



PRESS RELEASE

“Young People Call on Government to Improve National General Elections Process to Save Democracy”

Thursday 16 February 2023 - A coalition of Port Moresby-based civil society organizations who work with young people have consolidated their voices to call on the National Government to seriously improve the National General Elections process in the country to save democracy. Youth Coalition, as the group is called, made this call when presenting their written submission to the Special Parliamentary Committee’s Inquiry on the 2022 General Elections on Wednesday 15 February 2023.

Speaking on behalf of the Youth Coalition, Maliwai Sasingian, Executive Director of The Voice Inc said

“National General Elections are a fundamental aspect of any democracy as it allows citizens the opportunity to participate in the governance process to elect representatives of their choice who will shape the destiny of the country. Sadly, many citizens in this country have missed out on this opportunity and it is important that the Government delivers free, fair, and safe elections. Drastic action is needed at the highest decision-making levels for the sake of democracy and the setting up of the Special Parliamentary Committee on the 2022 General Elections may be the first positive step the Government has taken”.

The Youth Coalition called on the Government to address the corrupting culture of money politics during elections, the massive arms build-up in the country fueling the election violence, as well as the weak state of public Institutions that seem unable to deliver according to their constitutional mandates to meet the needs of the people as expected in any normal democracy.

The Youth Coalition further called on the Government to address the needs of the marginalized and vulnerable by making elections more accessible to many young people of voting age and presently living with disabilities to be able to vote, as well as the need for greater protection against the exploitation of children during elections.

A total of 20 recommendations were submitted for consideration by the Special Parliamentary Committee in the Youth Coalition’s written submission. A full copy of the submission can be obtained by contacting the media contact provided below.

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Approved for release on behalf of the Youth Coalition by
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