Solomon Islands Parliamentary Election

Observer Mission Report

December 5, 2001

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International Republican Institute

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I.   Mission Statement

The International Republican Institute (IRI), with funding from the Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening (CEPPS), sponsored a five-member election observation delegation to the December 5, 2001, parliamentary election in the Solomon Islands.

IRI's delegation gathered in the capital of the Solomon Islands, Honiara, prior to the election to receive official briefings before deploying to various regions. After the election, IRI observers returned to Honiara for debriefing sessions with larger groups of international observers.

The IRI election mission traveled to the Solomon Islands with the objective of strengthening voter confidence and promotion of a transparent democratic electoral process. The delegation therefore observed both the election administration and the electoral environment, separate but related areas by which an election may be influenced.

IRI's delegation was led by Thomas Garrett, IRI Resident Program Director in Indonesia, and consisted of Johanna Kao, IRI Resident Program Director in East Timor and Doreen Williams, IRI Resident Program Officer in Indonesia. The delegation was joined by Andrew Thornley, until October 2001, The Asia Foundation's Program Officer in East Timor and Jim Heilman, until November 2001, the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) Advisor in the Solomon Islands.

IRI wishes to express its appreciation to the United States Embassy in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea and to the United States Consular Agent in Honiara, Solomon Islands, for their support and assistance in this mission.

II.   Executive Summary

The December 5, 2001 parliamentary election in the Solomon Islands was the country's first election since the coup of June 2000, which removed Prime Minister Bartholomew Ulufa'alu and his government. The desire of the people of the Solomon Islands, in this election as in the preceding election in 1997, to peacefully and democratically seek reform is evident with 32 of the 50 seats in the parliament won by first time officeholders. While acknowledging the reform mandate conferred by most voters on the candidates, it must be noted that a small number of individuals who won election to the parliament have alleged connections to the 2000 coup, or were under a cloud for financial or criminal charges in preceding governments.

IRI's five member delegation observed the political environment in the days before the election, meeting with candidates, election officials, local officials and voters. All aspects of election administration, including the opening of polling sites through the counting of the ballots and announcement or returns, were observed by IRI delegates.

The IRI observers coordinated their deployments on Guadalcanal and Malaita, sites of the main ethnic conflict which rocked the country in 2000, with that of four officials of U.S. Embassies from Fiji, Papua New Guinea and New Zealand, and a larger international force of observers. IRI delegates deployed to their assigned districts two to three days in advance of the election, by canoe, four-wheel drive, helicopter and naval vessel. Despite the difficulties in travel, IRI observers monitored the election in seven of the Solomon Islands' fifty constituencies and inspected 29 polling sites on election day.

There were few verifiable cases of fraud or other serious electoral violations on election day or during the count, in those constituencies that IRI and other international observers were able to enter. It was problematic that particular constituencies, such as one on the southern coast of Guadalcanal Island, under the control of militants, were not deemed adequately secure for foreign observers. Reports that filtered out of these unmonitored constituencies indicate substantial deviation from the election law and procedures.

IRI's final assessment of the election is that the intent of the majority of voters of the Solomon Island was fulfilled on December 5, 2001. Despite the credibly executed and generally transparent electoral process, problems were identified in the election's administration. IRI has provided in this report eleven recommendations for consideration by the parliament of the Solomon Islands in the conduct of future elections. Among the recommendations, IRI suggests an active effort in development of accurate voter lists, creation of a permanent election commission, an increase in the number of local polling site officials, and a redesigned balloting process that allows voters to indicate their preference in candidates by marking the ballot itself.

IRI observers arrive at remote village polling site by boat

III. Electoral Environment

The Solomon Islands became independent in 1978. The country is a member of the British Commonwealth, with the British monarch as the official head of state, represented by a Governor-General. The Prime Minister is the head of government and is selected by the unicameral parliament, along with the ministers of government.

The country's political system has been plagued by unstable parliamentary majorities. Although elected to four year terms, members of the parliament often "cross the floor," that is, they abandon their initial support for the prime minister during votes of no-confidence, bringing down the government. These realignments usually are not based on ideology or principle, but are the result of deal-making behind the scenes of the parliament.

Unstable Governments

The first post independence government was elected in August 1980. Prime Minister Peter Kenilorea was head of government until September of the following year, when Solomon Mamaloni, former chief minister of the Solomon Islands during the British protectorate, replaced him following a parliamentary realignment. In the next election cycle. Kenilorea returned to the Prime Minister's office, but was replaced in 1986 by his deputy, Ezekiel Alebua.

Mamaloni became prime minister for a second time after the 1989 national election. In this instance, Mamaloni served an entire term, something not done by any other prime minister of the Solomon Islands. He was followed by Francis Billy Hilly, who attempted to rein in rampant illegal logging and growing official corruption inherited from the previous government. Hilly lost the office of prime minister when members of the parliament crossed the floor in November 1994, allowing Solomon Mamaloni a third opportunity as prime minister.

The national governments of the 1990s, almost entirely dominated by Solomon Mamaloni or his allies, were tarred with financial and criminal scandal. During the tenure of the last Mamaloni government, seven of its ministers were charged with logging illegality and the Ministry of Finance admitted that $10 million was missing from the nation's treasury. Demanding compensation for the loss of state lands, indigenous people on Guadalcanal and other islands attempted to take foreign timber companies to court, as anger built in the ethnic communities.

In 1997, the general election brought a majority of new faces to the parliament and installed the Solomon Islands Alliance for Change Coalition (SIACC) government of Bartholomew Ulufa'alu. In addition to logging reform. Ulufa'alu's government attempted to tackle corruption through a reduction in the size of the civil service. Despite support from the international donor community for reforms, support within the country for the SIACC changes was split.

During the following three years, the SIACC government faced three attempts to unseat it by parliamentary realignments. Political deal-making persuaded several former Ulufa'alu supporters to cross the floor. Each attempt failed, with the closest of the three votes of no confidence ending in a tie vote. While the SIACC government worked to promote reform in this unstable political environment, other tensions took center stage for the Solomon Islands.

Ethnic Tensions Erupt

Some 990 islands comprise the Solomon Islands. When these previously independent or autonomous groupings of people found themselves bound into a single political entity, group identity came to be associated with "wantok," a Pidgin word meaning "same language." In elections for parliament, it became apparent in the 1980s and 1990s that people voted for their wantok, the candidate that spoke their dialect or language, regardless of issues.

While the wantok phenomenon creates certain difficulties for a democratic system, it was perhaps less of a problem than that of ethnic resentment and competition. Malaita and Guadalcanal are two of the larger and more populated islands in the Solomon Islands. While both islands are developed, Guadalcanal, with the country's capital of Honiara, is more so, in large part due to the substantial airfield left behind from World War II.

After the placement of the capital on Guadalcanal, Malaitan emigration to Guadalcanal began, and Malaitans settled into the civil service and police, as well as the labor force. The indigenous people of Guadalcanal, the Guale, grew resentful of this Malaitan predominance. The majority Guale also were angry with the national government for its failure to grant state land to indigenous people. This anger worsened in the timber scandals of the Mamaloni years.

Conflicts over land rights and disputes among the various ethnic groups in the Solomon Islands are rooted in legal structures that serve to reinforce traditional divisions. Land ownership is reserved exclusively for Solomon Islanders on their respective islands, which has resulted in land issues melding with ethnic conflict.

No longer believing that legal means would receive redress for their grievances, group of Guale seized the Royal Solomon Police barracks, obtaining arms for their next action, which was to form the Guadalcanal Revolutionary Army (GRA) in the late 1990s. The GRA merged with Guale militants from other regions of the islands to form the Isatabu Freedom Movement (IFM) in 1999.

The IFM conducted a campaign of intimidation toward Malaitans living on Guadalcanal, with the express purpose of driving them off the island. It also demanded financial compensation for Guale deaths it claimed had been committed by Malaitans and sought greater autonomy for Guadalcanal. The terror tactics resulted in some 20,000 ethnic Malaitans, including many born on Guadalcanal and resident there since birth, to flee to Malaita.

Prime Minister Ulufa'alu's government declared a state of emergency in June 1999, but allowed it to expire after four months, as active violence subsided on Guadalcanal, despite the fact that IFM militants remained armed and in control of many areas of the island. In hopes of final resolution of the tensions, Ulufa'alu gave several hundreds of thousands of dollars in settlement to the Guale militants, as part of the terms of the Honiara Peace Agreement, signed in August of that year.

The payments to the IFM infuriated Malaitan militants, who organized the Malaita Eagle Force (MEF). Seizing weapons from a police depot in the capital of Malaita, MEF announced its demands for reparations, including a $40 million settlement, from the central government. The SIACC government had to set aside its reform agenda for the Solomon Islands, to try to halt the slide towards ethnic civil war. It was during this period that basic government services, such as road maintenance, education. operation of the national airline and stabilization of the national currency, declined precipitously.

