are using their own funds to do this, or are misusing government funds just to get votes.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8. How are Limited Preferential voting (LPV) votes counted?

In the LPV system of voting, voters have to write three candidates names or numbers (or both) on their ballot paper. If they do not do this their vote is ‘informal’ and will not be counted. Box 1 is for the 1st choice; box 2 is for 2nd choice, and box 3 is for the 3rd choice.

1. Counting officials first count the 1st choices to see if there is a majority of votes (over 50%)
2. If there is not a majority, the counting officials remove the person with the lowest number of votes and put their 2nd votes on to the other candidates. They then check if anyone now has a majority.
3. If there is not a majority, the counting officials remove the next person with the lowest number of votes and put their 2nd votes on to the other candidates. If the 2nd vote has been used up they use the 3rd vote. If the 3rd vote has been used up, then the ballot paper is put in a pile of ‘exhausted votes – all the votes have been used up. They then check if anyone now has a majority.
4. This process of removing the next lowest candidate and using their votes is continued until one of the candidates has an majority (over 50% of the votes). Sometimes extra columns need to be added as there may be more than 10 exclusions.

Tally sheet for National and Local Level Government elections.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Candidate</th>
<th>Final Pref</th>
<th>1st exclusion</th>
<th>Total 1</th>
<th>2nd exclusion</th>
<th>Total 2</th>
<th>3rd exclusion</th>
<th>Total 3</th>
<th>4th exclusion</th>
<th>Total 4</th>
<th>5th exclusion</th>
<th>Total 5</th>
<th>6th exclusion</th>
<th>Total 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total allowable ballot papers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Votes distributed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhausted Ballot papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Ballot papers remaining in count</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Absolute Majority (50%+1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

…………………………………………………………….. …………… …………… ………….. …………..

Returning officer  Assistant Returning officer  Scrutineer  Scrutineer  Scrutineer  Scrutineer  Date: __/__/200__
How are Limited Preferential voting (LPV) votes counted?
In the LPV system of voting, voters have to write three candidates names or numbers (or both) on their ballot paper. If they do not do this their vote is ‘informal’ and will not be counted. Box 1 is for the 1st choice; box 2 is for 2nd choice, and box 3 is for the 3rd choice.

1. Counting officials first count the 1st choices to see if there is a majority of votes (over 50%)
2. If there is not a majority, the counting officials remove the person with the lowest number of votes and put their 2nd votes on to the other candidates. They then check if anyone now has a majority.
3. If there is still not a majority, the counting officials remove the next person with the lowest number of votes and put their 2nd votes on to the other candidates. If the 2nd vote has been used up they use the 3rd vote. If the 3rd vote has been used up, then the ballot paper is put in a pile of ‘exhausted votes’—all the votes have been used up. They then check if a candidate has a majority.
4. This process of removing the next lowest candidate and using their votes is continued until one of the candidates has an majority (over 50%+1 of the remaining votes)

Discussion questions for point 8:
How are votes counted? Answer:
1. The no. 1 votes are counted and entered next to each candidates names. The total allowable ballot papers is added up and entered. This number is divided by 2 and 1 added to see what the absolute majority number is (50%+1)
The highest vote is checked to see if it is an absolute majority. If it is, then that candidate is the winner, if not, then the candidate with the lowest number of votes has their votes distributed.
2. The candidate with the lowest number of votes has their pile of votes divided among the other candidates according to the no. 2 votes on their ballot papers. These votes are added to the total for the other candidates. A new absolute majority number is worked out. The new highest vote is checked to see if there is a winner. If not the next candidate with the lowest number of votes has their votes distributed. If a ballot paper has used up their no.2 and no.3 votes it is said to be exhausted, and is put in a separate bundle.
3. This process continues until one candidate has an absolute majority. (NB. If 2 candidates have the same number of votes then the number further down the list is eliminated.)

Practice the steps of an election using the blank form and the ballot papers with a ‘giamon’ election.
9. Show me an example of how Limited Preferential voting (LPV) votes are counted?

In the LPV system of voting, voters have to write three candidates names or numbers (or both) on their ballot paper. If they do not do this their vote is ‘informal’ and will not be counted. Box 1 is for the 1\textsuperscript{st} choice; box 2 is for 2\textsuperscript{nd} choice, and box 3 is for the 3\textsuperscript{rd} choice.

