

The plight of women representation in Papua
New Guinea politics; the political
controversies surrounding the three women
elected in 2012 and their subsequent defeats
in 2017 general election



PNG Update 2019
Russel Michael Yangin

Are women MPs able to effectively address Women's need on the floor of parliament

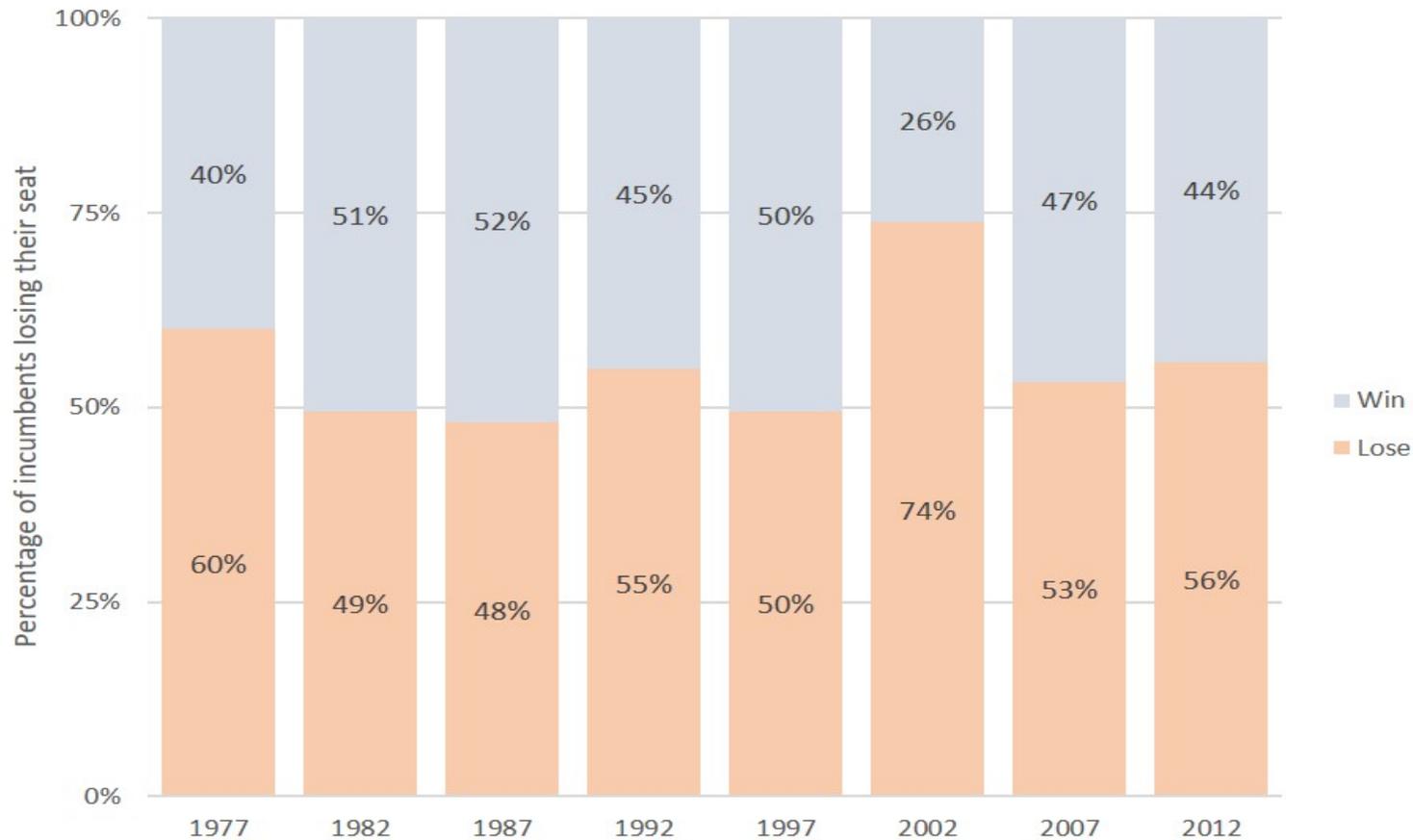
- ▶ *whether the three women politician contributed to strengthening the position of women's substantive representation (effect) in parliament in light of the descriptive representation (number) argument in Papua New Guinea?*
- ▶ No MPs in 2017 poses concern for gender inclusiveness in PNG Parliament as opposed to 3 women candidates elected in 2012
- ▶ Why voters lost confidence in voting these three women; and did the three women themselves contributed to their own electoral defeats?