In June 2000, the MEF took control of the capital. To this day, many citizens believe the national police force colluded with the MEF coup. Bartholomew Ulufa'alu was taken hostage and, days later, resigned from office, taking his SIACC government with him. The death toll from the coup was placed around 100. As U.S., Australian, and other foreign citizens were evacuated from Guadalcanal, parliament gathered on an Australian naval vessel offshore and elected Manasseh Sogavare as prime minister.

Immediate doubts were raised as to Sogavare's legitimacy. Under one plausible interpretation of the Solomon Islands' constitution, the method of Sogavare's election may have violated the constitutional requirement that the prime minister be elected on the soil of the country. Also, some members of parliament claimed they were prevented or otherwise intimidated from attending the vote. With substantial assistance from the Australian government, an agreement was reached

among the warring ethnic groups, called the Townsville Accords. Townsville had the laudable goal of an amnesty for both weapons and militants. An unarmed international monitoring team was sent to the Solomon Islands to observe the implementation of the Accords.

In practice, however, weapons remained in the hands of many militants. Foreign businesses, threatened with extortion or other demands, found no protection from the police force, outgunned by the militants. Already reeling from the loss of their heavily Malaitan work force, foreign firms began to shut down operations, worsening the economic situation. Former Prime Minister Ezekiel Alebua, now Guadalcanal governor. was shot, allegedly by MEF fighters.

Attempt to Postpone the Election

The constitution mandated a general election in 2001, but the Sogavare government and parliament moved to amend the law to allow a postponement of the election. This effort was opposed by the international community and by many in the Solomon Islands, who demonstrated against the amendment on the streets. Parliament failed to get the necessary votes required to amend the constitution.

The Sogavare government then announced there were no national funds for an election. Australia, New Zealand, Taiwan, and the United States stepped in to provide various levels of financial support so that the elections could be held. In fact, the December 5, 2001 election was completely funded by the international donor community. With the Sogavare government still hesitant to hold elections, on the grounds of worry about the presence of weapons in the hands of the militants, the election date was established for December 5, 2001.

2001 Election Campaign

Although the parliament failed to amend the constitution to postpone the election, it did succeed in passing an Act of Parliament

which increased the registration fee for candidates by one hundred and fifty percent, which outraged many citizens. The High Court threw out this law. While political parties in the Solomon Islands are weak, the viable parties were able to field candidates for the election. Many independents also achieved ballot placement, indicating that access to the ballot was equitable. Surprisingly, given the tarnished image of the post-coup parliament, almost every incumbent sought reelection. Some 328 candidates in all contested the election.

The Solomon Islands Alliance for Change Coalition was led during the campaign by Bartholomew Ulufa'alu, who was joined in the effort by former Prime Minister Francis Billy Hilly. It campaigned on reform of the national police force and cleaning up government corruption. The United Democratic Party, headed by former Prime Minister Peter Kenilorea, also campaigned on the issue of police reform. The People's Alliance Party ran candidates in most every constituency, urging greater financing for education. Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare led the People's Progressive Party effort.

The actual election campaign period was rather anemic. In part, this was due to the absence of diverse media outlets in the economically strapped country. For instance, there is no national television channel. Another reason for the low level of campaigning may be the wantok system described earlier, wherein voters select their candidate based solely on ethno-linguistic compatibility.

Money politics was a charge frequently leveled between candidates, although evidence was usually lacking. In Honiara, failure of the city water authority to pay the electric company resulted in the cessation of service, which then caused water delivery to be halted for days. A local businessman, who was also a candidate to parliament, paid the electric bill himself and water service was restored. Although he did this anonymously, the source of this largesse became known and his opponents accused him of buying the election. The businessman, an eventual victor on December 5, declared the electric payment to be a loan, to be repaid. not a gift.

In other districts, allegations of candidates distributing sacks of rice or paying school fees were common. In the culture of the Solomon Islands, giving something of value to another places the recipient in a sense of obligation to the giver. For example, tipping is discouraged in the Solomon Islands, because of this sense of obligation.

Absentee balloting was not provided for in the election law, so many citizens of Honiara were given the option of voting in Honiara for a local candidate, or returning home to cast their ballot. In some instances, an expensive boat passage of two or three days was necessary to reach home constituencies. In the last week or so before the election, several fully occupied boats left Honiara daily with returning voters. Charges were made, but never pursued or proven, that candidates were providing these boats for voters.

With days until the election, national police threatened a boycott unless salary arrears were met and extra compensation made. A last minute decision by Australia, New Zealand and Taiwan to each provide additional funds averted the boycott. Still, in districts visited by IRI observers, police and other individuals involved with the election complained of weeks-long salary arrears. In these difficult operating conditions, election officials had also to contend with a decision by the telephone company to discontinue service to all but essential government offices, as they were owed nearly one million U.S. dollars.

IV.   Election Administration

One the Governor General announces an election, it, it must take place no earlier than 42 days from the announcement. The Solomon Islands Election Commission (SIEC), which is not a permanent body, must organize the election and the voters. To accomplish this task, a major undertaking in the best of circumstances, SIEC staff is seconded from the civil service and other sources.
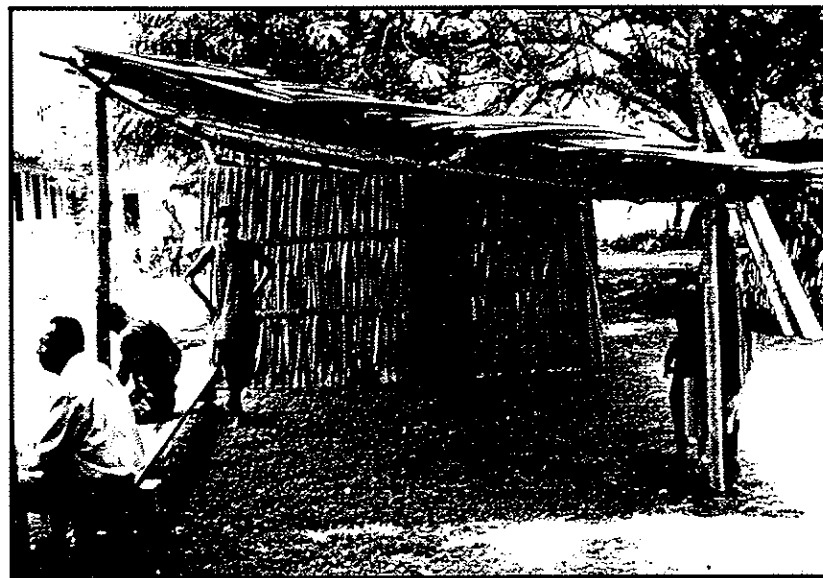
Leaf hut built for use as a polling site

A court decision after the 1993 election decreed that balloting must halt precisely at 5:00 p.m. on election day. In much of the country balloting is done in leaf huts or other facilities that may or may not be powered with electricity, with darkness falling approximately 6:00 p.m. In many countries, polling sites close doors at a particular time, but those voters who are inside before closing time are allowed to complete balloting. By contrast, the law in the Solomon Islands required

balloting to halt at closing. To accommodate these conditions of lighting and the court ruling, the number of polling sites was established with the goal of serving a reachable number of approximately 700 voters each, from a registration list of 288,000 voters. Seven hundred and forty-nine polling sites were therefore needed on election day, each staffed by two officials and at least one police officer, all of whom had to be identified, seconded and trained by the SIEC.

The structure of the electoral administration was as follows :

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┌─────────────────────────────┐
│     Electoral Commission     │
└─────────────────────────────┘
               │
┌─────────────────────────────┐
│ Office of the Electoral Commission │
└─────────────────────────────┘
               │
┌─────────────────────────────────────────────┐
│             Election Managers (10)            │
│ (One for each Province and Honiara City Council) │
│   (Provincial Secretaries (to provide assitance) │
└─────────────────────────────────────────────┘
               │
┌─────────────────────────────────────────────┐
│            Returning Officers (50)            │
│          (One for each Constituency)          │
│   (Assisted  by Assistant Returning Officers) │
└─────────────────────────────────────────────┘
               │
┌─────────────────────────────────────────────┐
│              Presiding Officers               │
│    (One in charge of each Polling Station)    │
│        (Assisted by Polling Assistants)       │
└─────────────────────────────────────────────┘
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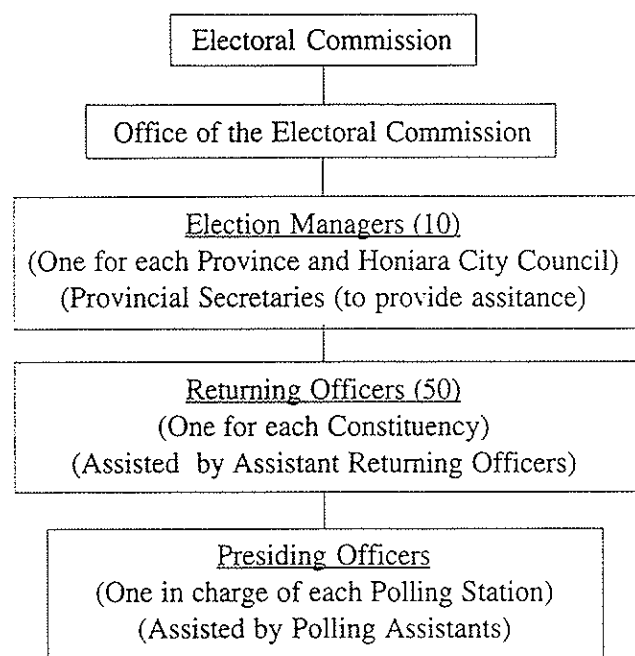
The Election Commission has three members, a speaker and two members. In the period before the election, they met twice weekly and then went to daily meetings a few weeks before the election. Below them is the Office of the Electoral Commission, a staff of several who administer the election.

