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PAPUA NEW GUINEA

About the Referendum Administration Issues Study

This study draws on experiences of administration from recent referendums on independence and sovereignty, looking at Quebec, East Timor, Montenegro, South Sudan, the Falkland Islands, Scotland, Catalonia and Iraqi Kurdistan. It seeks to identify the areas and activities which are critical in ensuring the integrity and credibility of the Referendum Process.

The study highlights international standards and legal frameworks, drafting of referendum questions, thresholds for turnout and for determining the results, administrative issues of the common roll, eligibility for voting, polling by sub-regions or for a territory as a whole, out of country voting, and the importance of organisational and financial management issues. It examines the conduct of voter education, the regulation of referendum campaigners and of the media, seeking good practice to mitigate polarisation and reduce the risk of the re-emergence of conflict. It aims thereby to illustrate the risks and the mitigation strategies that could be of value in designing and implementing the referendum process in Bougainville.

About the Author Andrew Ellis

Currently a senior consultant on the design and implementation of electoral systems and processes and of constitutional frameworks, the facilitation of political dialogue and other aspects of support for democratic transition and democracy building. He was Director for Asia and the Pacific of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) up to 2014, before which he served at its Sweden HQ in various capacities including Director of Operations. He has worked since 1989 with national institutions involved with electoral administration systems in a variety of countries. He was previously involved in political party activities in the UK, and has held the posts of Vice Chair and of Secretary General of the UK Liberal Party.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Mathematics from Cambridge University, an MSc in Statistics from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne and a BA in Law from Newcastle upon Tyne Polytechnic.

His recent publications include:

- Citizen-Led Assessment of Democracy: Local and Global Contexts in Pakistan, PILDAT, Islamabad/Lahore (2015)
- Electoral Management Design: The International IDEA Handbook (Second fully revised edition), with Helena Catt et al, International IDEA, Stockholm, Sweden (2014)
- The Integrity of Elections: The Role of Regional Organisations, editor, with Raul Cordenillo, International IDEA, Stockholm, Sweden (2012)

This report was launched on the 30th of May 2018 and is now available on the PNG NRI website: www.nri.org.pg. If you want a copy you can contact us on email; referendum.research@pngnri.org.