1. Counting officials first count the 1\textsuperscript{st} choices to see if there is a majority of votes (over 50%)
2. If there is not a majority, the counting officials remove the person with the lowest number of votes and put their 2\textsuperscript{nd} votes on to the other candidates. They then check if anyone now has a majority.
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4. This process of removing the next lowest candidate and using their votes is continued until one of the candidates has an majority (over 50% of the votes). Sometimes extra columns need to be added as there may be more than 10 exclusions.

This is how your vote is counted.

These are 6 candidates. If there are 1000 voters, one person must get more than 500 votes to win.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Davis</th>
<th>Boki</th>
<th>Isaiah</th>
<th>Susan</th>
<th>Alice</th>
<th>Steve</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. First, the number 1 votes are counted</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. If no one has reached a majority, the candidate who has the lowest votes is eliminated and their 2\textsuperscript{nd} choice votes are distributed to the other candidates.</td>
<td>eliminated</td>
<td>+5 = 125</td>
<td>+30 = 170</td>
<td>+10 = 260</td>
<td>+10 = 190</td>
<td>+45 = 255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Once again, there is no absolute majority, the candidate who has the lowest votes is eliminated and their 2\textsuperscript{nd} choice votes are distributed to the other candidates. If their 2\textsuperscript{nd} choices are used then their 3\textsuperscript{rd} choices are used.</td>
<td>eliminated</td>
<td>+ 30 = 200</td>
<td>+10 = 270</td>
<td>+5 = 195</td>
<td>+80 = 335</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. This distribution of votes continues until a candidate has more than half the votes. In this case over 500 votes.</td>
<td>+5 = 205</td>
<td>+20 = 290</td>
<td>Eliminated</td>
<td>+170 = 505</td>
<td>WINNER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Show me an example of how Limited Preferential voting (LPV) votes are counted?
In the example.

This is how your vote is counted.
These are 6 candidates. If there are 1000 voters, one person must get more than 500 votes to win.
1. First, the number 1 votes are counted. None of the candidates has over 500 votes.
2. As no one has reached a majority, the candidate who has the lowest votes (Davis) is eliminated and his 2nd choice votes are distributed to the other candidates. 5 votes went to Boki; 30 votes went to Isaiah; 10 votes went to Susan; 10 votes went to Alice and 45 votes went to Steve.
3. Once again, there is no absolute majority, so the candidate who has the lowest votes (Boki) is eliminated and his 2nd choice votes are distributed to the other candidates. 30 votes went to Isaiah; 10 votes went to Susan; 5 votes went Alice and 80 votes went to Steve. If his 2nd choices are used up then his 3rd choices are used.
4. This distribution of votes continued and Alice was eliminated and her 2nd and 3rd votes were distributed. 5 votes went to Isaiah; 20 votes went to Susan and 170 votes went to Steve. Steve then had 505 votes which is more than half the votes. Steve became the winner.

Discussion questions for point 9:
1. How many votes are needed for a candidate to win? Answer: more than 500.
2. Who would have been the winner if the election was 1st past the post? Answer: Susan.
3. Who was the first candidate to be eliminated? Answer: Davis. He had the lowest number of votes.
4. Who received the most of Davis’s 2nd votes when he was eliminated? Answer: Steve. He received 45 votes.
5. Who received the most of Boki’s votes when he was eliminated? Answer: Steve. He received 80 votes.
6. Who received the most of Alice’s votes when she was eliminated? Answer: Steve. He received 170 votes.
7. Who won the election? Answer: Steve. He received over 500 votes.

Practice the steps of an election using the blank form and the ballot papers with a ‘giamon’ election. When you can use the LPV system properly you could use the LPV election system for your school BoM elections.
10. The 10 steps to run a ‘practice’ LPV election?

1. Choose a presiding officer, a polling official and a scrutineer. Choose 4 or 5 candidates. These should be both men and women. The rest of the participants should be voters. It is best to have at least 40 participants so everyone can see how the eliminations work. You may wish to prepare some informal votes (incorrectly filled out) as well so participants can see which votes are informal.