Ten Election Managers (one representing each province) coordinate work in the field with the office of the Electoral Commission. Fifty Returning Officers, one for each constituency in parliament, work under the Election Managers. These Returning Officers have at least one Assistant Returning Officer working with them.

At the polling station level, only two official positions are identitified in the election law: Presiding Office and Polling Assistant.

Voting in the December 5 election was open to citizens of the Solomon Islands, eighteen years of age or over who were not covered in a set of disqualifications set out in the Constitution, such as insanity or former election related offences. In summer 2001, a program to revise the registration lists was undertaken, culminating November 7. Persons wishing to register had to be eighteen years of age by this date, not by the date of the election.

The updated voter list had some 288,000 registrants, a number in excess of any expectations. As no absentee balloting existed, people living in Honiara who could not make the trip to their home province where they were already registered, had to re-register in Honiara to vote in local constituencies. On December 5, the turnout of registered voters was low in Honiara, probably due to more people returning home than expected.

One feature of the Solomon Islands election was the use of candidate symbols, according to which voters cast their ballot. There were 30 symbols of differing colors, such as a blue bus, a pink hibiscus and a golden sailfish, that were used to identify candidates. Voters received a ballot and then entered a room alone, with no observer present, and placed the unmarked ballot into one of several ballot boxes that displayed the candidate symbol and his or her name. In the 1997 election, problems arose when ballot box symbols were switched by voters unobserved in the solitude of the ballot box room. In the 2001

election, symbols were to be attached to the box by glue and tape, to stave off removal or transfer.

Candidate symbols on the respective ballot boxes

Following the close of balloting, votes were not counted at the polling site, but were sealed and then collected by the Returning Officer and taken to a central counting site.

Election Day Observations

IRI observers were on hand prior to the 7:00 a.m. opening of polling sites in their respective constituencies, often arriving on foot or by boat after sleeping in a leaf hut or on the beach the evening before.

In all but one observer case, polling stations opened on time. In a polling station in East Guadalcanal Constituency, what was described as a "complete" voter list was not on hand before 7:00 a.m. and the

station opened more than one hour late. For the most part, presiding officers sealed ballot boxes only after displaying the empty boxes to observers and candidate representatives. In a polling station in West Kwaio, the presiding officer took the extra precaution of then writing the name of each candidate on the bottom of their respective symbol adorned box, to insure against the boxes being switched during the day. However, at the same site, the election officials did not have the key to lock the boxes and borrowed the key of a neighboring polling station.
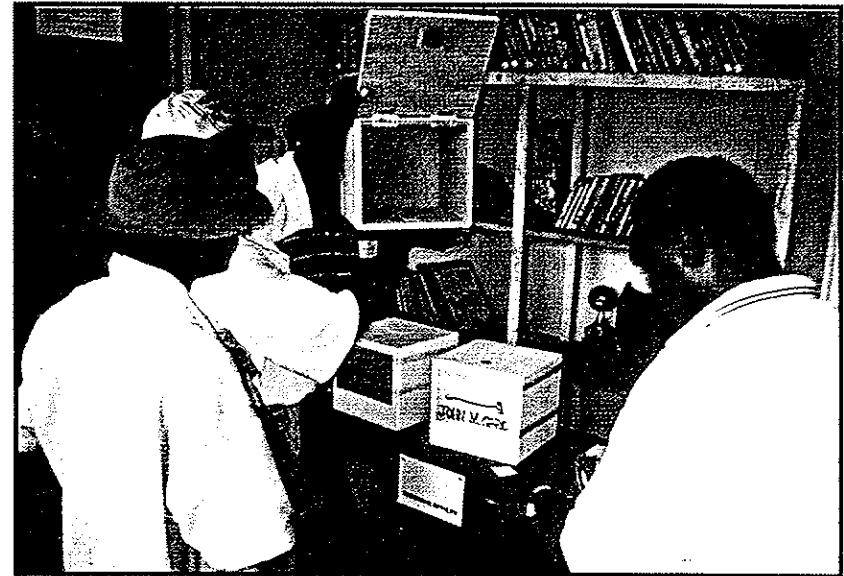
Election officials display empty ballot boxes prior to sealling

Presiding officers had one key for all their respective ballot boxes. This observation led to the discovery that the 10,000 or so ballot boxes necessary for the elections nationwide were locked by duplicative, if not precisely identical, keys. This large number of identical keys led to speculation that keys that could open any ballot box could be in the hands of unauthorized persons.

A practice new to this election was the application of indelible ink to the voter's right little fingernail. All IRI observers noted inconsistencies in this area. In some cases, ink was applied to the left little finger, as in Constituency 39, or applied at the top of the nail, which could then be clipped off. At polling sites in East Guadalcanal, fingers were inked before voter names were located on the official list. Election officials did not seem to have received adequate training in the use of the ink, which, in all other regards, would appear to be a positive addition to election administration.

Polling sites were required to display voter lists, instructions and candidate symbol cards in the same order as they were arranged inside the balloting room. In a majority of observed cases, candidate symbols outside the polling site were not arranged in the same order as the boxes were placed inside. Several times, voter lists or instructions were not displayed.

Another frequently observed violation of the election law was the presence of police, in some cases more than one officer, inside the polling station. The election law stipulates that police were to remain outside the polling station, unless requested to enter by the presiding officer. At a polling station in Constituency 40, police occupied a room which lay between the registration desk and the balloting room. Voters in a single file had to pass two policemen to access the ballot box. In this same district, police assisted polling officials by explaining voting procedures or hovered over polling officials as they distributed ballots. In most cases, this did not appear overly intimidating to voters or election officials. In certain instances, owning to the physical plant of the polling site, if a policeman were to be outside the site, as the law instructs, he would have been in the blazing sunlight.

Given the procedure of voting in this election (i.e inserting a blank ballot into a ballot box identified by the candidate's symbol), it was necessary for the voter to be alone in the room with ballot boxes in order to ensure ballot secrecy. But, in Auki Constituency #18, two of the ballot boxes could be seen from the registration room. In this same polling station, an individual in plainclothes claiming to be "local security" was seen watching voters as they cast their ballots.

The process of voting in this election, whereby the voter was unattended in a room full of ballot boxes, and unobserved while inserting his ballot into a box, is problematic on several levels. Voters entering the ballot box room could easily pocket their ballot for later sale to candidates or campaigns, or stuff a ballot box with more than one ballot. As no observer was legally allowed to watch voters cast ballots, this was not witnessed by IRI observers, but, in later vote counts, three or more ballots could be found folded together at times. This would indicate someone inserted more than one ballot into the box at one time.

The most serious problem in this election was inaccurate or incomplete voting lists. All IRI observers encountered this issue in their respective constituencies. International observers from other organizations reported the same finding during debriefing sessions after the election.

In Central Kwara'ae, a candidate told the IRI observer that 10 members of his family had been deleted from the vote list and were unable to vote on election day. In East Guadalcanal, another candidate told IRI's observer that voter lists excluded entire families, and that the registration officer was a relative of a competing candidate. In Tangarare, in West Guadalcanal, some 30 people were excluded from voting, due to the absence of their names from the official list. In the same constituency, at a different site, up to 60 individuals were turned away, due to the incomplete voter list.

Voters locate their name prior to entering the polling site

As mentioned earlier, the election law mandated that all balloting activity halt at 5:00 p.m. IRI observers did not witness any problems with this practice on election day. The process of closing the polling site differed from constituency to constituency. The most common problem observed by IRI delegates was large numbers of unauthorized or unidentified people in the polling station as election official sealed ballot boxes for transport.

