**Women candidates’ participation in the PNG 2017 National Elections**

**Reflections Survey Results**

17 August 2017

Recognising the inherent vaue of incuding women’s voices in PNG’s national legislature and other elected local assemblies and concerned about that no women were elected at all to the 10th PNG Parliament, UNDP decided to build on its previous efforts to support women’s political participation by organising a Forum on Women Candidates’ Participation in the PNG National Elections from 17-18 August. The Forum was intended to draw attention to the issue of women’s lack of representation in advance of the first session of the 10th Parliament, which was scheduled to open in the week following the Forum. In advance of the Forum, UNDP and UN Women shared a [PNG Women Candidates Survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/G93JN9T) on Facebook on 15 August 2017 that was intended to assist in diagnosing the challenges women face and finding responses to address them.[[1]](#footnote-1) This note is a summary of the results of the Survey.

1. **In the 2017 PNG, National Elections, some women candidates did very well before elimination. Please describe the main factors that you think contributed to their good performance?**

* Political Party Membership - 37%
* Good Reputation & standing in community - 82%
* Good networks -55%
* Smart & Intelligent - 43%

**Other Comments:**

* Ruffina and Soso were examples. They pulled so well compared to other male candidates and almost won. I believe that their reputation and what they have contributed to the communities in their roles could have been a factor for them to do so well.
* The voting population both male and female now realize that by electing women, they can be good leaders who can perform and deliver the service to their electorates.
* They would have good networks
* They were courageous women, too!
* Honestly, I didn't know the female candidates who participated. So, they should have done more in term of advertising and campaigning. Also because of what negative decisions the previous female politicians did would have had an impact on this year’s election
* Access to Money
* I think all the above because being a leader means making smart decisions, having good networks to build relationships, being respected which leads to goo reputation and of course having a strong political party strengthens your political identity as being in a strong group.
* Comfortable Financial Support as Party Endorsement didn't necessary mean financial support as well.
* Good use of social community fora
* They had good reputation in the community. Women are judged by their reputation. They must be flawless so to speak. Men don't get to be judged like that and this is very unfair. However, if that is what gets the women candidates good footing, then perhaps we can build on from there.
* Educate the voters on the good leadership qualities to look for in leaders.
* Besides good networks I belief a woman candidates must be well knowledgeable of her electorate, must have a firm policy she stands on.
* Its politics, man or woman you still have to have good reputation and support for the community. In terms of working with the people and identifying the areas that need improvements. You cannot wait for elections to start initiating ideas and actions, this starts in the beginning. There is no way a woman would have lost if they started from the beginning.
* Most of the parliamentarians (who are man) won on the conditionals, reputation & how they served their people, so in return the support went to them. Woman today must learn that nothing comes easy, you must work hard to get up there. So yes, as a woman, i believe that good reputation and standing in the community will help you gain peoples trust.
* I think good standing and reputation plus what they did in the community does matter
* General community perception that "men are corrupt" and maybe women will be different: "sympathy vote"
* If they had a presence in the electorate over 5 years doing community social development engagement, they had a bigger opportunity to be seen and heard and recognized. It was not enough to have a political party endorse women nor begin with 12 months remaining
* Resources to campaign widely
* Experience in previous elections.

1. **What do you think are the key challenges that women candidates faced in the 2017 elections?**

* Lack of political party support - 47.47%
* Lack of financial resources (money) - 60.61%
* Corruption/Bribery- 55.56%
* Cultural views -Stereotypes about women - 79.80%

**Other Comments;**

* The election in 2017 is by far the worst compared to the other election. The high number of incidents including bribery and corruption affected the results and I would strongly argue that it may have also affected the women candidates,
* The Patriarchy mentally is still rampant in PNG Society
* Generally, the women in the previous parliament did not provide much support or do much to advocate to get more women in parliament. In this election, there was lack of support and one contributing factor also is the fact that event the female leaders failed to push or give attention to women issues.
* Because of how the three women who won in the last elections. Their lack performance and development heightened the stereotype against women. Ensuring women must challenge this tough view to make it.
* Precedence set by 2012 - 2017 female candidates
* Lack of unified visibility on the ballot paper & as voters...
* My comment in this area is our womenfolk did not come out in numbers to support women candidates, they voted for male candidates.
* All the above. Money is needed to support women, corruption among men can deny women capability because Politics is a game. Culture yes. We still need to educate our women and men to trust women. Women also must earn the trust of the people.
* In PNG, voters do not vote along party lines and policies because if you really look at the policies, you will see that majority of the parties have same or similar policies and yet people sway towards bloodlines and or cultural ties, and especially males due to the cultural and traditional norms of our society where males are considered heads, not to mention the fact that 'it has always been like this so why break the trend to change the gender roles in political leadership. These are my views.
* Corruption and vote rigging too became an obstacle for our women.
* Some were absent from their electorates for long periods.
* The same old cultural and stereotypes. PNG has a long way yet to go
* Politics is like a game. If you play it well you win no matter what. This elections i observed was politically driven. The strongest party still won even though the other parties tried their best. So, it’s not only about money, but also about which strong party you choose to join, and the leadership you see that will help you succeed not only for yourself but for your people.
* Cultural attitudes towards women have been a problematic feature of all general election. So, voter education and awareness on women rights to choose women candidates are very important
* View of negative precedence of (now) former women MPs
* Sorcery & witchcraft and men undermining the women candidates

1. **What do you think the government/Parliament /electoral bodies can do to help improve women candidates’ participation in elections?**