2. Prepare a ballot box to put the votes in, a polling booth (a table with half walls around both sides and the front so the voting can be private) and a chair for the voter to sit on.

3. Prepare a roll/attendance list of all the people who are entitled to vote.

4. Prepare enough ballot papers so everyone has a chance to practice voting.

5. Before the people vote, the presiding officer should ask each candidate should give a short speech to say why people should vote for them. Give each candidate a giamon name. eg. Mr Taro, Mrs Banana, Mr Kaukau, Mrs Mango, Mr Albika. The presiding officer should explain that each candidate has a number next to their picture. If Mrs Mango is no. 5 and a voter wants to vote for her first then he or she needs to put no.5, or Mrs Mango, or both the number and name next to no. 1. Then they should write the name or number or both next to their 2nd and third choices. Tell the voters that if the number and name are different then the name will be used.

6. The presiding officer should call each person by name to cast their vote. Use the attendance list to mark off each person who has voted. Tell people that if they cannot read or write they can bring a friend with them to help them. It is best if women bring a woman friend rather than a husband. Some presiding officers have a male and female booth. If you are unable to arrange this, have all the women vote first, followed by all the men.

7. The presiding officer then totals all the first preferences and puts the votes into piles for each candidate. The presiding officer checks that all the votes are formal. The informal votes are excluded. The polling official helps and the scrutineer checks that everything is done properly.

8. The presiding officer then tells how many votes are needed to get an absolute majority. The polling official acts as a scribe and writes the 1st preference totals on a chalkboard or chart so everyone can see the scores. (transparency). Everyone checks if an absolute majority has been achieved.

9. If not the candidate with the lowest scores has their votes distributed according to the 2nd preferences. These are added to the chart in the next column and the totals added up. The new absolute majority score is worked out, and again everyone checks if there is a winner.

10. This process is continued until a candidate has an absolute majority. Exhausted votes are put in a separate pile.
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10. This process is continued until a candidate has an absolute majority and is declared the winner. Exhausted votes are put in a separate pile.

## Activity for point 10

- Appoint the various officers and candidates for a mock election and practice running a practice election two or three times. You may wish to have a real election for a vacant position on the school Board of Management or P&C. (NB. If possible have an electoral officer assist in the process.)
11. Who is eligible to vote?

- You must be a citizen of PNG
- You must be older than 18 years
- You must have lived in your electorate for over six months
- You must not have been convicted in the last 3 years of an offence related to elections
- You must not have been imprisoned for more than 9 months or be under sentence of death
- You must be of sound mind (not mentally ill ‘longlong’)
- You must be on the electoral roll (there is a new electoral roll)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who is eligible to vote in the national elections?</th>
<th>Discussion questions for point 11</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• You must be a citizen of PNG</td>
<td>Discuss each of the eligibility points and why each is important. E.g.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• You must be older than 18 years</td>
<td>• You must be a citizen of PNG because PNG is a sovereign nation that must be governed by Papua New Guineans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• You must have lived in your electorate for over six months</td>
<td>• You must be older than 18 years so that you have the experience and maturity to make good decisions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• You must not have been convicted in the last 3 years of an offence related to elections</td>
<td>• You must have lived in your electorate for over six months so that the voters will know about the candidates they are voting for.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• You must not have been imprisoned for more than 9 months or be under sentence of death</td>
<td>• You must not have been convicted in the last 3 years of an offence related to elections. This is to try and stop corruption during elections.</td>
</tr>
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<td>• You must be of sound mind (not mentally ill ‘longlong’)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• You must be on the electoral roll (there is a new electoral roll). The old electoral role had many errors that the Electoral Commission is trying to fix up.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
12. How do I select a good candidate to vote for?

A good candidate will:
- Belong to a political party
- Understand the political party policies that he or she belongs to, and be able to explain what those policies are?
- Have served the community and helped the community develop
- Have a good personal life and be of good character
- Be respected by the community
- Be a hard and committed worker
- Have a strong honest character so he or she is not going to be bribed by rich politicians or overseas businesses
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How do I select a good candidate to vote for?</th>
<th>Discussion questions for point 12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A good candidate will:</td>
<td>Discuss each of the eligibility points and why each is important. E.g.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Belong to a political party</td>
<td>• Belonging to a political party helps the country support development policies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Understand the political party policies that he or she belongs to, and be able to explain what those policies are?</td>
<td>• Understanding the political party policies that he or she belongs to, and being able to explain what those policies are helps see if the candidate understands the parties development policies?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Have served the community and helped the community develop</td>
<td>• Have served the community and helped the community develop – these are important qualities of a community leader.</td>
</tr>
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<td>• Have a good personal life and be of good character</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
13. What is illegal behaviour during elections?