Ballots were not counted at the polling station level, but were sealed and then given to Returning Officers. Tabulation of votes was done at counting centers, often provincial capitals. In some cases. tabulation was done on election night. In many others. tabulation took place over the next two days, as ballots were transported by boat, car or plane.

The tabulation process at counting centers was very slow. yet appeared to be transparent for the most part. There were few serious challenges by the candidate representatives who were allowed to monitor proceedings in the counting centers where IRI observers were present.
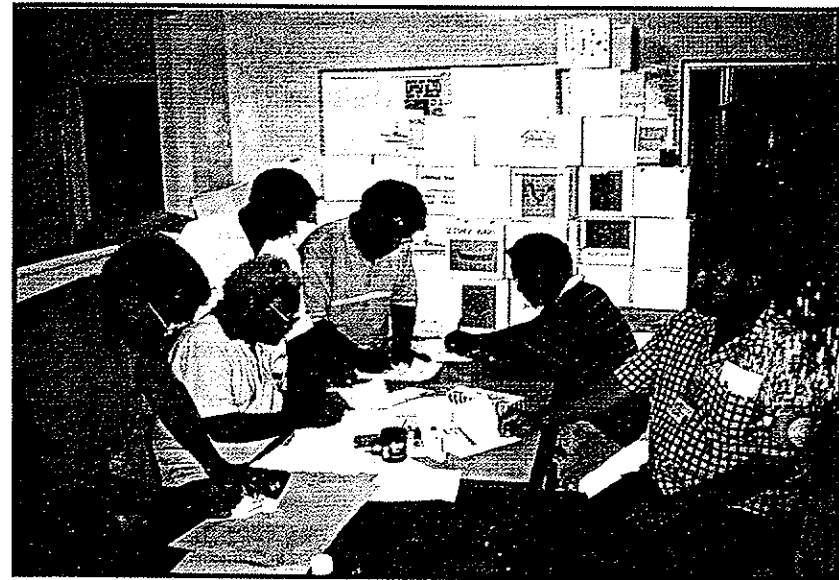
Vote tabulation was done at counting centers across the country

V.   Recommendations

Issue 1. Solomon Islands Election Commission

While the Solomon Islands Election Commission (SIEC) fulfilled its duties in the face of turbulent conditions and deteriorating infrastructure, the lack of a permanent election office created unnecessary problems in the preparation of this election. Procedures, staff and structures that should have been in place to prepare for the election were not established until too late to be effective.

IRI recommends that the Solomon Islands government fund a permanent election commission and a voter registration office. While there were several staff members of the election office, their jobs – and areas of responsibility – were seldom fully explained. As a result, several critical areas, particularly logistics and planning, were left to outside international advisors. It is recommended that the SIEC undertake a thorough review of staffing requirements and positions and be prepared to fund fully all necessary positions.

Issue 2. Electoral Law Reform

The current electoral law contains incomplete and often conflicting provisions. Certain legal mandates were simply ignored by local election officials due to their impracticality. Other critical areas, such as vote counting procedures, are virtually absent from the law. Procedures such as the use of individual ballot boxes for each candidate do not meet international standards.

IRI recommends that the Parliament undertake a thorough review and revision of the electoral law, with substantial technical input from international experts.

Issue 3. Funding and Financial Accounting

Early estimates are that the December 5, 2001 election cost more than 3.5 million dollars, virtually all of which was received from international donors. Even so, many key participants did not get paid a reasonable salary nor in a timely manner. There were several instances where SIEC contracting decisions did not follow normally accepted procedures.

IRI recommends that Solomon Islands financial officers, with the assistance of international experts, devise sound and practical funding and financial accounting policies to ensure that future elections can be conducted in a fiscally prudent fashion and without major financial assistance from the international community.

Issue 4. Voter Education.

The voter awareness program devised by the Australian Election Commission consultants was a valuable new tool in educating electorate about their civic responsibilities. However, the extent to which this education was disseminated was inadequate.

IRI recommends that the SIEC and appropriate ministries build on this success, and expand voter and civic education opportunities for the people of the Solomon Islands.

Issue 5. Voter Registration

The registration exercise, and the centralization and computerization of the voter rolls, appeared to improve the accuracy of the rolls over previous elections. But the alleged cases of voters disappearing from the rolls used at the polling sites suggest that the registration system is still in need of much attention.

IRI recommends that a year-round registration system, and appropriate quality control mechanisms, be put in place as soon as practical. IRI also recommends the use of sealed lists or some other method of ensuring that the lists are not tampered with after leaving the Election Commission.

Issue 6. Training of Election Officers

Difficulties in communications and travel in the Solomon Islands are recognized by IRI. However, there appeared to be no plan in place for training returning officers, election managers, presiding officers, and other staff, other than that developed and conducted by international technical advisors.

IRI recommends that the SIEC, with international assistance if necessary, develop reasonable training programs and materials for all individuals involved with future elections.

Issue 7. Observation and Transparency

In addition to its general success in observing and reporting on the election, the international observer missions - by their very presence - provided reassurance to the citizens that election fraud could not be blatantly committed without notice. It was unfortunate, however, that no local NGOs applied for accreditation as domestic observers.

IRI recommends that the SIEC encourage both international and domestic election observation in future elections.

Issue 8. Practice of Balloting and Ballot Boxes

As mentioned earlier, the use of multiple ballot boxes, necessary for a system such as the one used by the Solomon Islands, is not in accord with international practice. The use of a single ballot box at local polling sites would enhance security and the counting process.

IRI recommends that the election law be revised to provide for voters to mark ballots directly, while retaining the practice of candidate symbols. Ballot marking should take place in secrecy, but ballot boxes should be in view of election officials and observers at all times. IRI further recommends that there should not be identical keys for all ballot boxes, either in a district or nationwide.

Issue 9. Closing Time of the Polling Site

The 1993 court ruling that balloting must halt at 5:00 p.m. is an unnecessary limitation that could result in disfranchisement of voters.

IRI recommends that the parliament amend the election law in accord with international standards, to allow any voter who is inside the polling site before the official closing time to cast his or her ballot.

Issue 10. Inadequate numbers of polling officials

IRI observers were impressed by the civic pride and dedication of the local election officials. However, these individuals were not allowed to vote, due to the absence of absentee balloting and the fact that there were only two officials per site, both of whom had to be present at all times.

IRI recommends that a larger number of election officials at the local level be provided for in future elections, and that reasonable arrangements be made in the law whereby they can cast ballots.

Issue 11. Absentee Balloting

The inability of election officials to vote, as well as the hardship imposed on others who find themselves away from their home island on election day, could be addressed in part by provision for absentee balloting. IRI observers met state and private employees who suffered from extreme salary arrears, and the trip to their home province presented a severe hardship for them.

IRI recommends that some form of absentee balloting be provided for in future elections.

APPENDICES

A. 2001 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION VOTE RESULTS NATIONWIDE

CHOISEUL PROVINCE

1. South Choiseul

1. Rev. Leslie Boseto	1395
2. Jerry K. Pitisopa	1095
3. Wilson Pita	245
4. Sir Moses Pitakaka	101
# registered voters :	4370
# votes cast :	2839
% of voters :	64.97

2. North-West Choiseul

1. Clement Kengava	1567
2. Luke Pitakoe	743
3. Alpha Kimata	620
4. William Kutini Kolo	513
5. Kipling Alavae	392
6. Morris Zagavae	217
# registered.voters :	5437
# votes cast :	4051
% of voters :	74.51

3. East Choiseul

1. Manassaeh Sogavare	1225
2. Allen Qurusu	952
3. Billy Takubala	190
4. Nason Degerekolo	137
# registered voters :	3377
# votes cast :	2504
% of voters :	74.18

WESTERN PROVINCE

4. Shortlands

1. Augustine Taneko	382
2. Aquila Maike	365
3. Dominic Tata	273
4. Caroline Gorae	218
5. Martina Ului	132
6. Roy Kelosi	98
7. Robert Lebo	94
8. Joseph Pitu	88
9. Moses Bariri	71
10.Moses S.N. Bariri	35
# registered voters :	2330
# votes cast :	1759
% of voters :	75.49

5. North Vella La Vella

1. Danny Bula	695
2. Allan Paul	554
3. Arnold Moveni	282
4. David Lani Gina	239
5. Stephen Martin	120
6. Billy Maelagi	41
# registered voters :	2562
# votes cast :	1942
% of voters :	75.80

6. South Vella La Vella

1. Trevor Olavae	901
2. Ronald Ivupitu	708
3. Robin Mesepitu	660
4. Bavis Kimisi	442

```
#  registered voters :        3592
#  votes cast         :        2718
%  of voters          :        77.02
```