* The need for aggressive awareness needs to be conducted across all levels of society and especially rural population; There is need to promote the participation of women leaders in higher positions across all sectors. For example, we would like to have more women to be Heads of Government Ministries or CEOs in other organizations. This helps to raise the level of participation of women to display leadership and same time helps to change perceptions and mind sets.
* Create more ministries &departments that promote & enhance women participation from the ward level to the national level. Example: ministry of women & youth
* Establish a 25% quota system as a Law for Women's Participation.
* Review laws and policies, mobilize coalitions for social accountability.
* Forces now on LLG elections. Do similar pre-election programs at subnational level...apply lessons learnt from nat. elections...contextualize it
* Better prepare women over the 5-year political cycle to run in the national elections. Consider reserved seats. Better inform communities of the importance of having women in leadership. Put together a plan, based on research on the barriers to electing women into office, to address these barriers. Including a thorough understanding to why women and men are not voting for women.
* Don't recreate the wheel look at countries with similar experience and use their methods
* Give recognition and support programs that exposure to women who are doing big things. This will show or display that women have skills in leadership and are capable. The methods used to advocate for equal participation in decision making must also change. We need to look at other methods of getting our messages across.
* The male candidates need to be honest and transparent in their participation in elections and allow women to freely take part as well. Males have more power, connections and tight network which they use as leverage to foul play and cheat into winning. The government and the electoral commission need to come up with a better way of conducting elections going forward. We should do away with ballot papers and invent a more advanced method of voting through digital/paperless voting.
* Educating the female voting population endorse one female candidate per electorate run series of seminars and workshops on women leaders in their community who can be able to identify potential candidates
* Give all support to intending women candidates in terms of financial as well as the government should also stress and support the importance of equal representative and the importance of women participatory in decision making in the parliament
* The gov't has ensured measures are in place for women now more than ever. So it is on women to ensure they can rise to the challenge and make a difference.
* More awareness on the importance of equal participate in political areas
* Create Reserve Seats for Women
* It takes continuous education. No overnight fix. We can help women by encouraging female participation in leadership from an early age, with both genders. Encourage children to look at their strengths & build teams based on those strengths. Help them by talking about what shapes their views & encouraging them to make their own assessments based on experience & not based on what 'the tribe' says, or 'mum & dad' say, or even what their own inner self confidence issues say. Encourage all viewpoints & discuss in a matter that bring all to agree or respectfully disagree
* Laws should be passed where each party MUST have a minimum of 1 or 2 female candidates. 2. More awareness to be made on gender equality in parliament. 3. young intending female candidates (potential candidates) to be groomed/educated/trained earlier, maybe 5-10 years in advance for elections.
* Address gender issues and educate everyone on human rights with importance on women rights particularly
* Promote the issue of gender equality through the specific skills and attributes that each female candidate has and can bring to the table. Demonstrate and inform the public of what their vote means if they wish to see a change for the better by pushing for education to be free and allowing all genders to participate in a safe and supportive environment.
* Abolish regional/provincial seats and rename them women's seats.
* Start from the bottom up with women council leaders. Helps eradicate stereotype.
* Voter education...inform the general public well in advance for 5 years before election period arrives. Electoral bodies should aim at transparent voting system where money should not be involved. This is not about comparing amount of money that male and female candidates have and spend during campaign period, but rather voters should not be fooled by arrogant male candidates who go around buying votes. Generally, women candidates tend to play clean game than male candidates. So voters should be educated to be more worried about policies and hold their leaders accountable for the next 5 years, than dancing couple of nights in excitement because they have been bribed. Instead of focusing on women candidates, focus on voters, since the ball is always in their court
* There is a greater need to shift cultural views about women. Since Papua New Guinea has most of its population living in the rural areas and level of literacy is fairly low, we cannot expect to be as progressive as the rest of the developed world is. What we can do is really go down to the community level and speak to people about this at their level of understanding. We need greater awareness about this issue and hopefully we will see a change. I am optimistic that change will come for us women folks.
* It may take another 100 years for PNG society as a whole to change its mindset about women in politics at all levels. I strongly suggest that the proposed bill for reserved seats for women in parliament must be lobbied for to be enacted into law.
* Raise awareness about the importance of gender equity, dismantle the stereotype attitudes of culture views on traditional roles of women again through continuous awareness. Incorporate these into teaching subjects in the school systems so our children learn these at an early age and grow up educated about it
* Break down the stereotype thinking about role of women in the society. Promote the importance of women's participation in all aspects of the socio-political processes in the country. Develop specific initiatives designed to promote women in politics.
* Give them the equal support and encouragement that is given to male candidates. Also let people choose for themselves when voting and do not allow bribery and buying of votes because those are things that make voters blind and they do not elect leaders who will represent them well in parliament.
* Educate the nation
* In my opinion, the government/Parliament and electoral bodies are doing what they can do within their capacity. Maybe, a big need would be to build capacities of elected and nominated Women councilors in the LLGs so that their active participation would give confidence to voters to vote for women...
* Give a certain number of seats for women
* All parties must endorse women candidates
* Women should go for leadership training and training on what also on the roles of a politician
* Government/Parliament/Electoral Bodies give the women candidates mutual support.
* It needs to be a holistic approach in PNG in terms of attitudes towards women. All partners in the system have a role to play, be it instilling confidence in a young girl or educating boys around gender equality.
* Improve our election system. Push for NID so that we all vote fairly and equally.
* Government should improve on the election and polling system such as introducing the bio-matric system of voting so that individual voters participate independent of influence of others in the community.
* Separate voting systems e.g. females vs males
* Amending political party laws compelling endorsement of women
* Provide safe seats for women where benefits of women's views incorporated into policy and planning are obvious
* Educate communities on the importance of voting women into parliament... Also, there needs to be a good and genuine reason given to communities, voters, why vote a woman
* From the Parliament and Legislative process, create compulsory provincial seats reserved as deputy governors for women candidates and voters can vote for both provincial seats for both genders. This will at least have 22 seats created automatically in Parliament for women representation. Electoral Commission/ Olipac office must put more awareness into voting of woman candidates to bring gender balance in the decision-making level.
