



NCD Council of Women  
Technical Working Committee

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Date; 23/05/2023.

Hon. Powes Parkop LLB MP  
The Chairperson  
Permanent Parliamentary Committee  
Gender Equality & Women`s Empowerment  
P. O. Box Parliament House  
WAIGANI  
Port Moresby  
NCD

Dear Chairperson – Hon. Powes Parkop LLB, MP

**SUBJECT: POSITION ON STATUS OF PNG NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN**

By way of introduction, we the undersigned are the Technical Working Committee established at the NCD Council of Women AGM on the 11<sup>th</sup> of April 2023 resolution 001. Attached the Meeting Minutes and our Terms of Reference.

With the work undertaken, we have realized a serious anomaly that not only affect a satisfactory conclusion to our work, but the PNG National Council of Women as the Body Corporate representing all Women in PNG as per the National Council of Women Act 2013. Following are our findings;

- 1) The nonexistence of a national executive Committee to the National Council of Women since 2020. As per the attached Minister`s Circular dated 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021; the termination of the former National Executive Committee affirmed legal and the appointment of the National Interim Executive Committee declared illegal, null and void, the Special AGM to be conducted in Kavieng never happened. The Provincial Councils of Women have been thrown into a disarray without its NCW Executive Committee to make decisions on their behalf.
- 2) There seem to be lack of understanding and incompetency within the NCW Secretariate and DFCDR to provide proper legal, administrative and political guidance to the Minister for DFCDR, the NCW and its Principal Members the Provincial Councils of Women since 2013 to date when the Act was passed in Parliament.
- 3) Acting General Secretary is now being given a position as the Network Coordinator under the Office of Development for Women ( ODW) - DFCDR, This Technically make the National Secretariate nonexistent with implications to links severed with the Principal Members in the Provinces including NCD Council of Women.
- 4) The Model Constitution prepared for the National Council of Women to be adopted by NCD Council of Women before conducting its proposed election in 2023 is in question now. As per the Act section 61 (i) *The Council Shall adopt a Model Constitution for adoption by each Provincial Council of Women & (2) Any amendments, alterations and changes to the constitution can only be made by the council.* There is no evidence before us that this model constitution that has been widely distributed to the provincial Councils of Women has officially been adopted by the NCW referred to here as the *Council*.

5) There is no regulation to guide the NCW Act 2013 and the Model Constitution drafted and presented at the Special Annual Regional Meeting 2015 yet to be adopted by the Council.

The Attempts of the TWC to meet and get clarity on these issues with the Secretary DFCDR, the Hon Minister for DFCDR and other State Agencies have not been responded to appropriately and still pending, hence we are writing directly to the Permanent Parliamentary Committee for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment to raise these concerns and seek way forward to sail our Ship (NCW) for and on behalf of the Women of NCD and PNG.

We pray to this Permanent Parliamentary Committee for the following affirmative actions to be considered immediately;

(1) use the appropriate mechanism to re instate the Care Taker NCW Executive Committee of the 2020 AGM removed by the Minister in 2021. This Interim committee already had a working document titled 'Forward **Looking Priority Plans and Strategies – December 2020 – March 2022** .( *Copy attached*) They started working when the Minister's Circular removed the existence of this Executive Committee.

(2) The Re-instated Executive Committee then to appoint a Technical Working Committee to provide advice and support the Council to put the house in order.

(3) Appoint an acting Secretary General to establish the NCW Secretariate.

(4) The Acting SG with the support of the TWC will properly prepare the NCW and its Principal Members to go into elections and form the Ward Councils, District Councils and Provincial Councils. The President elect of the Provincial Councils will then proceed to the National Convention to elect the NCW executives.

Chairperson, our concern is , the Council's importance as the legitimate Voice and Council for the Women of PNG must never be undervalued by any Government, State Institutions or individual. It is an organization by An Act of Parliament with perpetual Succession as per Section **6 (2) (a)** . The NCW exist to help realize the five National Goals and Directive Principles of the PNG National Constitution. More over to effect to the Second Goal which calls for '**Equality and Participation in Nation Building**'.

We echo the concerns of the Women of this nation and sincerely hope that your committee will do the honorable thing to get immediate remedial actions recommended.

Attachments for reference are;

- (i) The NCD Council of Women AGM Minutes
- (ii) The Terms of Reference for the Technical Working Committee
- (iii) Circular Instruction from the office of the Minister 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021
- (iv) 2020 NCW interim Executive Committee Forward Looking Strategy.

Thank you.

The Technical Working Committee to NCD Council of Women.

- 1. Mrs. Mea Lou Issac: ..... / 7356 1439
- 2. Ms. Margret Lokoloko: ..... / 7943 4776
- 3 Ms. Ethel Sandery: ...../ 7126 3663
- 4. Ms. Anna Bill Skate: ...../ 7223 1777
- 5. Ms. Barbara Toiya : ...../ 79292944