7. Ranogga/Simbo

```
1. Francis Billy Hilly          1336
2. Charles Kelly                 937
3. Tommy Toata                   585
4. Simon Kiko Tatapu             421

#  registered voters :         3279
#  votes cast         :         4808
%  of voters          :         68.20
```

8. Gizo/Kolombangara

```
1. Gordon Darcy                  985
2. Jackson Piasi                 611
3. Daniel Kennedy                585
4. John Kabolo                   558
5. Noah Zala                     338
6. Clement Tebaia                279
7. Warren Paia                   193
8. Iabeta Beneteti                98
9. Robert Zutu                    89
#  registered voters :         6869
#  votes cast         :         3736
%  of voters          :         54.39
```

9. West New Georgia & Vona Vona

```
1. Peter Boyers                  845
2. Charles Kere                  781
3. Ashley Wickham                539
4. Nelson Boso                   482
5. Angelin Nuatali               435
```

```
6. John Wesley Talasasa          419
7. Ronald Ziru                   262
8. Allen Tekulu                  201
9. Edward Arnold Daga             81

#  registered voters :         6298
#  votes cast         :         4047
%  of voters          :         64.26
```

10. North New Georgia

```
1. Job Tausinga                 1224
2. Gordon K. Rence               437

#  registered voters :         4811
#  votes cast         :         1662
%  of voters          :         71.36
```

11. South New Georgia/Rendova & Tetepari

```
1. Francis Zama                 1436
2. Danny Philip                 1246
3. Roderick Kera                 810
4. George Bubule                 120

#  registered voters :         3657
#  votes cast         :         4811
%  of voters          :         76.01
```

12. Marovo

```
1. Snyder Rini                  1951
2. Dudley Hirata                1870
3. Alex Ringi                    990
4. Nixon Dennie                  122

#  registered voters :         7997
#  votes cast         :         4737
%  of voters          :         69.56
```

MALAITA PROVINCE

13. North Malaita

1. Daniel Fa'afunua	1185
2. Leliana D. Firisua	784
3. Daniel Kwanairara	768
4. Rev. Michael Maeliau	738
5. Patteson Fulaburi	603
6. Elton Osiagalo	584
7. Raymond Suinao	157
8. Merilyn Mase	136
9. Swanson Konofilia	67
10. Joseph Taega	12
# registered voters :	7522
# votes cast :	5034
% of voters :	66.92

14. Central Kwara'ae

1. Fred Fono	3016
2. David Dausabea	1095
3. Richard Irosaea	558
4. Pr John Hugo	477
5. Harold Leka	474
# registered voters :	9070
# votes :	5620
% of voters :	61.96

15. Lau/Mbaelelea

1. Paul Maenu	2687
2. Walter Folotalu	956
3. Charles Ferania	708
4. James Roni	640

5. Dr. Judson Leafasia	593
6. Dick Daoleni	581
7. Alfrence Fatai	551
8. Francis Kairi	451
9. John Daofania	185
10. Wesley Sanga	111
11. Ben Foukona	66
12. James Maesulia	48
# registered voters :	11564
# votes cast :	7577
% of voters :	65.52

16. East Malaita

1. Joses W Sanga	701
2. Afu Leah Billy	699
3. Robert Mautai	559
4. Alfred Maetia	460
5. Robert Belo Mafane	338
6. Benedict Idu	229
7. John Ramofaulu	227
8. Samson Kwasi	201
9. Wilson Mamau	167
10. Alfred Aofia	96
# registered voters :	5834
# votes cast :	3677
% of voters :	63.02

17. Baegu/Asifola

1. Dr. Steve Aumanu	1273
2. Gabriel K. Suri	790
3. Joseph Ofotalau	595
4. Jasper T. Anisi	463

5. Daniel Aba   439
6. George Suri   110

\# registered voters :   6279
\# votes cast   :   3678
% of voters   :   58.58

18. Auki/Langalanga

1. Bart Ulufa'alu   3081
2. Francis F Sawane   908
3. Peter Baru   531
4. Francis J Saemala   152

\# registered voters :   7137
\# votes cast   :   4672
% of voters   :   100.0

19. Fataleka

1. Casper Luiramo   1067
2. Ronidi Mani   868
3. Frank Lamaea   548
4. Fred Bae   543
5. William Isui   384
6. Dr. George Manimu   282
7. Paul Ratu   174
8. Stephen Iromea   83
9. Saxon Talo   66
10. Mathew Iroga   44

\# registered voters :   5785
\# votes cast   :   4062
% of voters   :   70.22

20. West Kwara'ae

1. Benjamin P. Una   879
2. Sam S. Iduri   832

3. Stephen Tonafalea   829
4. Paul K. Daokalia   684
5. Robert W. Aioro   588
6. Joses Naumai   549
7. Thomas P. Tomu   477
8. Philip M. Nanau   460
9. Sam Alasia   435
10. Francis Loboi   271
11. Margaret Maelaua   217
12. Barton Raomao   118
13. Hudson E Waki   74
14. Rosie Anilabata   54

\# registered voters :   9023
\# votes cast   :   6471
% of voters   :   71.72

21. East Kwaio

1. Alfred Sasako   2682
2. Stanley Sofu   1027
3. Diki Kolosu   331
4. Delson Saefa'a   229

\# registered voters :   7450
\# votes cast   :   4269
% of voters   :   57.30

22. West Kwaio

1. John Garo   1457
2. David Nguiburi   1384
3. George Luialamo   814
4. Christian Bili   88
5. Jack Frank Ross   31
6. Denis Taeburi   21

# registered voters	:	5168
# votes cast	:	3803
% of voters	:	73.59

23. East Are'Are

1. Edward Huniehu	804
2. Michael Ahikau	795
3. Dickson Warakohia	719
4. Michael Wairano	666
5. Brian Taba'a	418
6. Benjamin Harohau	110
7. James Nihopara	50
8. Jerry Terenihona	23

# registered voters	:	4754
# votes cast	:	3585
% of voters	:	75.43

24. West Are'Are

1. Alfred Hairiu	1166
2. Aloysio Ma'ahanua	801
3. Lawrence Hunimeme	375
4. Charles Karaori	366
5. Jack H Sunaiano	309
6. Joe T Ariaria	277
7. Mark Isac	81

# registered voters	:	4572
# votes cast	:	3375
% of voters	:	73.82

25. Small Malaita

1. Alex Bartlett	1941
2. William Haomae	1124

3. Steven Maesiola	835
4. Mathew Fakaia	719
5. Lii Omile	628
6. Peter Nikae	263
7. Michael Masiha	501
8. Doctor Israel Wore	141
9. Robert Hite	132

# registered voters	:	9166
# votes cast	:	6584
% of voters	:	71.83

26. Malaita Outer Islands

1. David Holosivi	322
2. Henry Manuhea	310
3. Patrick Vahoe	189
4. Abraham Kapei	184
5. Manasseh A.Avicks	175
6. Gabriel Kemaiki	128
7. Paul Keyaumi	84
8. Allen Hareri	16

# registered voters	:	2073
# votes cast	:	1408
% of voters	:	67.92

GUADALCANAL PROVINCE

27. East Guadalcanal

1. Johnson Koli	1815
2. Celestine Solosaia	1355
3. Bobby M. Tangi	234
4. Joseph Tua'ai	67

# registered voters	:	5542
# votes cast	:	3471
% of voters	:	62.63

28. East Central Guadalcanal

1. Nolen Leni	913
2. Hilda Kari	800
3. Mark Gatu	670
4. John Gela	464
5. Daniel Sade	456
6. Johnson Kengalu	187

# registerd voters	:	4866
# votes cast	:	3885
% of voters	:	79.84

29. North-west Guadalcanal

1. Siriako Usa	1161
2. Gabriel Lovanitila	550
3. Richard S Baokosu	427
4. Tadakusu Bernadette	261
5. Ben Michael	226
6. Fr. Peter Jim	221
7. Chaulu Valeriano	211

# registered voters	:	4884
# vote cast	:	3061
% of voters	:	62.67

30. North-east Guadalcanal

1. Stephen Paeni	1129
2. James E. Samu	839
3. Jaimie L. Vokia	752
4. Simon Tonavi	492

5. John Sura	219
6. Gideon Moses	107

# registered voters	:	4878
# votes cast	:	3545
% of voters	:	72.67

31. West Guadalcanal

1. Laurie Chan	1043
2. Titus Sura	988
3. Kamilo Teke	566
4. Fr. Donasiano Keli	340
5. Edme Ziokera	197
6. Francis Tavalo	90

# registered voters	:	4141
# votes cast	:	3230
% of voters	:	78.00

32. North Guadalcanal

1. Fr. Edmond Rukale	508
2. Benedict Gaimane	447
3. Stephen Panga	352
4. Barth Vavanga	318
5. Andrew kuvu	259
6. Alfred Thugea	189