- Voting more than once in the same election (punishment K400)
- Betting on the result of an election (punishment K400)
- Deliberately defacing, mutilating or destroying a notice, list, or other document put up by a returning officer or by his/her authority (punishment K20)
- Deliberately lying about any of these offences listed here (punishment 2 years jail)
- Deliberately destroying or defacing a nomination paper or ballot box (punishment 2 years jail)
- Putting a ballot paper or other paper into a ballot box that is not your legal vote (punishment 6 months jail)
- Fraudulently taking a ballot paper out of a polling booth (punishment: K500)
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- Forging a nomination paper or ballot paper (punishment 2 years jail)
- During polling, misconduct or failing to obey the lawful directions of the presiding officer (punishment: K200 or 1 month jail)
- Handing out ballot papers without authority (punishment: 6 months jail)
- Destroying, taking, opening or any other interference with ballot boxes or ballot papers (punishment: 6 months jail)
- Enrolment agent deliberately completing enrolment forms for an ineligible person or for a person already on the roll (punishment K1000 or dismissal from Public service for public servants)
- Any person encouraging an enrolment agent to deliberately lie is also guilty (punishment K1000 or dismissal from Public service for public servants)
- A person already on the roll and making a second enrolment for themselves or others, or in the name of someone who really doesn’t exist (punishment: K400)
- A person must make sure they are on the correct roll for their electorate. (punishment K50 for 1st offenders and K100 for other cases)
- Official failure to enrol voters in the time specified for enrolments is also an offence (punishment: K1000)
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### Discussion questions for point 13

Discuss the penalties for each of the illegal behaviours and why each is illegal.

### 14. What are other election issues?

26
Corruption is when people with power, authority and influence put personal and self interest above their duties, obligations and responsibilities. Corruption is one of the major issues affecting Papua New Guinea. The following are some quotes from PNG leaders:

- ‘Corruption is everywhere in the private sector, public sector, NGOs involving churches’ Illa Geno Chief Ombudsman
- ‘We politicians are the worst criminals’. Late Sir Bill Skate.
- ‘If we charged everyone who’s corrupt, we’d probably have no-one to run the country.’ Former Chief Justice, Late Sir Buri Kidu
- ‘PNG politics is fuelled mainly by self interest and greed at the expense of the nation of people’, Sir Brian Barns, Archbishop of Port Moresby
- Gross misuse, fraud, thefts and suspicious payments are also occurring as a result of isolated political decisions and common lack of accountability.’ World Bank 1999
- Bribery, nepotism and corruption appear to have spread through the entire tree of government and bureaucracy, from the roots, through to the trunk and branches, even to new shoots,’ Chief Ombudsman Simon Petanu Post Courier 15.10.1992 pg 2
- ‘We cannot just say that people are corrupt because they are bad. We need to understand why they behave in such a way. Whatever we decide to do to educate people we need to start urgently.’ Fr Jan Czuba, President Divine Word University
- ‘There has been the intensification of local political competition into conflict, and the large scale of electoral cheating and the use of force and intimidation by state and non-state actors in politics.’ Electoral Commission Report 1997:pg 278
- Strong, careful and thorough investigation, prosecution, trials and sentencing of the guilty could help reduce corruption.
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Strong, careful and thorough investigation, prosecution, trials and sentencing of the guilty could help reduce corruption.

Discussion Questions for point 14
1. What is corruption? **Answer:** when people with power, authority and influence put personal and self interest above their duties, obligations and responsibilities.
2. Why is corruption a major problem during elections? **Answer:** It is a time when individuals can obtain power and authority if they are elected.
3. What are signs of corruption? **Answer:** bribery, giving gifts, stealing money, misusing money, making bad decisions, etc.
4. What causes corruption? **Answer:** pressure from relatives and wantoks, greed, seeing other people getting away with misusing money, etc.
5. What will help stop corruption? **Answer:** education, better laws that punish corrupt people; better systems of preparing budgets and acquitting funds; better investigations and prosecutions of corrupt people.
6. Why do you think that the LPV system will help reduce corruption? **Answer:** politicians will need to get the support of over 50% of their electorate to be elected so they will need to think about helping everyone – not just their wantoks who voted no 1.

