



**Office of the Solomon Islands
Electoral Commission**
Department of Home Affairs
Vavaya Ridge, PO Box. 1500. Honiara
Phone 21198/21199. Fax 21463.



Vote blo iu, Voice blo iu



Code of Conduct
MEDIA

**NATIONAL
GENERAL ELECTIONS**



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	2
Election Spokespeople	3
Media Centre/Briefings	3
Media Accreditation	4
Media Code of Conduct & Information	6 - 10
Other Information	12
Organisation Chart	14
Election Schedule	15
How To Vote	16 - 17
Election Penalties	18 - 20

INTRODUCTION

Solomon Islands Electoral Commission has developed a code of conduct/election media policy for all local and international media representatives reporting the National General Election. This code of conduct/policy is designed to balance the complementary role of the Commission and its officers, with those of the media in a democratic society.

ELECTION SPOKESPEOPLE

Interviews can be sought with Chief Electoral Officer, Mr Polycarp Haununu and other senior SIEC staff.



**Chief Electoral Officer
Mr Polycarp Haununu**

The Electoral Commission Information and Awareness Team is the media point of contact for all interviews/comment from spokespeople, and as well as other election officials or issues:

Office : (+677) 21461
Philothea Ruaeho : (+677) 740 2960
Ben McNair : (+677) 749 5283
Jimmy Isu : (+677) 747 3061

The Electoral Commission will distribute frequent media releases. To be added to the contact lists, please email:

pruaeho@siec.gov.sb

MEDIA CENTRE / BRIEFINGS

The Electoral Commission will set up a media centre as a central location for media to gather news from the Electoral Commission – location to be advised.




The Electoral Commission aims to provide media briefings:

- as required in the lead-up to the election
- frequently or daily in the week prior to election day
- Three to four times daily during the count as results are delivered directly to the Electoral Commission by Returning Officers (expected to be between 24 hours and four days after polling day).

MEDIA ACCREDITATION

Media representatives wishing to access the media centre and counting stations, and polling station environs must be accredited by the Chief Electoral Officer. Accreditation forms are issued from the Office of the Electoral Commission. Accreditation will also assist media representatives to identify themselves to election officials.

Photo ID media accreditation badges will be issued to journalists and must be worn at all times at the media centre, environs of polling stations and in counting centres.

	<h3>MEDIA PASS</h3>	
<p>Accredited Media Representative</p>		<p>Vote blo lu, Voice blo lu</p>
	<p>NAME: John Ramo ORGANISATION: Solomon News SIGNATURE: <i>Authorised by</i> Chief Electoral Officer: Mr Polycarp Haununu</p>	

EXAMPLE

CODE OF CONDUCT : JOURNALISTS

All broadcast, print and online journalists, both international and local, are required by the Solomon Islands Electoral Commission to apply for official accreditation that enables them to access registration centres, polling stations and SIEC press conferences.

1. ROLE OF MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES

The Solomon Islands Electoral Commission acknowledges the important role that the media plays in the election process. At all times, SIEC endeavors to provide journalists with the information that they need, in a timely and efficient manner.

1.1. In signing this Code of Conduct the SIEC agrees to:

1.1.1. Hold regular briefings for journalists, updating them on SIEC's activities

1.1.2. Respond to media inquiries in a timely and efficient matter

1.1.3. Where possible, facilitate access to SIEC sites and officials, and

1.1.4. Provide the media with access to results as quickly as is practicable under Solomon Islands law and established electoral conventions

1.2. In signing this Code of Conduct the journalist agrees to:

1.2.1. Act with rigor and professionalism, complying with all electoral laws and regulations and promoting democratic principles

1.2.2. Report on the National Election with balance and neutrality, and

1.2.3. Report fairly and accurately on the registration, voting

and counting process and avoid prejudice.