# registered voters	:	2881
# votes cast	:	2072
% of voters	:	71.92

33. South Guadalcanal

1. Fr. Augustine Geve	2083
2. Sethuel Kelly	750

3. Victor S Ngele   263
4. Victor Totu   202

\# registered voters :   4620
\# votes cast   :   3302
% of voters   :   71.47

34. Central Guadalcanal

1. Walton Naezon   1364
2. Napter N. Lui   532
3. Peter Shanel   515
4. Justice Denni   383
5. Bernard Teli   333

\# registered voters :   5042
\# votes cast   :   3127
% of voters   :   62.02

TEMOTU PROVINCE

35. Temotu Pele

1. Michael Maina   1463
2. Martin Maga   748
3. Levi Laka   126
4. Thomas Salopuka   110
5. John M Numomalo   86
6. Justine G. Nuboa   74

\# registered voters :   3781
\# votes cast   :   2607
% of voters   :   68.95

36. Temotu Nende

1. Patteson Oti   2485
2. George Malirbaal   1329
3. Luke Memua   281
4. Fernandez Tungale   245
5. Simon P Meioko   232

\# registered voters :   6139
\# votes cast   :   4574
% of voters   :   74.51

37. Temotu Vatud

1. Jeffrey Teava   495
2. Alfred Ramsey   475
3. Hudson teava   360
4. Michael M Meone   224
5. Ross Hepworth   217
6. Lazarus S. Munamua   155

\# registered voters :   2537
\# votes cast   :   1928
% of voters   :   76.00

MAKIRA/ULAWA PROVINCE

38. East Makira

1. David Sitai   1454
2. Fred Pagewa Fanua   794
3. Martin Karani   722
4. Philip Taisau   499
5. Thomas Weape   459
6. Clement Waiwori   342

7. Mathias Pepena   338
8. Stephen Siapu   170

\#   registered voters :   5978
\#   votes cast   :   4782
%   of voters   :   79.99

39. Ulawa / Ugi

1. Nathaniel Waena   1016
2. John D. Teaitala   903
3. Commins Ikioa   147

\#   registered voters :   2564
\#   votes cast   :   2069
%   of voters   :   80.69

40. Central Makira

1. Bernard Giro   643
2. Reginald Nunu   580
3. Japhet Waipora   442
4. Gud Hagasuramo   407
5. Paul Watoto   383
6. Fredson Fenua   267
7. Alfred Woto   88
8. Ellison Ramo   77
9. Ishmael Tuki   68
10. Benedict Kinika   67

\#   registered voters :   4025
\#   votes cast   :   3034
%   of voters   :   75.38

41. West Makira

1. Mathias Taro   1757
2. Jackson Sunaone   1324

3. Charles Stennet   265
4. Daniel Dautaha   178
5. Albert Bori Sau   132

\#   registered voters :   4961
\#   votes cast   :   3663
%   of voters   :   73.84

HONIARA CITY COUNCIL

42. West Honiara

1. Yukio Sato   1347
2. Henry S. Dora   604
3. Mahlon Toito'ona   281
4. Paul Baekalia   280
5. Isac Inoke Tosika   202
6. Simeon B Pongi   84
7. Leonard Maenu'u   77
8. Charles Lesimaoma   69
9. Frank Pororara   47
10. Rolland Timo   40

\#   registered voters :   9477
\#   votes cast   :   3040
%   of voters   :   32.08

43. Central Honiara

1. Mesach Maetoloa   1025
2. John Moffat Fugui   906
3. Moon Pin Kwan   824
4. Robert Lulumani   485
5. Catherine Adifaka   293
6. Robert W Feratalia   142
7. Paul Belande   99
8. Ben Gale   24

#	registered voters	:	12551
#	votes cast	:	3799
%	of voters	:	30.27

44. East Honiara

1.	Simeon Bouro	1631
2.	Charles Dausabea	1019
3.	David Maesua	821
4.	George A. Tuke	692
5.	John M Kaluae	678
6.	Anne Saenemua	437
7.	Jason Wale	206

#	registered voters	:	18690
#	votes cast	:	5485
%	of voters	:	29.35

RENNEL & BELLONA PROVINCE

45. Rennel & Bellona

1.	Joses Tuhanuku	681
2.	Saueha Jtahua	477
3.	Saul Tepai	228
4.	Delma Nori Kaitu'u	211
5.	Edward K Angikimua	161
6.	Albert T. Hatigeva	69
7.	Solomon Maui	51

#	registered voters	:	2973
#	votes cast	:	1878
%	of voters	:	63.17

ISABEL PROVINCE

46. Hograno / Kia / Havulei

1.	Nelson Kile	1804
2.	Michael Meredi	555
3.	Reuben Natowan	499
4.	Edmund Andresen	433

#	registered voters	:	4714
#	votes cast	:	3292
%	of voters	:	69.83

47. Maringe/ Kokota

1.	Clement Rojumana	932
2.	Charles D. Fox	835
3.	Hugo Ragoso	689
4.	Thomas K. Chan	663
5.	Varian Lonamei	276
6.	Alan Diamana	158
7.	Peter Hauia	125
8.	Andrew Gedy	101

#	registered voters	:	4798
#	votes cast	:	3784
%	of voters	:	78.87

48. Gao / Bugotu

1.	Eric Notere	987
2.	William Gigini	789
3.	Nathaniel Supa	524
4.	Basil Manelegua	426
5.	Josiah P. Riogano	186

#	registered voters	:	4097
#	votes cast	:	2912
%	of voters	:	71.39

CENTRAL PROVINCE

49. Russell & Savo

1.	Sir Allan Kemakeza	2488
2.	Christopher Narasia	868
3.	Mathew Sale	685
4.	Eddie Grant Suli	45

#	registered voters :	5595
#	votes cast :	4086
%	of voters :	73.03

50. Nggela

1.	Frank B Pule	1541
2.	Mark R. Kemakeza	1367
3.	Anne Manedetea	854
4.	Charles F Manebona	826
5.	Simon Teva	820
6.	Gordon Mara	660
7.	John S. Visivisi	396
8.	Cecil Ono	283
9.	William Semu	235

#	registered voters :	8997
#	votes cast :	6988
%	of voters :	77.67

Solomon Islands Electoral Commission
National Parliament Elections 2001

B. ELECTION TIMETABLE - MAIN STATUTORY DATES

The election related activities have to be completed within a prescribed period of time. The following Timetable will apply for a General Election held on 5th December, 2001.

Activity	Sect. of 1980 Act (CAP 87)	Latest Day	Actual Date	Action
Governor - General to Appoint date by Proclamation	Sect. 24	At least 42 days Before Election Day (23rd October)	23rd October	Publication in Gazette
Notice of Election	Sect. 25 (1)	Within 7 days of Publication of Proclamation (30th Oct.)	24 th October to 30th October	Publication in each Constituency by Returning Officers
Nomination Period Start of Nomination Period	Sect. 25 (1) and Sect. 26 (5)	From date of Publication of Notice of Election	24th to 30th October	Candidates or their Nominators to deliver Nomination Papers/Dposits to Returning Officer
End of Nomination Period	Sect. 25 (1) and Sect. 26 (5)	No later than 28 days before Election Day	7th November	
Initial List of Validly Nominated Candidates	Sect. 29	Within 48 Hours of Expiry of time for Delivery of Nomination Papers (9th November)	9th November	Publication in each Constituency by Returning Officers

Activity	Sect. of 1980 Act (CAP 87)	Latest Day	Actual Date	Action
Withdrawal of Candidatures	Sect. 30 and Sect. 26(6)	Within 72 hours of Expiry of time for delivery of Nomination papers (to take effect from time received) (10th November)	10th November	Candidates to deliver Notice in writing to Returning Officer (or Asst. Returning Officer as provided by Sect. 26(6))
Notice of Poll (Final Notice) (i) Day/hours for Voting (ii) Candidates details & Symbols (iii) Nominators details (iv) Polling Stations and Electors allotted thereto	Sect. 33	On or before the 7th day next before Polling Day (27th November)	11th November to 27th November	Publication in each Constituency by Returning Officers
Death of Candidate between close of Nominations and Election Day (Sect. 32)				Returning Officers to Countermand the Election for Constituency following consultation with Electoral Comm.
Defer Election (in part)	Sect. 65 (1)	Within 14 days of Election Day (21st November)		Electoral Commission to give Notice and direct Returning Officer to appoint a new date
Appointment of Polling Agents	Sect. 35	No later than 4 days Before Polling Day (1st December)	1st December	Candidates to give Notice in writing to Returning Officers