Informal legislative culture affects women's representation

- ▶ *Sara Child (2004) "A Feminised style of politics; Women MPs in the House of Commons"*
- ▶ Women are forced to step outside their gender in terms of norms of their female behaviour in order to meet the norms of political behaviour" (Child, 2014)
- ▶ Q. What is the norms of political behaviour? (you can call it big man politics)
- ▶ Bi partisan politics is an example of political behaviour that divides women in developed democracy (Democrats VS Republican) but what about PNG informal parliamentary culture if there is one and how does that informal culture affects women MPs.
- ▶ Absence of established political ideological in PNG; Political parties tend to promote rent seeking predatory behaviours trying to exploit the States; this affects MPs in the legislature

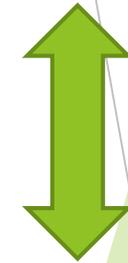
2 ARENAS in PNG politics

MP Turnover rates According to Wood, 2017



ELECTORAL

▶ MP-Voter Relationship



LEGISLATIVE

▶ Weak (Fluid) Parties

Candidacy Choice & Development

- ▶ Saffu, Y. (1989). Survey Evidence on Electoral Behaviour in Papua New Guinea. in Oliver, M. (ed). *Eleksin: The 1987 National Election in Papua New Guinea*. Port Moresby: University of Papua New Guinea Press.
- ▶ ANU Domestic Observation Report 2017 (see graph below)
- ▶ ***Development embodies everything.***



History of Parliamentary women elected in Papua New Guinea parliament

- ▶ 'You can't hide the fact that when you in position where you don't just represent women ...you've got to play your role as a politician' (Wormald, 1989p82) - Josephine Abaija
- ▶ Nauhoo Rooney was elected in 1982 election; was the first women to hold an executive position in Parliament.
- ▶ Her relationship with the electorate decline as issues relating to electoral developments were not met which cost her electorate seat (Warnek and Wormald, 1989pg 197)
- ▶ Carol Kidu noted that her electoral success was her strategic utilization of the electoral funds in her electorate (Development Bulletin pp 51 - 53)

Loujaya TONI

Electorate: Lae Open

Lae Open General July 12

Limited Preferential Voting (LPV) System

Candidate	votes received	share of electorate	remaining votes	majority LPV
Loujaya Toni	7364			
Fred Wak	5585			
Bart Philemon				

Electoral roll (2012): 85,284

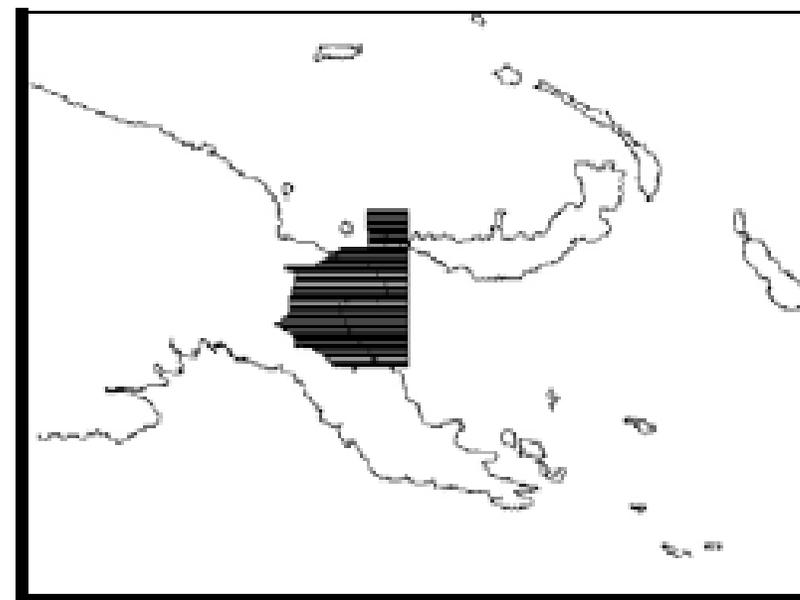
Total votes cast in election: 25,434

Total number of candidates: 38

Exhausted ballot papers: 2,830

(Source: Governments of Papua New Guinea publication, 2012)