* Insist on a minimum quota for women candidates resource those women candidates which would eliminate the financial barrier, if any, and allow women candidates to compete with male counterparts on campaign trail. Campaign funding should never be a barrier and availability of funding would be a positive encouragement for more women participation in general elections.
* Support more women candidates by sponsoring their campaign expenses and publicize their campaign policies.
* Pass and enact the Equality and Participation Bill for 22 reserved seats for women
* Have a proven record of engaging with their community. Be a successful business person. Government can ensure that equal opportunities are given to women in LLG elections, District decision-making roles, and to promote public involvement in policy and project implementation. However, this should be done without politicizing these roles/activities.
* Enforce as a must held Women (only) Seats in Parliament. Top Down. Immediate change action.
* Changing Attitudes
* The election process needs a thorough review to ensure elections are conducted free and fair.
* Sometimes times its the government that will help women, its women themselves. However, we need to practice the culture of understanding what a leader is than women empowerment all the time. PNG Go can help with building leadership qualities rather improving empowerment, i believe women in PNG are more empowered then other developing nations.
* Reserved seats in National & Local Level. Until people see more women participation they will appreciate what balance & strength women bring to our political system.
* The least the government can do is to legislate for the quota system or push for temporary special measures
* Perhaps activate the 22 seats for Women in parliament. we can use gender for sympathy we must campaign based on merits. More importantly we have to be prepared logistically and financially
* Changing people's mentality will take time so the government can help in passing the bill to Reserve seats in the parliament for women just like in Bougainville.
* Review and Insert Clause on Women Leaders
* Comprehensive Assistance Package comprising: 1. Voter awareness 2. Candidate Preparedness 3. Legislative reforms 4. Institutional reforms of PNG Electoral Commission and other organizations involved in ensuring a free, fair and safe elections
* Set aside seats for women alone. E.g. either Open seats for Governorship
* Reserved seats for women are a good proposition but possibly a superficial one. A woman in Parliament on a reserved seat might not have the full benefits of being an MP, i.e. she might not be able to hold Ministries etc. Due to the fact that she was not duly elected. Some would say those seats would just have "observer" status in Parliament. I think that the issue that has to be addressed is women empowerment first and foremost. After they are empowered, can they be on a level playing field to contest the elections. Women have to rise to "bigman" status if they are to win.
* Support the representation of women with allowing them fully participation at Council Board levels, district levels or wards levels so the community sees a lot of their involvement with decision making, hence the stereo type mentality changes towards women.
* Introduce new legislations for compulsory women seats
* Have the NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION number (NID) installed, so women, youths and the rest of the people can vote without fear or favor.
* Establish equal playing field for all candidates and invest more on educating voters on importance of women actively participating in politics.
* More education for women going forward.
* Give women equal status in PNG society
* Endorse and enact Reserved Seats for each province same as Regional Members.
* Review party policies and include women and gender rights as a standalone policy. Create a Ministry for Womens Affairs if the Government is serious.
* Education for the masses on women's rights to participate in governance and the benefit of it. Education for women on their rights to political participation and what resources/support is available, and about the process. Draw on lessons learned from successful female politicians
* The PNGEC should be fully funded in the leadup to the next GE to enable it to conduct voter awareness, update common roll and to ensure problems such as electoral allowances are paid on time, which ensures a trouble-free polling period.
* Nothing. Women themselves need to start to work in their communities 5 years out to get the trust of the people. Elections are a 5-year vocation.
* The Government must pass a bill to make it legal for separate seats for women in parliament. This must be done now and comes 2022 we will be able to vote for our women to represent us in parliament. The law can be or it’s a must that each of the four regions have a women rep.
* Legislating on women's reserve seats, to enable women's participation
* More awareness training and advocacy to communities must start now before the next elections and not wait for two years prior to elections.
* Start by legislating for the introduction of reserved seats for women in all arenas of political decision making at ward and LLG level in order to; (a) increase their influence and political impact at community & village level (b) demonstrate women’s leadership at village level by challenging gender stereotypes that may confront a majority of our voting population in rural areas. 2. Build Capacity of Provincial Councils of Women for the proper functioning of their organizational structure (including having the electoral commission assist to facilitate their elections) so that they can build effective women’s networks throughout districts & LLGs and mobilize as a United women’s voice in PNG
* Parliament to manned the laws to include quota for women because it is not a level playing field for them.
* Reduce incidences of corrupt practices particularly from electoral officers
* Support campaigns and endorsements
* Amendment to political parties to include 10% women candidates in their endorsement & electoral rolls needed to be updated properly
* I think the Equality and Participation Bill should be revisited. The nationwide campaign for the bill created awareness and got the whole country talking about it albeit against it. The result was not positive but no one can deny that 3 women got into Parliament because of the awareness it created.
* Create more awareness to the rural populace women candidates.
* Awareness on importance of having gender balanced leadership levels & undying support
* Full party leadership support
* Educate people on what character leaders must have.
* More awareness on women's role and equal participation in leadership and decision making in national politics. This will educate the population of voters to vote with Understanding and without bias or stereotype thinking.
* Let them do public speaking, debates, presentation, better equip themselves to face a crowd. Its never easy to stand in front of thousands of people, help them believe in themselves.
* Include them in all public consultation on the elections and there must be a quota system for women in all political parties to be anchored in the integrity law
* More effective awareness and training programmes throughout the whole election cycle, targeting all stakeholders
* Reserve at least 10 seats in the House
* Look at things like Party Quotas or other ways to encourage political parties to field more women candidates.
* Support and empower women in the different sectors that they are in and provide avenues for their voices to be heard. In that way, these vibrant women leaders will feel empowered to contest to represent their people. There are a lot of good women but they do not contest because they feel that being a MP is not their post, it is for the males, whose voices are always heard and heeded to.
* Resource them & support them
* Law that keeps 3 seats for women only
* Get more interested female candidates to work in parties and in as first secretaries for experience and exposure to the networks of politics
* I think it boils down to cultural perceptions so education and awareness is important, showcasing strong women leaders and having respected male champions for the cause. Eradicate block votes system and suppression of women's votes.
* A nation that has 850 languages, different cultures and its perception about women, the Government should endorse 22 seats at the Provincial level.
* Government must take ownership of improving women candidates' participation. Laws and policies is one area. 2. More awareness and education nationwide on importance of gender equality in parliament, from a parliamentarian to a simple villager. Education on Temporary Special measures etc.,
* Making electoral process fair and safe for women candidates