During the election, a media representative may:

- 2.1. Move freely around the area outside a polling station, without obstructing voters from entering or leaving the polling station
- 2.2. Request to take photographs/videos outside of polling stations with the permission of all persons included in the photograph/video
- 2.3. Ask electors for an interview once they have voted. All interviews must be requested and conducted outside the polling station
- 2.4. Interview an Agent, Observer or Presiding Officer, if the person agrees to this, outside the station.
- 2.5. Enter a polling station for a specific, agreed purpose such as to photograph/film a candidate casting his or her ballot. This may only occur with the express consent of the Presiding Officer and the person being filmed or photographed and if this does not disrupt the registration, display or polling processes in any way or violate the confidentiality of registration data and the secrecy of the vote.
- 2.6. Observe the securing of materials for overnight storage, follow the vehicle carrying election materials to the SIEC counting centre, and observe receipt of materials.
- 2.7. Enter a counting centre for a specific, agreed purpose but only with the express consent of the Returning Officer in accordance with section 47 of the Act. This may occur only if this does not disrupt the counting in any way or violate the secrecy of votes.

- 2.8. Report on results as they are declared by the Returning Officer in accordance with Section 55 of the National Parliament Electoral Provisions Act, provided the results are reported as being “provisional” or “unofficial” results.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES

A media representative must not:

- 3.1. Seek to conduct interviews of any kind inside polling stations or counting centres
- 3.2. Film or photograph the front of any ballot paper, whether blank or marked
- 3.3. Film, photograph or interview any individual registrant/voter or Polling Official without her/his consent.
- 3.4. Film, photograph or record electors' details when announced in polling stations
- 3.5. Film, photograph or copy the electoral register or any other document, which would infringe on the privacy of voters.
- 3.6. Do any other thing that might compromise the secrecy of votes or interfere with voting in any way

4. CONDUCT AT POLLING PLACES

While at a polling place, counting station or other SIEC site, an accredited media representative must:

- 4.1. Introduce themselves to the electoral official in charge at the polling stations and counting centres upon arrival

- 4.2. Wear their Electoral Commission media accreditation at all times
- 4.3. Comply with all instructions of electoral officials and police on duty given during electoral proceedings.
- 4.4. Media representatives, like electoral officials, are also subject to the provisions of applicable electoral and other legislation when in attendance at electoral proceedings.

5. MEDIA INTERVIEWS

Media representatives are not permitted to interview any registrant/voter, Agent, Observer or Registration/Polling Official inside the Station. They may interview the Presiding Officer as the representative of the team of Officials with her/his consent, but only outside the Station, if activities within the station permit this.

During interviews, the Presiding Officer may respond to general factual questions, but may not offer interpretations or opinions. The following guidelines should be followed.

- 5.1. Presiding Officers may respond to general, factual questions such as:
 - 5.1.1. Registration, display and polling procedures
 - 5.1.2. Registrant/voter turnout in the Station
 - 5.1.3. Duties as a Registration/Polling Official
- 5.2. Presiding Officers may not offer interpretations or opinions, such as:
 - 5.2.1. Interpret results on a local, regional or national basis
 - 5.2.2. Comment on voting trends or expected outcomes
 - 5.2.3. Offer political commentary on political entities, candidates or the election

5.2.4. Offer opinions on policy, compliance or speculate on other issues

6. SIGNING THE CODE OF CONDUCT

In signing the Code of Conduct, Media representatives acknowledge that they have read this document and agree to the above stated regulations.

.....
Journalist

.....
Chief Electoral Officer
SIEC



Vote blo iu, Voice blo iu



Vote blo iu, Voice blo iu

ORGANISATION CHART

ELECTORAL COMMISSION

Chairman and two Commissioners
appointed by the Governor General

OFFICE OF THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

Managed by the Chief Electoral Officer
Responsible for operational conduct of the election.

ELECTORAL MANAGERS (10)

One for each province one Honiara City Council. Appointed
by Electoral Commission. Responsible for coordination at
each province.

RETURNING OFFICERS (50)

One for each constituency. Responsible for conduct
of the election at the constituency level: nominations,
recruiting polling officials, polling stations, and the count
and declaration of result.