**Member of
Ninth National Parliament**



Political Infighting in the Province

- ▶ The Lae City Authority (LCA) concept (2015 Act) was to increase financial autonomy to Lae city so it could be transform into a metropolitan city. Kouza was relieved from her ministerial duties to head the new LCA
- ▶ Governor Nauru opposed the bill and questions Kouzas involvement in LCA as only benefiting Kouza at the expense of people of Morobe (National, 12, Feb,2015)
- ▶ *“Her absent in the Tutumang Assembly over the LCA matter means that she does not care about the issue of her electorate” (National, 6 March 2015)*
- ▶ There was undue criticism and sexism towards her over a bill that she did not sponsor and was not her personal agenda (National, 21 March 2015)
- ▶ In July 2015 Kouza resigned from the Chairman in protest over mishandling of the LCA issue between the Morobe and National Government (National 21st 2015)

DISTRIBUTION OF PREFERENCES ONGOING

Statistics

Round 0	Teams 55	Candidates 49
Ballots Remaining 0	Exhausted 0	Absolute Majority 0

Candidates in LAE OPEN

	13 - FRED WAK	Independent	152
	47 - WARI MOERE	PNG Party	133
	33 - LOUJAYA KOUZA	Triumph Heritage Empowerment Party	129
	40 - MICAH VINES PARIMANI	PNG Constitutional Democratic Party	127
	15 - PHILIP PEP	Independent	88
	56 - MICHAEL EARLEY DAURE	People's Progress Party	74

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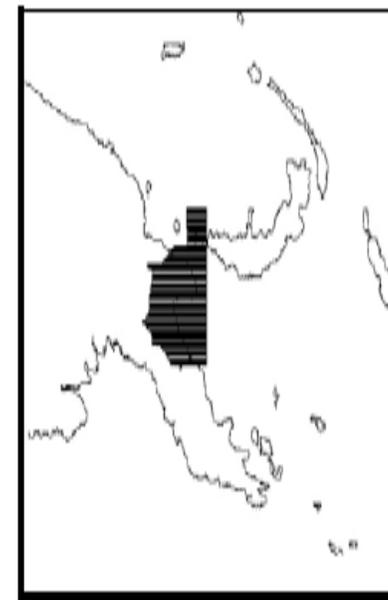
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Julie SOSO

Electorate: Eastern Highlands Provincial

Eastern Highlands Provincial General July 12

Limited Preferential Voting (LPV) System

Candidate	votes received	share of electorate	remaining votes	majority LPV
Julie Soso	119606			

Electoral roll (2012): 437,139

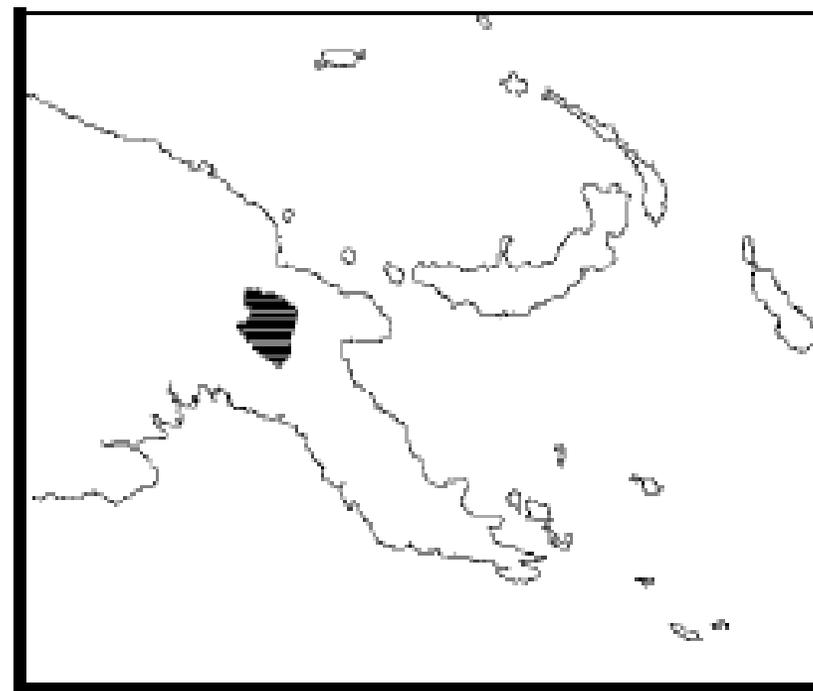
Total votes cast in election: 430,091

Total number of candidates:

