



**ELECTORAL (AMENDMENT) ACT 2023**

**(NO. 15 OF 2023)**







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*PASSED* by the National Parliament this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December 2023.

*(This printed impression has been carefully compared by me with the Bill passed by Parliament and found by me to be a true and correct copy of the Bill)*

*David Kusilifu*  
**Clerk to National Parliament**

**ASSENTED** to in His Majesty's name and on His Majesty's behalf this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December 2023.

*Sir David Vunagi*  
**Governor-General**

*Date of Commencement: see section 2.*

**AN ACT TO AMEND THE ELECTORAL ACT 2018, AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES**

**ENACTED BY THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENT OF SOLOMON ISLANDS.**

# **ELECTORAL (AMENDMENT) ACT 2023**

## **Table of provisions**

1	Short title	1
2	Commencement	1
3	Amendment of Electoral Act 2018	1
4	Section 30 amended	1
5	Section 59 amended	2
6	Section 61 amended	2
7	Section 79 amended	2
8	Section 93 amended	3
9	Section 100 amended	3
10	Section 108 amended	3
11	Section 116 amended	4

# ELECTORAL (AMENDMENT) ACT 2023

## 1 Short title

This Act may be cited as the *Electoral (Amendment) Act 2023*.

## 2 Commencement

This Act commences on the date appointed by the Minister by notice in the *Gazette*.

## 3 Amendment of Electoral Act 2018

This Act amends the *Electoral Act 2018* (“**Principal Act**”).

## 4 Section 30 amended

Section 30 of the Principal Act is amended as follows:

- (a) in subsection (4), substitute the word “complaint.” with the following:

“complaint, and a decision reached by a panel is to be treated as a decision made by the Commission.”; and

- (b) after subsection (4) insert a new subsection as follows:

“(4a) For the purposes of subsection (4), the Commission may:

- (a) appoint as many 2 member panels as necessary to address the complaints within the timelines of subsection (3)(c); and
- (b) consider for the appointment of members:
- (i) persons who have reasonable knowledge of the provisions of the *Electoral Act 2018* and its regulations; and
- (ii) persons with experience in the work of similar panels would be an advantage; and

- (iii) to be engaged at a level of remuneration set by the Commission.”; and
- (c) in subsection (6), delete “or 104”; and
- (d) after subsection (6), add a new subsection:
  - “(7) A complaint under subsection (1) does not include a complaint during the counting process, which is addressed exclusively under section 104.”.

**5 Section 59 amended**

Section 59 of the Principal Act is amended:

- (a) in subsection (1)(b), insert the words “at least” between “ends” and “42 days”; and
- (b) by substituting subsection (3) with a new subsection:
  - “(3) The Commission may:
    - (a) declare a provincial headquarter or a place to be determined by the Commission to be a nomination place; and
    - (b) in the case of constituencies located within Honiara City, declare a place to be determined by the Commission to be a nomination place.”.

**6 Section 61 amended**

Subsection 61(1) of the Principal Act is amended by substituting the words “because of any unforeseen natural or man-made reason,” with “by reason of flood or storm or any other cause whatsoever, whether natural or man-made,”.

**7 Section 79 amended**

Section 79 of the Principal Act is amended:

- (a) in subsection (1), substitute “5pm,” with “4pm,”; and
- (b) by substituting subsection (2) with a new subsection:

"(2) The Commission may at any time prior to or on polling day, approve other hours of voting for a particular constituency or constituencies, ward or wards."

**8 Section 93 amended**

Section 93 of the Principal Act is amended in subsection 93(1) as follows:

- (a) in paragraph (a)(i), substitute "a date and time" with "dates and times"; and
- (b) substitute paragraph (a)(ii) with the following:
  - "(a)(ii) the date by which applications for pre-poll voting are to be made, must be at least 7 days before the date for that particular pre-poll voting."

**9 Section 100 amended**

Section 100 of the Principal Act is amended by substituting subsection (5) with the following:

- "(5) The returning officer may open the following documents if they are required for the purposes of verification or reconciliation in terms of the number of ballot papers issued:
  - (a) the sealed packet containing the marked copy of the register of electors;
  - (b) the sealed packet containing the counterfoils of used ballot papers."

**10 Section 108 amended**

Section 108 is amended by inserting 3 new subsections after subsection (5):

- "(6) The Court must declare the election of a candidate void if any corrupt or illegal practice was committed in connection with the candidate elected or the candidate's agent.

- (7) Where in an election petition it is shown that:
- (a) corrupt or illegal practices or illegal payments, employments or hirings were committed in reference to the elections for the purposes of promoting or procuring the election of a candidate; and
  - (b) the corrupt or illegal actions or illegal payments, employments or hirings in paragraph (a) so extensively prevailed that they may be reasonably supposed to have affected the result;

the candidate's election, if elected, shall be void and the candidate shall be disqualified for election as a member of Parliament for a period commencing on the date of judgment by the Court to the date of dissolution of Parliament following that judgment.

- (8) For the purposes of this section, "agent" includes a polling agent, a counting agent, and any person acting on behalf of a candidate during that candidate's campaign."

**11 Section 116 amended**

Section 116 of the Principal Act is amended by:

- (a) after subsection (1) insert a new subsection (2):
  - "(2) For the avoidance of doubt:
    - (a) the request to be released to vote in subsection (1) is a reference to being released on polling day only; and
    - (b) the employer's duty under this section does not include releasing employees on any other day, before or after polling day."; and
- (b) renumber the current subsection (2) as subsection (3).





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