

Questions:

Name: _____

Age: _____

Sex: _____

Province: _____

District: _____

1. The National Government wants to declare PNG a Christian Country. Do you agree?

- a. Yes
b. No?

Give your reasons _____

2. Do you want Papua New Guinea to be ANNOUNCED OR DECLARED as a Christian Country in our National Constitution or Mama Law?

- a. Yes
b. No

Give your reasons _____

3. Do you want Papua New Guinea to ADOPT CHRISTIAN VALUES/PRINCIPLES AS ONE OF ITS NATIONAL GOALS OR NATIONAL ASPIRATIONS through the National Constitution or the Mama Law?

- a. Yes
b. No

Give your reasons _____

4. Do you want CHRISTIAN VALUES/PRINCIPLES TO BE UPHELD AND THEIR VIOLATIONS TO BE ENFORCED BY COURTS?

- a. Yes
b. No

Give your reasons _____

CONSTITUTIONAL & LAW REFORM COMMISSION

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Independent State of Papua
New Guinea

**CONSTITUTIONAL AND LAW REFORM
COMMISSION**

CONSTITUTIONAL DIRECTIVE NO. 3

INQUIRY ON THE DECLARATION OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA AS A CHRISTIAN COUNTRY

PAPUA NEW GUINEA



CONSTITUTION



Constitutional & Law Reform Commission

The Constitutional and Law Reform Commission (CLRC) finds its basis in the *Constitution*. Section 21(2) and Schedule 2.13 of the Constitution which provides for a law reform body to be established by an Act of Parliament. The *Constitutional and Law Reform Commission Act 2004*, therefore establishes the CLRC. The CLRC is an amalgamation of the former Law Reform Commission and the Constitutional Development Commission. The functions of the CLRC are primarily found in the *Constitution*, the *CLRC Act* and the *Underlying Act 2000*.

The CLRC's core function is to review the laws and recommend reform proposals to the Government and Parliament, and is the country's only mandated law reform agency. For transparent, consistent and coherent reforming of laws in this country, it is imperative that CLRC is involved in every law review exercise. The Commission comprises the Commissioners and staff who provide the secretariat, headed by a Secretary. CLRC reports directly to the Minister for Justice and Attorney General on all matters except on Constitutional Directives where it reports directly to the Prime Minister.

The core functions (and powers) of CLRC is spelled out under three pieces of laws:

- ✚ The *Constitution*,
- ✚ CLRC Act 2004, and
- ✚ The *Underlying Law Act 2000*.

The Commission's powers and functions are listed under Sections 11 and 12 of the CLRC Act, respectively. Its core function is to inquire into constitutional laws on direction from the Prime Minister; and review all laws other than constitutional laws, on instructions from the Minister for Justice. The Commission also provides advisory and drafting services to Government agencies upon their request (Section 11, CLRC Act).

The Constitutional Directive No. 3

On the 11th of March 2021, the Head of State by virtue of his power under section 12 (1) of the *Constitutional and Law Reform Commission Act 2004* issued a directive on the inquiry on the Declaration of Papua New Guinea as a Christian Country and directed CLRC:

- a) To review or enquire into and report on the workings of the Preamble and Part 1 of the Constitution of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea; and
- b) In the conduct of this review or inquiry into the Preamble and Introductory Part 1 of the Constitution, the Commission must work in close consultation with the Department of Community Development and other relevant state agencies; and
- c) The Commission must complete this review or inquiry within 11 months from the date of the issuance of the directive; and
- d) The Commission must submit its findings and recommendations to the National Executive Council at the end of the 11 months period; and
- e) This Direction takes effect on and from the date of signature of this Instrument.

Background of the Constitutional Directive

1. The Reference was issued based on the NEC decision No. 234 of 2020 with the view;
 - that three quarters of Papua New Guineans are practicing Christians and the other quarter of the population identifies itself as Christians, or non-Christians.
 - The Preamble of the Constitution, although non-binding, must reflect Papua New Guinea as a Christian country and give significance to God and to our Christian values.
 - The Preamble of the Constitution must make God become prominent to reflect the thinking of the people as to the kind of country that we want to have and to also ensure that those who want to be part of our society must acknowledge God and adopt these Christian values.