Activity	Sect. of 1980 Act (CAP 87)	Latest Day	Actual Date	Action
Appointment of Counting Agents	Sect. 44	No later than 2 days before Polling Day (3rd December)	3rd December	Candidates to give Notice in writing to Returning Officers
Election Day	Sect. 24	Polling between the hours of 7 am and 5pm (sect. 37(2)) (5th December)	5th December	Voting at Polling Stations in Constituencies
Counting the Votes	Sect. 46	On such day and at such time as specified by Electoral Comm.	As soon as practicable after close of Poll and receipt of all Presiding Officers materials at respective Counting Centre.	Returning Officers to notify Electoral Commission of proposed Day and Time for conduct of the Count. Returning Officers to notify Candidates and Counting Agents.
Declaration of Successful Candidates	Sect. 55 (1)	Immediately Following Counting/Verification Procedures at Counting Centre		Returning Officers to Declare Result
Notification of Result in Writing	Sect. 57 (1)	On Conclusion of Election		Returning Officer to Notify successful Candidate and Governor General via Electoral Commission
Publication of Result	Sect. 57 (2)		As soon as possible	Governor-General to cause Results to be published locally and in Gazette

Activity	Sect. of 1980 Act (CAP 87)	Latest Day	Actual Date	Action
Return of Election Campaign Expenses	Section. 45 (1)	Within 1 month of Declaration of Result		Candidates to submit statement to Returning officer
Election Petition in repect of Undue Return or Undue Election	Section. 83 (1)	Within 1 month from date of Publication or result in Gazette (Sect. 57 (2) (b))		Petition presented to Court in its Civil Jurisdiction by either : (i) Voter (ii) Registered Elector (iii) Person with right to be returned/elected (iv) Candidate
Retention of Election Documents and their Destruction	Sect. 59	To be retained for 6 months from date of Election or as directed by Court Order (5th June 2002)	5th December 2001 to 5th June 2002	To be stored securely at Provincial Headquarters as determined by Returning Officer

C. ELECTION MANAGERS

Summary of Duties and Responsibilities of Election Managers

Duties and responsibilities of Election Mangers will include :

1. Establishing an office within the Province;

2. Assisting the Office of the Electoral Commission in the organisation of Training sessions for Returning Officers;

3. Disseminating information, instructions, guidance etc issued by the Office of the Electoral Commission on behalf of the Commission in order to ensure uniformity of practice.

4. Providing assistance as required by Returning Officers to enable those Officers to carry out their duties under section 34 of the 1980 Act in respect of the delineation and determination of polling station areas and provision of suitable polling station premises;

5. Collecting, checking and distributing all the required material for the Province as assembled by the Office of the Electoral Commission on a Constituency basis and coordinating the transportation and security arrangements as more particularly detailed in the document "Material for the Administration of the Elections".

6. Responsibility for an imprest account within the Province to cover expenditure as required including incidental items not supplied by the Office of the Electoral Commission;

7. Providing support to Returning Officers in respect of any problems arising in respect of materials, transport, premises

and related matters on and around polling day. Thus. Returning Officers must be available and contactable at this crucial time in the administration of the elections:

8. Maintaining regular contact with Returning Officers in respect of the progress of the counting of the votes exercise. In particular Election Managers must monitor the safe receipt of all Presiding Officers ballot boxes and materials at the Counting Centre, the date and time for the commencement of the counting process and the results for each Constituency in The respective Province.

9. Reporting, both orally and in writing, to the Electoral Commission, through the Office of the Electoral Commission, on the progress, or otherwise, of the various stages of the election process in each Constituency within the Province and in particular the reporting of results to the Electoral Commission as soon as they have been declared in the respective Constituencies;

10. Collation of Returning Officers reports and the submission of a Province Report to the Electoral Commission within two weeks of the date of the election.

D. RETURNING OFFICERS

Summary of Duties and Responsibilities

Note: Detailed instructions to Returning Officers are contained in "Guidelines for Returning Officers"

1. Appointment of Assistant Returning Officers.

2. Determination of Constituency Boundaries.

3. Delineation of Polling Station areas.

4. Determination of Polling station locations and suitable premises.

5. Allocation of electors to Polling stations.

6. Preparation and distribution of polling station lists of electors (split Registers of Electors).

7. Publication of Notice of Election.
    *   date and time of Election;
    *   date, place and time for delivery of Nominations;
    *   place and time for withdrawals.

8. Conduct of Nomination Procedures.
    *   receive, check and validate
    *   determine allocation of symbols / colour to Candidates
    *   publish initial list of validly Nominated Candidates with their details and their Nominators details;
    *   Notify office of Electoral Commission of initial list of candidates;
    *   Receive notices of withdrawal of candidatures;

- Notify office of Electoral Commission of final List of Candidates.

9. Publication of Notice of Poll (final notice).
   - day and hours of voting;
   - candidates details and nominators details;
   - symbols with background colour allocated to candidates;
   - situation of Polling stations and electors allocated.

10. Appointment of Presiding Officers and Polling Assistants and issue of their appointments.

11. Training of Presiding Officers and Polling Assistants.

12. Appointment of persons to assist with the counting procedures.

13. Receiving, checking and keeping safe the required election material for the Constituency.

14. Determining additional terms of material etc that may be required.

15. Distribution to Presiding Officers of items required for polling stations (including ballot boxes, ballot books, forms, notices, stationery etc).

16. Determine and record the distribution of ballot papers to Presiding Officers.

17. Produce list of Candidates and their allocated symbols / colour.

18. Determination and notification of "official mark" to Presiding Officers.

19. Receive appointments and record details of:
    - Candidates Polling Agents;
    - Candidates Counting Agents.

20. Notify respective Presiding Officers of Polling Agents appointed.

21. Receiving and recording the required items from Presiding Officers after close of Poll.

22. Monitor polling operations at polling stations on polling day and until safe receipt of Presiding Officers material / ballot boxes etc.

23. Ensuring the security of items delivered by Presiding Officers to the Counting Centre.

24. Provide advice and guidance to Presiding Officers as required.

25. Determination of day / time for Counting in consultation with Electoral Commission and of location for Counting of Votes.

26. Setting up a suitable room for the Counting process.

27. Conducting the Counting of the Votes for the Constituency.

28. Declaration of the Result for the Constituency.

29. Conduct a scrutiny / verification of PO's Ballot Paper Accounts.

30. Notification of Result to Election Manager for province.

31. Notification, in writing, to successful Candidate.

32. Maintaining regular contact with Election Manager on progress of election procedures.

33. Countermand the election in the event of death of Candidate (in consultation with Electoral Commission)

34. Take appropriate action as directed by Electoral Commission in respect of deferment of Election in the Constituency (part or whole).

35. Prepare and submit a Final Report to Electoral Commission.

36. Retain in a secure manner all election documents for 6 months or as directed by the Court.

37. Receive candidates Statements of Election Campaign Expenses (to be submitted by Candidates within one month of declaration of Result for Constituency).

38. Execute the Instructions of the Electoral Commission.

39. Exercise any other competences as assigned under the National Parliament (Electoral Provisions) Act 1980.

E. PRESIDING OFFICERS

Note : Detailed instructions to Presiding Officers and Polling Assistants are contained in a separate Manual.

Summary of duties and Responsibilities

1. Receive and check ballot boxes and all material required for the conduct of the poll.

2. Report to Returning Officer any missing or defective items.

3. Check polling Station premises before polling day.

4. Arrive early on polling day and prepare room /s in readiness for polling.

5. Report absence of Polling Assistant (or if Presiding Officer is absent Polling Assistant to report) to Returning Officer.

6. Determine the layout of the Polling Station room / s both for the receiving of electors, the issue of ballot papers and the arrangement of the room for voting in secret.

7. Arrange tables and chairs and material to be used by PO's and Polling Assistants.

8. Provide facilities for Candidates Polling Agents to observe / monitor the polling process and check their appointments against list provided by Returning Officer.

9. Display the required Notices and Lists both inside and outside (as required) the Polling Station premises.

(a) Outside Entrace to Polling Station
  (i)   "Polling Station" Notice – Name and No.
  (ii) "Election Offences" Notice
  (iii) List of Registered Electors for the Polling Station
  (iv) List of Candidates with their allotted symbols
  (v)   Direction for Guidance of Voters Notice on how to vote

(b) Inside Polling Station
  Direction for Guidance of Voters Notice on how to vote

10. Remove any campaign material from the polling station premises.

11. Before Opening of Poll:
  (a) Show Ballot Boxes empty and lock then
  (b) Affix Candidates Symbols with background color to ballot boxes as indicated on List from Returning Officer.
  (c) Mark base of each Candidates Ballot Box with the initials of the respective Candidate.
  (d) Explain to persons present about ballot boxes, the respective Candidates Symbols and the voting procedure.
  (e) Ensure Polling Assistant understands duties particularly in respect of placing the mark against the electors entry in the List of Registered Electors.