ASSISTANT RETURNING OFFICERS (100)

Two assisting each Returning Officer

PRESIDING OFFICERS (900+)

One in charge of each Polling Station

POLLING ASSISTANTS (1800+)

Two assisting each Presiding Officer

NATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY GENERAL ELECTIONS 2014

ELECTION SCHEDULE

Date				Day after the Last Day of which the Governor General's Notice may be issued
07-Oct-14	Tue	43	0	Governor General by Notice appoint Date for Election [Sect. 24]
08-Oct-14	Wed	42	1	Election Notice to be published in each ward [sect.25] Nomination opens on this day
09-Oct-14	Thu	41	2	
10-Oct-14	Fri	40	3	
11-Oct-14	Sat	39	4	
12-Oct-14	Sun	38	5	
13-Oct-14	Mon	37	6	
14-Oct-14	Tue	36	7	Last Day of Returning Officer's Notice Published [Sect. 25 (1)]
15-Oct-14	Wed	35	8	
16-Oct-14	Thu	34	9	
17-Oct-14	Fri	33	10	
18-Oct-14	Sat	32	11	
19-Oct-14	Sun	31	12	
20-Oct-14	Mon	30	13	
21-Oct-14	Tue	29	14	
22-Oct-14	Wed	28	15	Last Day of Delivery of Nomination Papers (Closed) [Sect.25 (1)(b)]
23-Oct-14	Thu	27	16	
24-Oct-14	Fri	26	17	Returning Officer's List of Candidates Published [Sect.29]
25-Oct-14	Sat	25	18	Last Day of Withdrawal of Candidature [Sect. 30]
26-Oct-14	Sun	24	19	
27-Oct-14	Mon	23	20	
28-Oct-14	Tue	22	21	
29-Oct-14	Wed	21	22	
30-Oct-14	Thu	20	23	
31-Oct-14	Fri	19	24	
01-Nov-14	Sat	18	25	
02-Nov-14	Sun	17	26	
03-Nov-14	Mon	16	27	
04-Nov-14	Tue	15	28	
05-Nov-14	Wed	14	29	
06-Nov-14	Thu	13	30	
07-Nov-14	Fri	12	31	
08-Nov-14	Sat	11	32	
09-Nov-14	Sun	10	33	
10-Nov-14	Mon	9	34	
11-Nov-14	Tue	8	35	Returning Officer's Final Notice [Sect. 33]
12-Nov-14	Wed	7	36	
13-Nov-14	Thu	6	37	
14-Nov-14	Fri	5	38	
15-Nov-14	Sat	4	39	Last Day of Appointing Polling Agents [Sec. 35(2)]
16-Nov-14	Sun	3	40	
17-Nov-14	Mon	2	41	Last Day of Appointing Counting Agents [Sect. 44(2)]
18-Nov-14	Tue	1	42	
19-Nov-14	Wednesday			ELECTION DAY



Vote blo iu, Voice blo iu

HOW TO



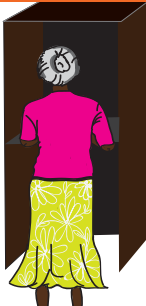
Halo!



1 HELLO! WELCOME TO THE POLLING STATION
HALOI WELKAM LO PLES FO VOTE



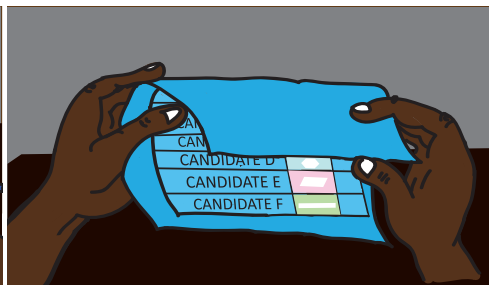
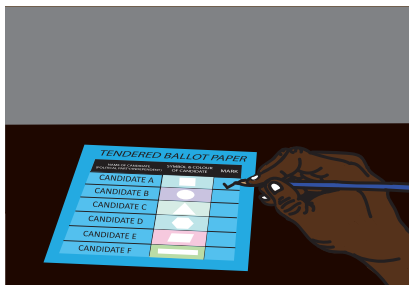
2 SEE THE POLLING ASSISTANT
GO LUKIM POLLING ASSISTANT