1. **What do you think non-government bodies (eg, media, academia, CSOs organizations, private sector) can do to help improve women candidates' participation in elections?**

* Promoting women participation to get up more leadership roles across government; private and civil society. Rally behind women candidates during election campaign or awareness.
* Design programs & projects that relates to finding out how the west minister system accommodates our Melanesian women and the role they play. That way women be participate fairly.
* Collective voice speaking a unified message
* Mobilize coalitions for social accountability.
* Package electoral information, awareness n use all medium...start now...
* Women in political leadership suffers from similar reasons why there is a under representation of women in working in the formal sector, and in senior management positions. Businesses should have fast track training of female staff to accelerate them into senior management positions. Media needs to strength women's representation in the public of being able to lead.
* The more we help them the more resent they'll get. Find a better way
* Make more noise about the benefits of having both female and male in parliament and how it can contribute more to development and building the economy.
* More awareness on women participation in elections and report news on media fairly without fear and being biased.
* All should support in making known to the public the importance of Women participation in decision making in the government
* All avenues again are available for women. It is an individual’s responsibility to utilize these entities to benefit their purpose. To showcase or fund their projects. It is on us women to do this not point fingers
* advertise/talk more on women capability in Political areas
* Help reduce prejudices about customs and beliefs that men are superior then women, promote the fact that women are capable of leading and not always being led.
* Instead of focusing so much on the fact that she is a woman, focus on the strengths she brings to the floor of Parliament & to her electorate if elected. Focus on her education, her family, her community work, her work history & leadership positions she has held.
* These organizations can play a important role, by: doing more advocacy, carrying out workshops to change mindsets of the voting population.
* Address real issues that women face and make room for giving the opportunity to let the women take the lead
* Stand behind them and encourage the push for their nominated candidate to achieve. Set an agenda for consistency.
* Promote examples of women leaders excelling amongst male colleagues. These women leaders should go out to communities/voters and talk about how they are leading both males/females in their line of work
* Do interviews and candidates profile on women contestants to provide enlightenment and support.
* Male candidates in a party can always share their campaign strategies with female counterparts from the same political party. I reckon it’s the strategies that women candidates need to master, apart from having sound policies
* To change this requires a collective and collaborative effort and input from everyone. Get views from women folks and bring along all these other bodies and stakeholders and come up strategic approaches to deal with this. Media can do what it does best to do awareness at all levels of society through convenient ways such as newspaper or radio or face to face. Academia has its role in carrying out place based research and action research to understand the issue and providing constructive recommendations. Civil society has a responsibility to address issues arising within communities they live, we can use our voice and do awareness with local communities. The private sector has a corporate responsibility to offer support in any means they can to address issues in communities they do business in.
* Do more awareness and sensitize men on the importance of women leadership for the country
* Widely promote the work of potential women candidates that are specific to the electorates that they will be contesting in at least three (3) years before the next general elections to gain exposure and support from wider community.
* produce television programs and air these publicly as well as in schools to educate people. create avenues where public performances can be staged to address these issues through drama and theatre
* Connect PNG to other countries, where similar issues existed before, and how those countries managed to overcome these types of issues. Develop multi-year projects and programmes to support these ideas in PNG.
* Create more awareness on gender equality especially for Women in Parliament to prevent the stereo types that prevail in most people’s mindsets.
* Strengthen the education system generally in PN G
* From my view, due to the weak government and governing systems we have, people especially youths are not interested in politics and development issues. it like we working and living for our own bread and butter or survival. How to make people get interested in politics or own development issues and be active citizens is a need the NGOs should advocate for and raise awareness
* Awareness about equal rights, more of it
* Promote the various projects the women candidates are involved in
* Let the country know of what women are doing around the country. Show support as well. Advise woman folk on what should and should not be done if they are trying to get into politics
* Give them moral support, motivate and financially in their campaign through social media, NGO
* Women candidate are participating but violence, corruption and Mal-practices are not what they want thus they do not see it fit stand for election. Therefore, if we can fix those more ill will participate.
* Give more training on politics.
* Raise awareness about the need for women's voices to be represented
* A lot of awareness and education on women rights, and women as a development partner. Their focus is to change the stereo type view that women see ourselves as inferior to men.
* sensitize gender equality
* Research why & how women participate in order to develop strategies to increase participation
* coordinated campaign re benefits for all of women's participation. Practical support for women in lobbying activities, training for women in the political system including electioneering
* Hold awareness and information sessions, teach communities, change attitudes
* The NGO and other civil society groups must create a desk run by women to build awareness and connect aspiring woman leaders to civic groups to build network and in the process the aspiring woman leader’s credentials are published and promoted. It is like a self-scrutiny and public will become more aware of the woman leader’s aspirations to contest in the NGE and so early awareness is done and people will accept the woman candidate.
* Publicize and promote roles of women in society. Showcase successful women that can be role models.
* They should feature and publish positive campaign strategies and policies for women candidates rather than focusing only on male politicians.
* Advocacy and awareness on why we need women in parliament, the value we bring, the importance of having our voices heard.
* Non-government bodies should strengthen their skills in collaboration and networking between groups, agencies and institutions. Women (and men) should be trained or coached to perform these functions.
* Huge Community Education & Awareness is needed for Women to Vote for Women! Convince Women themselves why Women make better leaders, good leadership traits Women-Centric thinking as opposed to Male Centric which dominates the Political Leadership Space Parliament today. Train Young Women Leaders up Election Campaigning Tactics and Innovation now for next Elections. Awareness and Education through all Schools across PNG. Youth Female Political Leadership Programs across country to boost profile of Women Young Females in Communities Locally and Internationally to help change mindset. Community Programs that are led by Females and Males equally.
* Equal opportunity needs to be taken more serious.
* Educate to change the mindset that the job of MPs and Parliamentarians is for everyone and not exclusively for Men
* Provide more community based awareness to rid citizens mind off stereotyping women politicians
* Preach the genre of good leadership and promote positive culture of leadership both men and women.
* The media should give more coverage on individual women standing in the various electorates. There background, profession, community involvement etc. I voted for women but didn't have much knowledge of their background.
* More voter education awareness to promote the role of women as well as gender sensitizing programs
* Media is one avenue of getting message across especially to rural areas. They can assist by creating awareness and minds in our rural community and more empowerment programs for both men and Women in the rural areas. Men too are our voters we must not forget. But if everyone can come together and push for that 22 seats would be great.
* Lobby to the government for these reserve seats for women in parliament. However, instead of going for 22 reserve seats, go for 4 representing the 4 regions and then in time we increase the number of seats. I say this because even the males in parliament I feel are threatened by females and may not support the lobby for all 22.
* Research and Implement Findings Develop Teaching Modules on Women Leaders
* Undertake voter awareness 2. Assist in fund raising events for female candidates 3. Assist in establishing characteristics for the most suitable female candidates 4. Assist with awareness on campaign strategies, fund raising strategies, and in understanding the LPV system.
* Empower women 2. Educate public to break down stereotypes
* Through awareness of the issue.
* Give as much media awareness on these women candidates
* Highlight women and the value they add to our society. Appreciate our women and run stories on them putting them in positive light.
* Extremely necessary in their roles for voter education and awareness on women’s importance and necessity to hold public offices especially in politics.
* Profile them for publication in newspapers or on tv
* Keep training and preparing women to stand because it's not happening in the parliament
* Print Media can do a supplement daily on each woman candidate giving each an opportunity to inform potential voters of their plans, objectives, policies etc.
* Dissemination of information to the masses. Allow women to participate in forums and national events. Give. Prominence to women.
* See previous question and answers. Both questions should be a concerted effort by GoPNG, private sector and CSOs
* Media and NGOs should agree to unite to support women candidates through (1) provision of multiple media platforms through which benefits of gender empowerment can be communicated (2) raise awareness in media-dark areas on the benefits of voting for women and (3) push for institutions such as political parties to recruit, fund and support more women candidates.
* They can run community based programs meaning running programs that must involve the whole community and not targeting women type programs. In this programs always address the important roles both man and woman play in the community. Stress that currently our society is off balance because there is no voice for women in parliament. So, lots of awareness now. Empower by giving training at a community level to community leaders to do this jobs of improving women participation in parliament.
* Continuous messaging on key advantages that arise when women in leadership roles, they represent our voice, breaking cultural norms is OK etc.
* Simple, start educating the general populace as early as possible through media, NGOs develop tailored made programs directed at women representation in politics.
* Hold awareness’s (forums, workshops etc) in remote/rural PNG on the importance of Womens political representation. A significant majority of our voting population are in the rural areas and the message needs to start getting out of our towns and the Big City before 2022
* Promote gender equality in political governance at all levels. The NCW is failing miserably in PNG to speak as the voice for women and promote women in political participation.
* Provide fair and thorough coverage of women candidates.
* Storytelling and really good social media support and presence is key
* 1-Voter awareness; 2- Candidates training; 3- Women's group to support in campaign period
* Get men (husbands or partners) to become public advocates for women as leaders. We often make the mistake of letting women advocate for themselves. It doesn't work. Having equal representation and participation in politics is not a gender based agenda, but of political leadership.
* Election awareness and education
* More awareness by bodies like National Womens Council for fair elections
* increase awards of women in leadership roles, and promoting role models Nation-wide before and during Campaign period.
* Educate public opinion on women leadership
* Do more advertisement on woman's success stories in any leadership roles both public and private sector to break those mindsets and cultural stigma and discrimination on women taking leadership roles in politics.
* Promote woman more, in terms of hard work and excellence, give them something to believe in. Key to success is motivation and empowerment.
* More awareness
* Train them and carry out voter education and awareness on women's rights to stand in elections
* More effective awareness and training programmes throughout the whole election cycle, targeting all stakeholders
* Highlight their stories Get behind them Use them to endorse products and services Be there voice Grow them through the corporate ranks Utilize them as a valuable resource Get good men to endorse them
* Create avenues for more women to be seen and heard in leadership and decision making spaces in general society, business, etc. to start changing the way society/culture sees women.
* Empowerment of Women through forums, conferences and trainings and support in their SME's and new innovations, make their voices be heard to the public and expose the potential ones so that people will give support and be likely to endorse them.
* Help with awareness & education. Women voters are also intimidated & don't vote for women candidates
* More publicity
* Promote them more.
* Again - championing the cause, having us all advocate women's rights to equal representation. Media can actually portray more positive feature stories on current women leaders
* Involve in the education and awareness on the importance of gender equality in parliament and other levels of government and decision making areas. 2. More research need to be undertaken to provide evidence based data to understand challenges of women candidates. The studies can propose evidenced based way forward.
* increase level of advocacy, lobbying and develop long term voter awareness to improve changes for women