12. Open Poll on time (i.e 7am)

13. Control and regulated admission to Polling Station room and voting room and allow only the following persons to be present in the Polling Station.

(a) The Electors allotted to the Polling Station.
(b) Election Officers (i.e Election Manager for Province, Returning Officer, Assistant Returning Officer and Polling Assistant, Members and Accredited staff of the Electoral Commission).
(c) Candidates.
(d) Candidates Polling Agents where appointed.
(e) Accredited Observers.
(f) Accredited Journalists.
(g) Police Officer on duty when asked to do so by Presiding Officer.

14. Maintain the secrecy of voting.

15. Order the removal of persons by a Police Officer or other authorised person from the polling station for failing to obey an order or for misconduct (Presiding Officer Only).

16. Allow only those persons whose entries appear in the Polling Station List of Registered Electors to vote having checked for indelible ink and then marking the electors little finger of the left hand with ink.

17. Enter the electors Registered Number on the Ballot Paper Counterfoil.

18. Issue Ordinary Ballot Papers to electors duly endorsed with the "Official Mark".

19. Explain voting procedure to elector.

20. Direct elector to voting room / compartment when vacant.

21. Check voting room / compartment and candidates Ballot Boxes, at frequent intervals throughout polling hours.

22. Ensure security of ballot papers and other material.

23. Follow the instructions in relation to :-
    (a) Spoilt Ballot Papers.
    (b) Tendered Ballot Papers.
    (c) Assistance to blind physically, disabled and illiterate electors.

24. Take appropriate action in respect of any campaigning on Polling Station premises.

25. Take appropriate action in respect of any infringement of the legislative provisions relating to Election Offences.

26. Instruct Police Officer on duty, as required, in order to maintain the proper conduct of the poll at the Polling Station premises.

27. Report difficulties / problems to Returning Officer or Assistant Returning Officer.

28. Close the poll on time (i.e 5 pm). Allow electors who were issued with ballot papers before 5pm to vote but no ballot papers must be issued after 5pm.

29. At close of Poll :-
    (a) secure and seal Ballot Boxes ensuring that voting slot is sealed so that no further Ballot Papers may be inserted.
    (b) Reconcile the number of marked entries on the Polling Station List of Registered Electors with :-
        (i) Total Ordinary Ballot Papers issued.
        (ii) Total Tendered Ballot Papers.
        (iii) List of Spoilt Ballot Papers issued.
    (c) Prepare Statement (Ballot Paper Account)
    (d) Place into respective envelopes / packages :-

    (i) Unused Ballot Papers
    (ii) Spoilt Ballot Papers
    (iii) Counterfoils of Used Ordinary Ballot Papers
    (iv) Counterfoils of Used Tendered Ballot Papers
    (v) Marked copy of Polling Station List of Regitered Electors.
    (vi) Used Tendered Ballot Papers and Tendered Votes List.
    (vii) Invalidated Votes (arising from Personation) List.
    (viii) Protested Against (for Personation) List.
    (ix) Statement (Ballot Paper Account).
        and seal each envelope / packet

    (e) Place all other items in polythene bag / sack and tie with label.
    (f) Ensure all envelopes / packets / sacks are clearly marked with the Constituency / Ward / Polling Station names / numbers.

30. Hand over (either by delivery or collection as directed by Returning Officer) all the required material (i.e. sealed Ballot Boxes, sealed envelopes / packets etc) to Returning Officer for the purpose of the Counting exercise at the Counting Center.

31. Execute the instructions of the Returning Officer.

32. Exercise any other competences as assigned under the National Parliament (Electoral Provisions) 1980.

F. CANDIDATE SYMBOLS AND BACKGROUND COLORS

SYMBOL	COLOR	SYMBOL	COLOR
1. SHIELD	DARK RED	16. PINEAPPLE	GREEN
2. COCONUT TREE	GREEN	17. FARMER	PINK
3. SHIP(CUTTERBOAT)	LIGHT BLUE	18. FRIGATE BIRD	PINK
4. WOODEN BOWL	LIGHT BLUE	19. TREE	PINK
5. HOUSE	YELLOW	20. HIBISCUS FLOWER	PINK
6. BONITO FISH	YELLOW	21. TURTLE	WHITE
7. CONE SHELL	YELLOW	22. BUTTERFLY	WHITE
8. AXE	YELLOW	23. SOCCER BALL	LIGHT ORANGE
9. WAR CANOE	GOLD	24. ARROW	LIGHT ORANGE
10. PADDLE	GOLD	25. KNIFE	LIGHT ORANGE
11. HEN	GOLD	26. UMBRELLA	LIGHT ORANGE
12. SAILING FISH	GOLD	27. LAMP/LANTERN	BLUE
13. COW	GREEN	28. SCISSORS	BLUE
14. SMOKING PIPE	GREEN	29. TRUCK	BLUE
15. KEY	GREEN	30. BUS	BLUE

G. ELECTION OFFENCES

The following list gives a brief description of the election offences under the provisions of the National Parliament (Electoral Provinces) Act; 1980

1. Any corrupt of illegal practice done by the elected Candidate or his Agent shall render the election of such candidate invalid.(sect.66 (1))

2. Giving wrong answers to questions prescribed in sect.38 (c) put to a person applying for a ballot paper. Max fine $100 or imprisonment for 3 months or both. (sect.67)

3. Forging, counterfeiting, fraudulently defacing or destroying a ballot paper or the official mark on it. Max fine $ 200 or 6 months imprisonment or both. (sect.68 (1) [b])

4. Supplying Ballot Papers to any person without authority. Max fine $ 200 or 6 months imprisonment or both. (sect.68 (1) [c])

5. Fraudulent taking of a Ballot Paper out of any polling station or place of voting or place of election. Max fine $ 200 or 6 months imprisonment or both. (sect.68 (1) [d])

6. Destroying, taking, opening or otherwise interfering with a Ballot Box or a Packet of ballot papers without authority. Max fine $ 200 or 6 months imprisonment or both. (sect.68 (1) [e])

7. Interfere or attempt to interfere with an elector when casting his vote or to obtain information from him as to the candidate he is voting for or has voted for or the number on the ballot paper. Max fine $ 200 or 3 months imprisonment or both. (sect.69 (2))

8. Failing to keep the secrecy of the voting in all elections. Max fine $ 100 or 3 months imprisonment or both. (sect.69 (1))

9. No one is allowed to tell any other person (except as approved for by section 38 (g) in respect of a blind or disabled person who may be assisted by the Presiding Officer) for whom an elector is voting or has voted. Max fine $ 100 or 3 months imprisonment or both. (sect.69 (2))

10. Bribery, treating and Undue Influencing. Max fine $ 200 or 6 months imprisonment or both. (sect. 70) Together with a 5 year disqualification in respect of registration as an elector, voting and being elected or being a member of Parliament. (sect.76)

11. Voting more than once. Max fine $ 100 or 3 months imprisonment or both. (sect.7 (2))

12. Voting under another person's name. Max fine $ 100 or 3 months imprisonment or both.

13. Voting or causing another to vote, knowing that he or the other person is forbidden from voting. Max fine $ 100 or 3 months imprisonment or both. (sect.77 (a))

14. Publishing before or during an election a false statement of the withdrawal of a candidate. Max fine $ 100 or 3 months imprisonment or both. (sect.77 (b))

15. No one is allowed to act or incite others to act in a disorderly manner thereby interfering with lawful public meetings. Max fine $ 100 or 3 months imprisonment or both. (sect.78)

16. No one, except the candidate, may wear or display any card, symbol or emblem indicating support for a candidate or a political party, but this can only be done by anyone at a distance of not less than 50 yards from the door of the polling station and no person is allowed to make speeches or public addresses within 200 yards form the polling station. Max fine $ 20.000 (sect. 79)

17. Spending more than $ 50,000-00 for election campaign. Max fine $ 100 or 3 months imprisonment or both.

17. Any person -
    (a) having customary authority or religious influence within any Constituency or over or upon any elector residing within any proposed to be held with the constituency, issues or causes to be issued any prohibition, instruction, direction, order or command which, having regard to the nature and extent of such authority or influence or to the probable consequences, if any, of non - compliance with the prohibition, instruction, direction, order or command, is likely to cause -
        (i) any elector residing within the constituency or who is subject to the authority or affected by influence to desist or refrain from voting or taking in the election, or
        (ii) any election officer to desist or refrain from conducting the election within the constituency, or among the electors who are subject to the authority or affected by the influence; or

    (b) Who publicizes any prohibition direction, order or command referred to in paragraph (a) knowing that the prohibition, instruction. direction, order or command is likely to cause any elector residing within the constituency or who is subject to the authority or affected by the influence to desist or refrain from voting or taking part in the election, is guilty of an offence and liable to imprisonment for a term not less than one year but not more than ten years.