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


- 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>votes received</th>
<th>share of electorate</th>
<th>remaining votes</th>
<th>majority LPV</th>
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<tr>
<td>Loujaya Toni</td>
<td>7364</td>
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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)
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 Kouza's 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).
Liejaya 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 Waki | 5685 |  |  |  |
Bart Philomen | 133 |  |  |  |

Electoral roll (2012): 86,284
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(Source: Governments of Papua New Guinea publication, 2012)
Julie Soso
Electorate: Eastern Highlands Provincial

Eastern Highlands Provincial General July 12
Limited Preferential Voting (LPV) System

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Electoral roll (2012): 437,139
Total votes cast in election: 430,091
Total number of candidates: 
Exhausted ballot papers:
(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)
Julie SOSO
Electorate: Eastern Highlands Provincial

Eastern Highlands Provincial General July 12
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Electoral roll (2012): 437,139
Total votes cast in election: 430,081
Total number of candidates:
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(Source: Governments of Papua New Guinea, 2012)
Delilah GORE

Electorate: Sohe Open

Sohe Open General July 12
Limited Preferential Voting (LPV) System

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Electoral roll (2012): 51,774
Total votes cast in election: 36,630
Total number of candidates: 64
Exhausted ballot papers: 3,059
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 respondent 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 attended and was removed from the aircraft (National, 11 August 2015)
Delilah GORE

Electorate: Sohe Open

Sohe Open General July 12

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Candidates in SOHE OPEN

50 - HENRY JONS AMULI
Winning Party: Independent
Votes: 7,713

47 - DELILAH P GORE
Winning Party: People's National Congress Party
Votes: 7,524

19 - PAULINIAS UHENA
Exclusion: 40

29 - PETER ATU ORESI
Exclusion: 39

41 - FRED DAINGO
Exclusion: 38
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 woman 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.