1. **What do you think the UN and /or development partners can do to help improve women candidates' participation in elections?**

* Training and awareness to participate in democratic process or exercise such as a mock parliament training; 2. Conduct programmes at rural base settings to promote the role of women especially on leadership and how they can mobilize communities to achieve a common purpose. For example; at rural population where the bulk of voting population is; we have to customize initiatives to promote women taking leading roles having in mind and taking into account the cultural barriers. Cultural perceptions can be worked around given relevant initiatives are developed with input from communities.
* Help to improve upgrade and empower women's network from the ward level up to national so this body can function as what it is mandated to do. Once this body can function well it may give birth to our participation in the elections and eventually parliament. More political leadership training.
* Provide technical support for All Political Parties to embrace and support women
* Pool resourced for a coordinated front.
* Advocate more and target program s to address gaps(implement some election observation recommendation) , funding & build local organizations to promote good governance & accountability
* By creating women in leadership programmes that focus at the local political and economic level. To develop the confidence and reputation of women to lead.
* Does anyone know what they do in the first place except have offices and make reports?
  + Provide support through leadership capacity building programs. - Support women empowerment programs - Push and ensure the government is doing enough to promote equal participation of women and leadership - Identify factors that contributed to no women been elected into parliament and come up with solutions in partnership with govt and civil society organizations. It would help to also provide this information to intending female candidates.
* Provide Trainings. Our women need to be trained and equipped with the right tools prior to participation in elections.
* provide trainings, workshops and capacity for the female candidates
* To provide support and develop strategies to support intending Women candidates in future election
* Nothing much but ensure PNG gov't policies and law are being strengthened to change the mindset of the people
* More workshops on developing women to be politicians
* Provide avenues for women to advocate for equal rights and participation in politics
* Stop pushing a 'female representation' agenda. Push a 'family unit' agenda. Both men AND women will respond to that. The person elected into office should have a demonstrated concern for the family unit & how to improve their outcomes. Encourage women to speak about issues affected both men AND women so that the audience is broader & can be compared to all the grand rhetoric from candidates of the other gender.
* Look at lessons learnt from other countries with female parliamentarians, and increase advocacy.
* Educate on the importance of women roles and people must understand the fact that women also contribute to nation building
* Break down the stigma that 'Women aren't as capable as men' by demonstrating how many times a woman has successfully achieved her goals at her own time and pace. And how she imparts this knowledge to her kin, in her workplace, village etc
* Provide learning opportunities for women in leadership, confidence building, public speaking. Women debating issues of national importance on TV or other venues will help boost general perception on women leaders
* Awareness
* Continue to maintain that seminar/workshop for intending women candidates. Its should be conducted throughout 5 years covering all provinces. if this issue of women getting into parliament is critical, then the drive to address it should also be made extreme.
* Offering financial support, training, coaching and mentoring. Working alongside specialised Gender Equality experts in PNG to device effective tools in addressing this issue. The important thing is to break that cultural barrier.
* sensitive current parliamentarians that women do have equal rights as men and more training for women leaders
* To assist with and promote voter education and voter rights awareness to a wider community.
* help in funding to support any work in PNG that promotes awareness on these issues
* Not to wait for another 5 years before the next elections. These issues require longer term commitment. Use the momentum now and agree on specific options with Government leadership, design programmes to start addressing the issue from now until the next election.
* Support the media, civil society, academia and private sectors to create awareness on including women in leadership. When implementing projects in communities, ensure women participation in every aspect of project implementation including decision-making so that males can learn to appreciate women's involvement and see how women can be good leaders. Taking a bottom-up approach is the better approach to take because majority of voters are from the rural areas.
* Give more awareness to the women groups that exist in the country
* The Pawa Meri film on Jennifer Baing is a good awareness raising material that needs to aired often on TV, interviewing the 3 women candidates (Julie Soso, Delilah Gore and Loujaya Toni) and documenting their challenges and disseminate...capacity building for elected/nominated women Councilors, assist to revive NCW's network, assist to continue the push for Temporary Special Measure...
* Assist women associated programs within and more awareness
* Promote that women are a integral part of development
* Maybe educate women who want to get into politics. Give awareness to them
* Run leadership programmes/trainings as the UN did in the last election.
* Lead by example and showcase more women in UN leadership as well as build confidence in their own female workforce. More broadly, programming work should always have a gender focus ensuring it's part of the national dialogue.
* Train our potential women leaders on political strategies so they plan crafty well to overcome man dominated political climate here in PNG and help law enforcement bodies and legislators to make sure violence, forced voting, bribery etc is reduced or dealt with accordingly so people can make good decisions.
* More training in participation in Elections
* Financially assist aspiring women to participate in activities in communities over 3-4 years prior to the years of election. In that way, these women build the trust of the community that they can be leaders and managers of the community.
* Stop paying too much attention on the women; but men too! Life requires a balanced view.
* Help seed local Women in Politics organizations & facilitate election resources trust fund
* Provide funding and training assistance, to help women approach electioneering with confidence. Training in how to overcome cultural resistance and corrupt attitudes is clearly necessary. Emily's list works in other countries. Similar in PNG might be good.
* I think, they can support new and creative ways of changing perspectives of voter, gender sensitizing communities in a new way, not following the previous ways of informing communities
* The development partner’s role is to build capacity by providing a resource center in the four regions to support work carried out by the civic n ngo groups.
* Organize local, national and regional workshops as awareness on the role and responsibility of women candidates to their families, community and the country.
* Advocacy and awareness on why we need women in parliament, the value we bring, the importance of having our voices heard. Continue education for women on political processes and skills needed to be an effective leader.
* Development Partners focused on training potential/registered female candidates, but it was shown that this is not enough. UNDP and DP must provide support to the Government/Electoral Commission to create a fair election. They should support the voter enrollment process to update the Electoral Roll, including awareness to the public of the process, and technical support for transparent Electoral Roll update. DPs need to educate the public at the local level on the roles of each party, including Scrutineers, Returning Officers, and security personnel, to name a few. Within this, to get people to understand that women have equal right to vote independently and to be able to stand and represent the community. The DPs should also help the law and justice system with training, logistical support etc. in enforcing the law relating to the electoral process, disputed returns etc. Women should be given some support to lodge grievances, and see the process through without fear.