Exhausted ballot papers:

Member of

Ninth National Parliament



(Source: Governments of Papua New Guinea. 2012)

Political Infighting

- ▶ Julie Soso Administration had an issue the Provincial Administrator. (2013 - 2015)
- ▶ In 2016 the issue culminated into political impasse when Male MPs and Provincial Assembly were divided
- ▶ The Court in 2016 found Soso guilty of breaching court order and referred her to the Ombudsman Commission (National 28th 2016)
- ▶ Soso stated that certain Male Mps were colluding with the Provincial Administrator trying to destabilize her efforts in delivering service to Eastern Highlands (National, 29th July, 2016)
- ▶ Soso said that the issue was published and everyone in her electorate was aware of the political infighting (National 26th April 2016)

EASTERN HIGHLANDS
PROVINCIAL

View 8 Open Electorates

DISTRIBUTION OF PREFERENCES COMPLETED

Statistics

Round	0	Teams	643	Candidates	48
Ballots Remaining	0	Exhausted	0	Absolute Majority	0

Candidates in EASTERN HIGHLANDS PROVINCIAL

	33 - JAMES PUPUNE	Independent	913
	17 - ROBERT KIAP NAIOVA	PNG Country Party (Kantri Pati)	815
	35 - JULIE SOSO AKEKE	People's National Congress Party	637
	26 - BAHANARE BUN	Christian Democratic Party	541
	52 - MOSES NAMAGILESO TENKILO	Independent	511
	40 - NAWAN BULLY KIMISOPA	People's Progress Party	460

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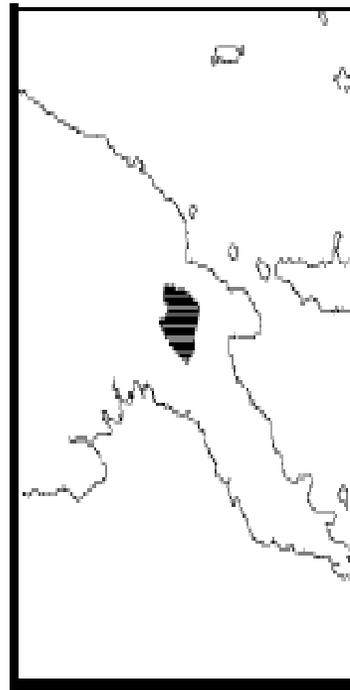
Electoral roll (2012): 437,139

Total votes cast in election: 430,091

Total number of candidates:

Exhausted ballot papers:

Ninth National P



(Source: Governments of Papua New Guinea, 2012)

Delilah GORE

Electorate: Sohe Open

Sohe Open General July 12

Limited Preferential Voting (LPV) System

Candidate	votes received	share of electorate	remaining votes	majority LPV
Delilah Gore	6105			
Henry Johns Amali	3824			