6 PROCEED TO VOTING SCREEN
GO LONG PRIVET VOTING BOX



5 PRESIDING OFFICER GIVES YOU A BALLOT PAPER
WANFALA OFISA BAE HEM GIVEN



7 MARK YOUR BALLOT PAPER
MARKEM BALLOT PEPA BILONG IU

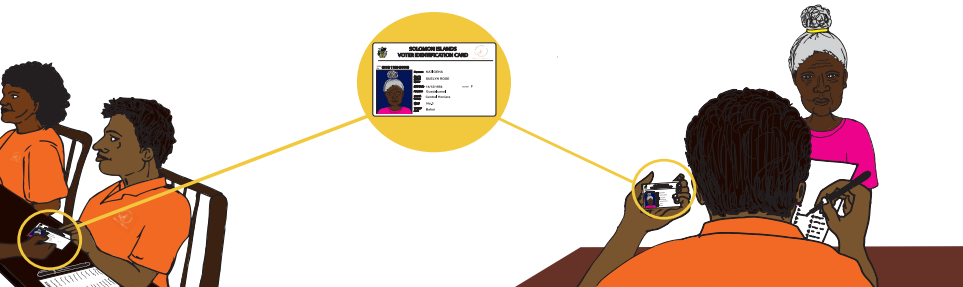


8 FOLD YOUR BALLOT PAPER
FOLDIM BALLOT PEPA BILONG IU

D VOTE



Office of the Solomon Islands
Electoral Commission
Department of Home Affairs
Vavaya Ridge, PO Box. 1500, Honiara
Phone 21 198/21199. Fax 21463.



1 ASSISTANT AND PRESENT YOUR I.D
1 ASSISTANT AND GIVIM I.D KAD BILONG IU



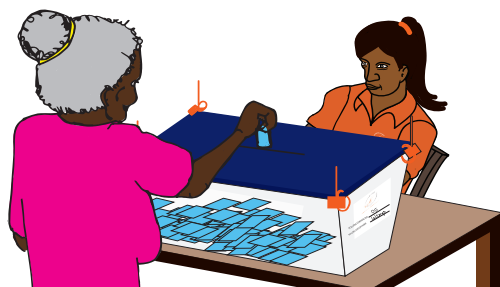
3 POLLING ASSISTANT MARKS OFF YOUR NAME
3 POLLING ASSISTAN BAE HEMI PUTIM MARK LONG NEM BILONG IU