* Resource Female Leaders to return home and carry out awareness and community development programs within their communities to have an impact and show demonstrate to the voting population their area of impact - this must happen. Space for Women Political Leadership must be enforced created otherwise the socio-cultural space currently doesn't allow it as we have seen 2017 elections.
* Awareness and mentoring
* Educate to change the mindset that the job of MPs and Parliamentarians is for everyone and not exclusively for Men
* Advocate for legislations to challenge the issues at hand.
* Support NGO's like us Anglicare to advocate about good leadership. We can partner with other agencies to advocate, including teaching leadership skills.
* Conduct more workshops for those intending to stand for public office well ahead of elections. UN/ Development partners people on the ground should identify particularly rural areas what women have to.do to change mindset of voting population.
* More leadership skills and trainings to both men and women in the community. Trainings shouldn't target only women, it has to be inclusive.
* More women in politics training and support women with resources. Perhaps liaise with Electoral office to ensure all common roll is updated, ensure safe and secured environment for polling without been influenced or threatened. We also need to protect our voters from been threatened at the voting box.
* Advocate and facilitate discussions that will enable awareness and then ultimately a demand for reserve seats for women in parliament by Papua New Guineans both men, women and youths.
* Continue advocacy programs, review the 22 reserve seats and suggest a model that will work for PNG.
* Fund the comprehensive assistance package outlined above in Q3.
* Promote and market women as better leaders ...
* Fund programs that empower women 2. Fund programs that educate society to break down stereotypes
* Making the Government more aware for the need for equal participation at National level.
* Assist to establish a political party for women only and select the best candidate for each electorate. Assist with fundraising and sponsorship to the Women's party. It's just a dream
* International bodies bring in the wealth of experience and expertise with their body of global knowledge on such development issues. They are also qualified to recommend workable solutions based on their experience site and expertise. We (the country) need other non political or financially affiliated organizations to provide wisdom and solutions to such developing issues the country is facing.
* Source funding so that they can go out and work among rural people.
* Embarrass the government over the complete absence of women in parliament this time and it's failure to address this issue, as was highlighted in election observer reports in 2012
* N, donor agencies and development partners could fund women driven seminars and projects do as to elevate and lift profile of women in the communities.
* Do community awareness especially in rural areas and peri-urban areas. Involve men and youths together with women. Identify women leaders, work with them to influence change. More awareness should be conducted. It will work well in coastal areas but am not sure if our Highlands Provinces will agree to this. Use of Media to influence should be the key.
* Start the conversation. Share other countries experiences with the women. Work in partnership with established politics focused csos and women’s movements to resource and strengthen them. The NCW for example.
* Work with the government to consider legislative reform that would enable women participation in the country's highest decision making institutions.
* Organization can assist but the point mentioned in 3 stands.
* Do not come and give training to intending women candidates as you did to those who participated in this year's elections because the problem lies with our voters their perception on us women, so what am I saying? Do something with our voters. Empower them with knowledge through your programs.
* Train interested women political leaders in effective oration skills, 2. As PNG population become better informed of their rights to vote, UN can influence voter confidence in women's leadership. 3. Unfortunately, women leaders are assessed against their personalities and general home life, affecting their overall status and confidence of voters in their leadership ability. How can we change perceptions which is contrary to male leaders?
* Continue the great work but let GOPNG taken on some responsibilities. Such as which Dept is responsible for this activity should priorities this activity. UN and Dev partners provide Technical Assistance.
* 1.Support Awareness’s in rural PNG on the importance of Womens political representation 2. Continue to raise the issue and dialogue at the highest levels of decision making in PNG on the need for a concerted effort to address this issue
* By strongly promoting that women are left behind in political decision making when they are not voted in. So, they must strongly promote women. Could help with some training for preparations and training for when they get in and doing the job.
* Raise awareness within society on election processes and more importantly, the exercise of free voting.
* Continue to break the cultural ties esp. cultures and beliefs that continue to suppress women’s voice
* raining the women candidates in campaign tactics; policy mapping.
* Can I propose that the UN and Development Partners engage the wives of respective Governors to become involved in leadership programs at the sub national level. This may provide an opening to provide some sort of balance in provincial leadership. The wife may not be mandated, but she can automatically assume a counterpart role in the community. Provide them with training on politics, leadership, good governance etc as UN would on women candidates themselves. This also provides visibility we need on the issue of the lack of equal participation in politics and leadership.
* Identify potential women candidates and conduct training.
* Study how other countries are doing better in getting more women into Parliament. Invest it programs that support that. Maybe interactions with women from other countries
* UN and other development partners should promote and resource projects that are championed by female leadership
* Educate public opinion on women leadership
* Continue the training every year to educate potential woman candidates.
* Let woman participate more in economic and environment seminars. Get more woman to work along expatriates to gain more knowledge and understand the different cultures around the work. This will help them understand what the people in Papua New Guinea will need or work to achieve.
* continue to promote women's participation in the election process.
* Training in political advertising, political campaigning, and election laws
* More effective awareness and training programmes throughout the whole election cycle, targeting all stakeholders
* If there are signs of interest, take them under your wings early. Groom them to be your voice. Endorse them. Have them work collaboratively with you in their communities over 5 years
* Continue the education for potential candidates (more Practice Parliament style workshops, etc), look at ways to improve capacity for women to gain campaign funds.
* Nurture and empower the upcoming young women in leadership careers. They need to be mentored well by Mentors and programs from the UN.
* Assist with financial support & relevant campaign material
* Start grooming candidates 5 years before the next election
* Training on public speaking and lobbing tactics
* UN/ development partners should over the next 5 years leading to the next elections focus on awareness and advocacy for women in Parliament at the rural community levels.
* Assist women candidates.
* Holistically approach the issue - be inclusive of all stakeholders. 2. Prioritize practical and sustainable approaches to support. 3. Support the government more.
* support voter awareness programs

