FACT SHEET

KEY STAKEHOLDERS' SEMINAR PRESENTATION ON
PREPARATION TOWARDS 2022 NATIONAL GENERAL ELECTIONS

Roles of Royal PNG Constabulary in Elections

"Based on presentation by RPNGC on 14 October, 2021"

THE NATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Situation

General information

- Papua New Guinea (PNG) goes to the polls next year (2022).
- Section 197 of the Constitution mandates the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary's (RPNGC) to: preserve peace and good order, and maintain, and, as necessary, enforce the law impartially and objectively.
- RPNGC will be the lead agency in the joint security operations.
- The Papua New Guinea Electoral Commission (PNGEC) mission is to deliver a free, fair, transparent election.
- The Joint Security Task Force (JSTF), made up of the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary as the lead security agency, the Papua New Guinea Defence Force (PNGDF), and the Papua New Guinea Correctional Services (PNGCS), will assist the PNGEC to provide a safe and secure environment for the election.

Threats

- The Highlands region of PNG is assessed as the most volatile and high-risk area due to the build-up of arms and ammunition.
- Manipulation of the electoral processes and intimidation of voters.
- Destruction of ballot papers and election materials, and harm and violence against electoral staff.
- The prevalence of Covid-19, the risks, and the failure to comply with Covid-19 protocols.

The National Intelligence Organisation (NIO) and the Office of Security Coordination Agency (OSCA) will collaborate with the intelligence units of the JSTF to conduct risks and threats assessments and intelligence gathering to mitigate and manage threats. This exercise will be an ongoing activity from the pre-election to the post-election period. Information and assessments from this activity will inform resource deployment and operational activities.

Mission

The JSTF mission ensures that it provides a safe and secure environment for the 2022 National Election 2022.

Execution

The NATEL 2022 will be conducted in a three-phased operation, preceded by a preliminary phase.

Preliminary Phase.

Phase One: Pre-NATEL Operations.
Phase Two: Operations-proper.
Phase Three: Post-NATEL Operations.

The preliminary phase is exclusively for the RPNGC. The JSTF will execute phases One, Two, and Three.

Strategic end state

The JSTF will work towards ensuring a safe and secure environment for the National Election.

The successful outcome of the National Election will be assessed and measured by:

- The degree of the democratic process in terms of a "free, fair, and safe" National Election.
- The number of successfully managed election-related public unrests and violence.
- The provision of a safe and secure environment during the National Elections.
- A reduction in the number of election-related disputes brought before the Court of disputed returns, particularly those related to security issues (79 petitions were filed in relation to the 2017 National Election).

Administration

Budget

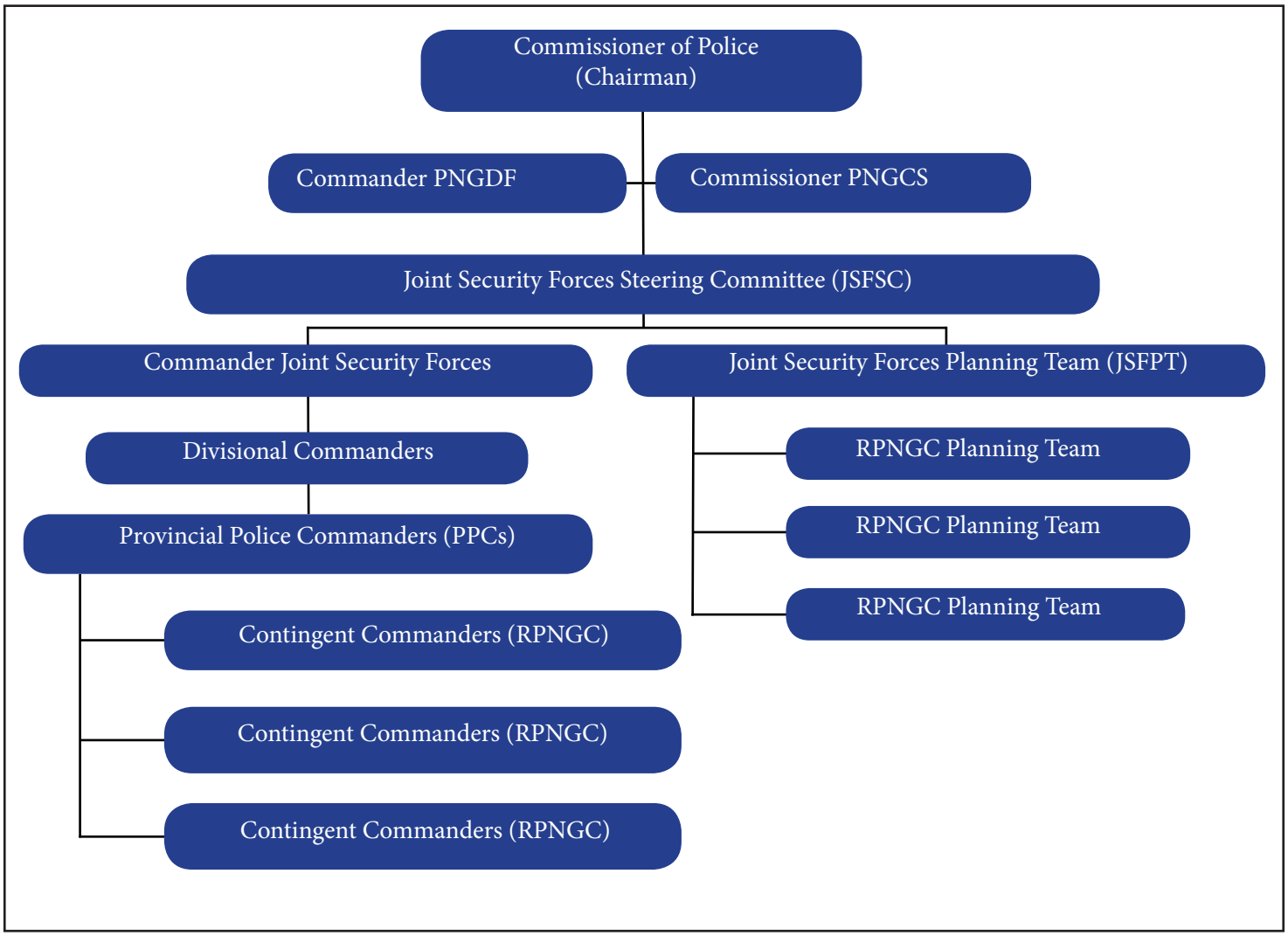
Instead of a consolidated budget, each security agency within the JSTF has submitted a separate budget. The police budget totalled K194.1 million for the three-phased operation.

The RPNGC required half of the funds in June 2021 to call out for tenders for the large ticket items, including vehicle purchases and hires, uniforms, communication equipment, firearms and ammunition, and air charters. These items cost more than K500,000.00 and will require tenders according to the Procurement Act 2018. As of October 2021, the Department of Treasury released K2.5 million to the RPNGC for 2022 national election preparation.

Command and Control

The Commissioner of Police is the chairman and overall Commander of JSTF operations. He will be assisted by the Commander of the PNGDF and the CS Commissioner. The JSTF structure is captured in Diagram 1 (see page 2).

Diagram 1: Joint Security Task Force Structure



Authorised for Release by
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