15. What are Gender Champion skills that are needed during elections?
Both men and women need to make sure that every woman is able to make her own decisions and to respect her decision to make her own vote without any fear or intimidation.

There are a number of ways that this can take place. E.g.

- By having a separate polling booths: One for men and another for women.
- By making sure that there are literate women available to help illiterate women make their correct votes
- By having women discussion groups where women can discuss the various candidates. Where possible the candidates should be invited to speak to the discussion group.
- By women and men discussing womens’ concerns together and sharing how greater equity can take place.

E.g. discussion topics
- Min no save long raits bilong mi
- Man bos na komuniti bos. Mi no gat pauwa
- Mi gat plenty wok long famili, pik, gaden, pikini, kai kai, long haus
- Mi no save long rit na rait
- Mi no gat moni
What are Gender Champion skills that are needed during elections?
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E.g. discussion topics
- Min no save long raits bilong mi
- Man bos na komuniti bos. Mi no gat pauwa
- Mi gat plenty wok long famili, pik, gaden, pikini, kai kai, long haus
- Mi no save long rit na rait
- Mi no gat moni

Discussion questions for point 15
1. Why do women have equal rights to men in PNG? **Answer:** Because it is the law and it is stated in the PNG constitution.
2. How should these rights be protected during elections? **Answer:** by making sure that women are able to vote freely and without being intimated by men.
3. What are some suggestions that can help women make better decisions during elections? **Answer:** by having separate ‘women only’ polling booths; by having literate women to help women who need help during elections; by having women discussion groups before elections; by encouraging male champions of womens rights; by having mixed discussion groups in communities as to how greater equality can occur in families, in homes, in the workforce, in schools and in the community and nation.
16. What are HIV & AIDS issues that may occur during elections?

During the elections the following problems may happen:

- People will drink beer and try and have sex with people other than their wives or husbands
- Domestic violence
- Election officers will be away from their homes and may look for other sexual partners
- ‘Big Men’ standing for elections will expect to ‘paid back’ for money and gifts that he has given to the community with sex with young girls or women
- Corrupt candidates will give out money and beer and so young girls and women will be tempted to provide sex for money, and not have condoms to use.
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Discussion questions for point 16:
1. What can your community do to protect itself from HIV & AIDS during the election period? Ans: Not allowing corrupt candidates into your village; making rules for candidates to follow if they want to talk to the community; reporting to election officers any corrupt behaviour; banning alcohol in the village during the election period; etc.
2. 
<table>
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<tr>
<th>NATIONAL SONG</th>
<th>NATIONAL PLEDGE</th>
<th>PRAYER</th>
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<tr>
<td>O arise all you sons of this land Let us sing of our joy to be free Praising God and rejoicing to be Papua New Guinea Shout our name from the mountains to seas Papua New Guinea Let us raise our voices and proclaim Papua New Guinea Now give thanks to the good Lord above For his kindness, his wisdom and love For this land of our fathers so free Papua New Guinea Shout again for the whole world to hear Papua New Guinea We’re independent and we’re free Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>We the people of Papua New Guinea Pledge ourselves, united in one nation We pay homage to our cultural heritage The source of our strength We pledge to build a democratic society Based on justice, equality, respect and prosperity for our people We pledge to stand together as One people, One nation One country God bless Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>Almighty and Eternal Father, We thank you and praise you. For the infinite love and mercy, You rain down blessings upon mankind, in spite of their faults and failings. Bless our nation PNG, and her people. We are pilgrims on our way to freedom, with good news for all we meet. Help us travel lightly, travel together. Learn as we go, we are disciples, The mission is urgent, The journey is long. Help us travel with authority, fearing no one. We are apostles, Opponents of evil. Let the cross be our compass, love be our sign. To lean upon your great strength, Trustfully and to wait patiently and serenely For the unfolding of Your Will.</td>
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Amen