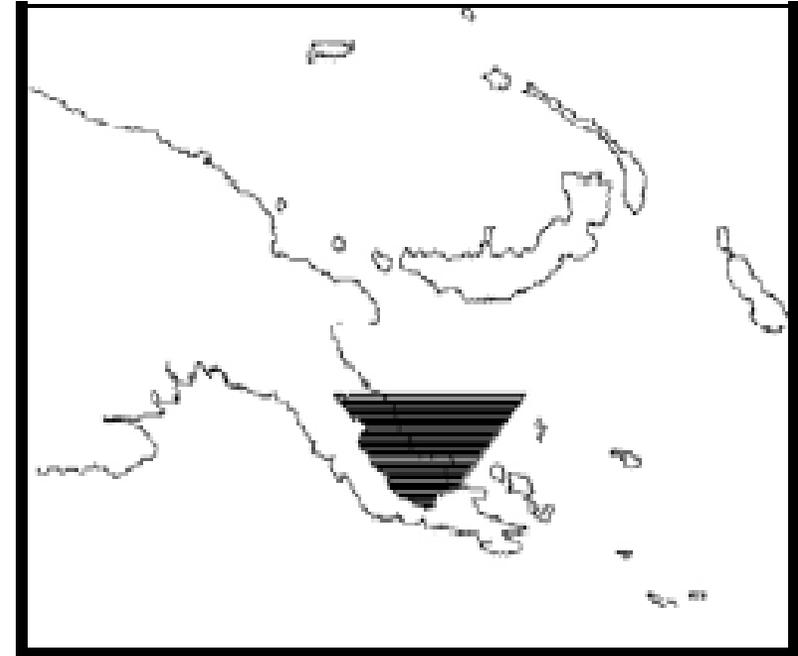
Electoral roll (2012): 51,774

Total votes cast in election: 36,630

Total number of candidates: 64

Exhausted ballot papers: 3,059

**Member of
Ninth National Parliament**



Political infighting

- ▶ In 2014 Oro Provincial Assembly endorsed a candidate to be the Provincial Administrator however, Delilah Gore wrote a letter to the NEC seeking her disapproval of PEC endorsement (National, 29th 2014)
- ▶ In response the Tufi LLG president responded by stating that “Gore has never turned up for any PEC assembly meeting and should not use her power to influence PEC” (National, 27th August 2014)
- ▶ Gore and other members in the province trying to remove Oro Governor Gary Juffa by facilitating arrangements through the use of Public Funds (National, 11 November 2015)
- ▶ The National Court declared Gore on April 24th 2015 lost self control and argued with the flight attendant and was removed from the aircraft (National, 11 August 2015)

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Progress of Counting

SOHE OPEN

DISTRIBUTION OF PREFERENCES COMPLETED

Statistics

Round 40	Teams 25	Candidates 42
Ballots Remaining 15,237	Exhausted 22,719	Absolute Majority 7,619

Candidates in SOHE OPEN

	50 - HENRY JONS AMULI Winner	Independent 7,713
	47 - DELILAH P GORE Active	People's National Congress Party 7,524
	19 - PAULINIAS UHENA Exclusion 40	People's Party 0
	29 - PETER ATU ORESI Exclusion 39	People's Action Party 0
	41 - FRED DAINGO Exclusion 38	People's Movement for Change Party 0

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Sohe Open General July 12

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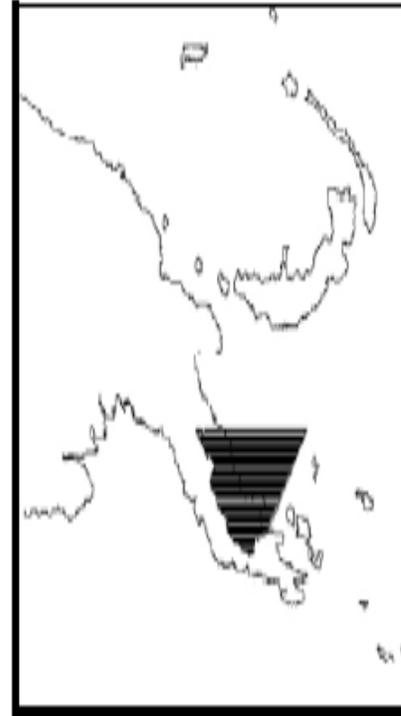
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Member
Ninth National Parliament



Conclusion : whether the three women politician contributed to strengthening the position of women's substantive representation (effect) in parliament in light of the descriptive representation (number) argument in Papua New Guinea?

- ▶ All three women wanted to consolidate and utilize their political position to survive and seek re election; this is normal in Big Men Politics but is it normal when a women is engaging in this style of Politics?
- ▶ “When Pacific Island women are unsuccessful in elections, female voters are supposedly voting against their own interest, when they are successful they are tasked with not only representing their electorate but women as well; however, when they fail they are vulnerable to a backlash at the next election” (Baker, 2016 p1).
- ▶ The three women MPs were victims of the PNG unstable electoral market and the weak legislature that measure the success of an MPs by their development output in the electorate