2 TAKE YOUR BALLOT PAPER
2 M IU BALLOT PEPA



4 INK YOUR LEFT LITTLE FINGER
4 INKEM SMOL FINGA LONG LEFT HAN BILONG IU



9 CAST YOUR BALLOT PAPER
9 PUTIM BALLOT PEPA BILONG IU INSAED BALLOT BOX



10 LEAVE THE POLLING STATION
10 LUSIM POLLING STATION

ELECTION PENALTIES



Vote blo iu, Voice blo iu

OFFENCE	PENALTY
VOTING WHEN NOT ENTITLED	FINE OF UP TO \$3000 AND/OR IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 3 MONTHS
VOTING MORE THAN ONCE	FINE OF UP TO \$3000 AND/OR IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 3 MONTHS
VOTING USING ANOTHER PERSON'S NAME	FINE OF UP TO \$3000 AND/OR IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 3 MONTHS
GIVING FALSE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS PUT TO A PERSON APPLYING FOR A BALLOT PAPER	FINE OF UP TO \$3000 AND/OR IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 3 MONTHS
INTERFERING WITH AN ELECTOR WHEN CASTING HIS/HER VOTE OR OBTAINING INFORMATION FROM HIM/HER AS TO THE CANDIDATE HE/SHE HAS VOTED FOR	FINE OF UP TO \$3000 AND/OR IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 3 MONTHS
FORGING, COUNTERFEITING, FRAUDULENTLY DEFACING A BALLOT PAPER OR THE OFFICIAL MARK ON IT	FINE OF UP TO \$5000 AND/OR IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 6 MONTHS
FRAUDULENTLY TAKING A BALLOT PAPER OUT OF THE POLLING STATION	FINE OF UP TO \$5000 AND/OR IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 6 MONTHS
BRIBERY, TREATING OR UNDUE INFLUENCE	FINE OF UP TO \$5000 AND/OR IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 6 MONTHS
DISPLAY OF CANDIDATE OR PARTY EMBLEMS IN THE VICINITY OF THE POLLING PLACE	FINE OF UP TO \$1000

**OFFENCES MUST BE REPORTED TO
THE POLICE OR THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION**

Vote blo iu, Voice blo iu



Office of the Solomon Islands
Electoral Commission
Department of Home Affairs
Yavaya Ridge, PO Box, 1500, Honiara
Phone 21198/21199, Fax 21463.

ELECTION PENALTIES

The following list gives more information about election offences. References are to appropriate sections of the Provisions. This is not a complete list of all election offences.

- Voting more than once. Maximum fine \$3000 or three months imprisonment or both. [Sec. 7(2)]
- Any corrupt or illegal practice done by the elected candidate or his agent shall render the election of such candidate invalid. [Sec. 66(1)]
- Giving false answers to questions (as prescribed in Sec. 38(c)) put to a person applying for a ballot paper. Maximum fine \$3000 or 3 months imprisonment or both. [Sec. 67]
- Forging, counterfeiting, fraudulently defacing, or destroying a ballot paper or the official mark on it. Maximum fine \$5000 or 6 months imprisonment or both. [Sec. 68(1)(b)]
- Supplying ballot papers to any person without authority. Maximum fine \$5000 or 6 months imprisonment or both. [Sec. 68(1)(c)]
- Fraudulently taking a ballot paper out of any polling station. Maximum fine \$5000 or 6 months imprisonment or both. [Sec. 68(1)(d)]
- Destroying, taking, opening or otherwise interfering with a ballot box or a packet of ballot papers without authority. Maximum fine \$5000 or 6 months imprisonment or both. [Sec. 68(1)(e)]
- Interfering with an elector when casting his vote or obtaining information from him as to the candidate he is or has voted for or the number on his ballot paper. (Except when a blind or disabled person must tell their choice to the presiding officer, as provided by law.)

Maximum fine \$3000 or three months imprisonment or both. [Sec. 69(2)]

- Failing to keep the secrecy of the vote. Maximum fine \$3000 or three months imprisonment or both. [Sec. 69(1)]
- Bribing, treating, or unduly influencing a person as to his vote. Maximum fine \$5000 or six months imprisonment or vote, together with a 5-year disqualification in respect of registration as an elector, voting, and being elected or being a member of Parliament. [Sec. 70 and 76]
- Voting under another person's name. Maximum fine \$3000 or three months imprisonment or both. [Sec. 75]
- Voting or causing another to vote, knowing that he or the other person is forbidden from voting. Maximum fine \$3000 or three months imprisonment or both. [Sec. 77(a)]
- No one, except a candidate, may wear or display

any card, symbol, or emblem indicating support for a candidate or a political party on any public way within 50 yards of a polling station. No one can make any public address in support of any candidate or political party within 200 yards of a polling station. Maximum fine \$1000. [Sec. 79]

- It is an offence for a candidate to spend more than \$50,000 in an election campaign. Maximum fine not exceeding \$3000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months, or both. [Sec. 45]

The Electoral Office should always obtain advice from the Public Prosecutor in relation to any electoral offence before responding to any alleged breach and this request for advice should be done by the Chief Electoral Officer.