1. **What do you think is the best way(s) forward in improving number of women in Parliament?**

* Promote participation of women in leadership roles across all sectors and levels of communities
* Create more education scholarships to train women to be Melanesian leaders. To preserve and to uphold the dignity of our cultures, traditions and believes from ward level all the way to the national level.
* A quota system
* Focus support at LLG level to convince voters on capabilities of female leadership. Strategies for support at national level as well.
* Keep encouraging women to stand. Prior to that they must be in their constituency doing something...delivering a service to earn the trust of the people. Be strategic and align self to a political party that has very good policy agenda that links with your constituency's development priority.
* more women have contested the 2017 election than in the history of the country. this is a reassuring sign that women are continuing to persist in politics even though their opportunities are severally limited. I think reserved seating is the most likely way to significant representation of women in the fastest possible time. However, the local level elections could be a key entry point for women to commence professional political life. I also think the voter cannot be ignored. some electorate results are determined by vote counting, not by voting. Therefore, in these constituencies it is still highly unlikely a donor or a NGO can do anything to alter a pre-determined outcome.
* Get elected. Work towards that goal. No silver bullet
* For women, themselves to be empowered and support each other. Many women work in isolation and are not supporting each other. Women must learn to work together to push this agenda and we need male advocates to step up show their support for women.
* Doing away with the typical stereotype mentality. Calls for more gender equality awareness country wide. 2. Have more women in leadership roles and further Trainings be provided to women on leadership and management. 3. All women to join hands and work together to support and lift each other up. In turn, engaging more of our men to be involved in empowering women.
* advocacy, trainings, workshops for those female candidates who contested in the 2017 election and their voters as well to prepare for the 2022 elections
* Develop a door to door campaign strategy of which their platform can be better understood by the public in order to gain support and get required figures to be voted to the parliament
* More women should be leaders in their communities. Open-minded and believe in gender equity. Men aren’t solely blamed women to should stand up
* Women themselves must know how important they are in Political areas
* Push for a policy on reserve seats for women
* Laws should be passed where each political party MUST have a minimum of 1 or 2 female candidates.
* Improving gender and equality and participation in every national program that are being carried out in the country
* Having a policy and procedure that stipulates a cut off number of intending male and female candidates who wish to participate in an election.
* Make regional seats become women's seats. They will not be called governors but women's representatives for each province.
* Reserve seats for women reps
* Just consider the above suggestions. There will never be best ways, as reality of circumstances are those that cannot be predicted. So what chances are there to come up with best ways in improving number of women?
* As women, we are equally capable as our male counterparts or most of us are even better in what we do. We have really influence most of the population that are still clouded by cultural beliefs. We need to shift that mindset, we need greater awareness, strong behavior change training that can really impact on how most see our women leaders. I think with a shift in the mindset, we can improve this situation as well as other problems that are happening within our society.
* promote women rights by and equality by advocacy and awareness.
  + Promote success stories of women in politics all over the world in PNG to motivate women to contest in NGEs - Encourage women candidates to spend more time in the respective electorates that they intend to contest in - Educate our women voters the need for women to be represented in Parliament. - Lobbying for the Reserved Seats for Women in Parliament Bill to be enacted into law.
* more awareness about equal participation. but I think , the GVT can also consider putting aside reserved seats in parliament just for women. Most elections always deal with bribery and foul play which intimidates the whole election process and innocent candidates are affected even though they have greater chances of winning.
* Continue working with those who had really good chances, and continue supporting them further. Organize public events (debates, TV series, Radio talks, etc.), together with women and high level government officials to openly discuss this issue to better understand problems surrounding this matter. Use lessons learned to integrate into any program/project to be designed.
* As I have said, allow people to vote freely and not make room for corruption and bribery that will prevent voters to choose leaders wisely. Make more awareness on the importance of having a gender balance in parliament.
* Through awareness programs and education
* Temporary Special Measures.
* Good standing in society, better education and more women participation and in both government, private and community work.
* All political parties must endorse more than 10 candidates
* Education. Educating and giving awareness and also assisting those who are trying to get into politics
* Need partners, male involvement to support the female candidates.
* A strong and focused nationwide media campaign should be planned well in advance of the next elections. The same energy that is being invested in advance of the Bougainville Referendum should be invested in making sure women are represented in parliament by 50%. It should be a programme in itself!
* A women candidate has to plan in advance and work ahead of time.
* More awareness while campaigning.
* Affirmative Action and leadership by current Government to make space for women in leadership positions
* Women who intend to stand for election in 2022 should make that decision now and be in the community; 2. These women should be financially assisted to set a base in their community.
* Precedent setting. No party hopping stability is required of women politicians. They have to make an entry from other sectors to win back the trust and confidence lost in the political arena.
* Women networking with each other to support other women working men in leadership at all levels...
* initially, safe seats allowing women to demonstrate their skills and knowledge and let the doubters see the benefits. eventually, women as parliamentarians will be expected and welcomed.
* educating people, changing perspectives and changing the way female candidates campaign
* As i have outline above and if these can commence immediately so we have a full four years of awareness.
* Identify and select the right type of women that are suitable candidates and fund their campaigns so that they can leverage off that in campaigning along with their male counterparts. Eliminate the barriers and allow them to be voted on merits. Barriers include lack of funds, strategy team, etc.
* Political parties dominated by male leadership should create a gender balance of representation and should start incorporating this representation into their policies to encourage wider female participation in future elections.
* In the immediate term - Pass and enact the Equality and Participation Bill for 22 reserved seats for women In the medium and long term - gender sensitization.
* More support should have been given to the women who were in Parliament. They were left to battle on their own, and go off on tangents. The performance of women in the last Parliament was poor: one with Ministerial role, one as Governor, and the other as head of Lae City Authority. These are key roles given or earned by the women, and they failed to do better than men so the people could see they were capable. PNG women politicians went one step forward and two steps back during this term. To have 'women's voice' in Parliament can be through a number of mechanisms.
* Women Seats in Parliament!
* Attitudes towards woman and girls
* Educate to change the mindset that the job of MPs and Parliamentarians is for everyone and not exclusively for Men and financial aid
* Improving the election process, provide more awareness and encourage more women to run for election
* I don't think there is a best way. I think there is a time for everything. But for now the best way forward is to create a Nation that understand the nature of true leadership.
* Women must make their intentions known to their communities that they intend to stand well ahead of elections not one year or six months before elections. Get to know your urban/rural women groups. Strategize and start your campaign NOW. Make your community AWARE that you intend to stand. Let the kundus the garamuts BEAT your name LOUD across your communities. God bless the women of PNG.
* Call for Temporary Special Measures
* Perhaps push for 22 seats, more training programs and more exposure with women in parliament from other countries. We need to raise funds to support our women.
* I for one think that us females are our own worst enemies. If we can learn to work with each other, support each other and not against each other, then we stand a chance to increase our number in parliament. Women need to learn that and learn it fast.
* Review and Insert Clause on OLIPAC as above. Select a model that will work for PNG on women leaders
* Implementing all 4 components of the comprehensive package commencing now 2017.
* Women to have one big political party. One only. Invite all women to join this movement.
* EMPOWER WOMEN, PROFESSIONALLY, FINANCIALLY, ETC 2. EDUCATE SOCIETY TO BREAK DOWN STEREOTYPES
* Supporting the reserve seats.
* Awareness in communities especially to the women on voting women leaders and why we should vote them in.
* Education and encouragement of more women to run for ward Councilor elections. Get women prepared.
* Voter awareness. Aspiring female leader’s empowerment (trainings and knowledge) and enabling legal framework that provides equal opportunities for women to run for public office.
* Start working now for the next election.
* Have party quotas for candidates (parties over a certain size), that'd be a start, but not a quota in parliament
* One Reserved seats for women for each province.
* Start awareness and campaigns early. 4years before elections. Women have the numbers. Work in unity with all stakeholders to promote women’s roles.
* Review the role and policy guidelines of the Electoral commission. Is it supportive and conducive for women candidates? Ditto for the Registrar of political parties and other regulatory bodies in the process. Education.
* The nominated women seats proposal should be revisited.
* Awareness in potential women candidates that it done 5 years out. On average, you would've to lose one before you can win one.
  + have that law passed for this one compulsory seat for 4 women representing the four regions. Other seats the women can challenge. 2) women to support each other by allowing the most potential candidate to run instead of having like four women on the same seat..
* Educate the communities not just at the lowest possible level and that is at the Ward level. If they can be representatives at Ward,LLG than it is possible to be the District rep.
* Start at the community level (bottom up approach) by introducing reserved seats for women at council and LLG elections before or while simultaneously continuing dialogue to address the bigger national concern for women’s representation in National parliament.
* The NCW structure should perform its responsibility of getting All provincial women’s council's to prepare the women candidates through the political systems such as parties etc.
* Introduce Political studies in school curriculums as early as possible or starting from Primary school level to provoke, impart and promote increased interest by girls in a political career.
* educate the bulk population of PNG about the importance of respecting women.
* I think there should not be competition among women in each electorate. Should there be a woman who as great possibility of winning then we should all support her to win the election. Also voters education is very important on the process of voting and the government system. Too often our people lack the understanding of this and always vote alone family and tribal lines.
* It's a long term strategy unfortunately. Educating more girls at primary and secondary levels. We can level the 'playing field' not at the Parliament.
* The best way forward is for training and proper planning for women candidates
* Education. Stop corruption and intimidation at elections
* Upside female leadership opportunities in public and private sector. Focus on Provinces and Districts that already produce strong female leadership. Encourage competitive culture between women leaders in business and public sector.
* Let the Parliament appoint them.
* The intending woman candidates must strategize well few years before the election. Spend time in their electorate and involve in Leadership roles activities to leverage their influence hoping to collect good votes when election time comes. I think winning through the normal process give them credibility then asking for reserved seats for woman.
* Its all about education. More woman need to achieve a degree at least to understand how the country and its people operate. You cannot ran a country when you cannot help yourself. In order to help your people, show them success and they will follow.
* Introduction of nominated seats
* Fight for a quota system that must be introduced as a annex to the Integrity Law so that it is binding on all political parties in PNG
* More effective awareness and training programmes throughout the whole election cycle, targeting all stakeholders. Women ourselves need to start celebrating each other, instead of belittling each other
* Legislate reserved seats and advice women to put their two best candidates forward - instead of competing with 30 others in the one electorate
* Educating the electorate.
* The Women who get the chance of being elected must set a good precedence during her term so that others will be inspired to vote in female representatives. Many women forget who they are and what was their focus at the start once they're being involved in the political system. Women have some sleeping potential that when waken up and put into good use in complimenting their male counterparts, the outcomes will be splendid.
* Appointment of women reps if no woman is elected
* The only way is to have a law that maintains min of 3 women in parliament
* Try get all parties to commit to supporting 50% of women in all their parties
* Education/ awareness/ promotion of women in Parliament. Eradicate block voting and suppression of women's rights to vote. Conduct secret separate voting quarters for women, particularly in the rural areas.
* Women at the LLG elections should be supported more to build the confidence and trust from the people first, then they can stand for national election. Support, confidence and trust between the people and the woman candidate is important. 2. 5-year nationwide awareness on the importance of gender equality and women representation. So, that people will be aware and understand why it is important to vote for a woman.
* developing long term voter awareness, improving electoral process, transparency, accountability and security of right to vote must be promoted to improve opportunity for women

1. Go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/G93JN9T> . [↑](#footnote-ref-1)