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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**DIRECTOR OF TONGA'S WOMEN AND CHILDREN CRISIS CENTRE PART  
OF 12 MEMBER COMMONWEALTH OBSERVER TEAM TO THE PAPUA NEW  
GUINEA GENERAL ELECTIONS**

Papua New Guinea's 10th Parliamentary Election since Independence in 1975 will be held between Saturday 24 June through to 8 July. Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland has deployed a 12-member Commonwealth Observer Group to the national elections which is being led by the former Governor-General of New Zealand, Sir Anand Satayanand.

Included in the 12-member team is Director of the Tonga Women and Children's Crisis Centre (WCCC), 'Ofa Guttenbeil-Likiliki, who brings to the team her gender analysis, violence against women and women's participation in Tonga and Pacific parliaments expertise. Guttenbeil-Likiliki accepted the invitation from the Commonwealth Secretary General to join the 12-member team and arrived into Port Moresby this week to begin the 3 week deployment.

"It is an absolute honour to receive an invitation from the Secretary General to be part of the team led by Sir Anand and I look forward to carrying out my duties diligently in accordance with the Code of Conduct for International Election Observers," said Guttenbeil-Likiliki to Matangi Tonga. This is Guttenbeil-Likiliki's second invitation to be part of the Commonwealth Observer Group, her first deployment was at the 2014 Solomon Islands General Elections. Guttenbeil-Likiliki will be in Papua New Guinea from the 17 June through to 10 July.

"I look forward to providing a sound gender-analysis to our observation exercise. I acknowledge that this indeed is a valuable opportunity and am deeply grateful that the Papua New Guinea Government had invited the Secretary General to deploy an observers team to the 9th general elections," said Guttenbeil-Likiliki.

**Composition of the 12-member Group:**

**Rt Hon Sir Anand Satyanand (Chair)**

Former Governor-General of New Zealand and Former Chair of the  
Commonwealth Foundation  
New Zealand

**Ms Lorna Simon**

Supervisor of Elections  
Antigua and Barbuda

**Mr Sean Dorney**

Non-resident Fellow, Lowy Institute for International Policy  
Australia

**Ms Sashi Kiran**

Chief Executive Officer, Foundation for Rural Integrated Enterprises and  
Development (FRIEND)  
Fiji

**Mr Joseph Whittal**

Chairperson, Ghana Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice  
Ghana

**Ms Tricia Nolakumarie Teekah**

Policy and Advocacy Officer, Guyana Civil Society Leadership Project  
Guyana

**Dr Noor Mohammed**

Former Deputy Election Commissioner  
India

**Hon Gabrissa Hartman**

Member for Ubenide  
Nauru

**Ms Fetogi Vaai**

Assistant Commissioner of Elections  
Samoa

**Mr Calvin Ziru**

Registrar, Political Parties Commission  
Solomon Islands

**Ms 'Ofa Guttenbeil-Likiliki**

Director, Women and Children Crisis Centre  
Tonga

**Mr Wilson Toa**

Chief Executive Officer, Transparency International, Vanuatu

**Note to editors:**

Commonwealth observers were present at four of the last five national elections in PNG (1992, 1997, 2007 and 2012), as well as at elections in PNG's Autonomous Region of Bougainville (2005, 2010 and 2015).

Sir Anand Satyanand served as Governor-General of New Zealand from 2006 to 2011, and as Chair of the Commonwealth Foundation from 2013 to 2016.

The Group will be supported by a staff team led by Mr Albert Mariner of the Political Division, Commonwealth Secretariat. Please direct all media enquiries to Mr Mariner +44(0)7587634592 or Mr Ulafala Aiavao [media@commonwealth.int](mailto:media@commonwealth.int)

**Commonwealth Observer Group Terms of Reference**

“The Group is established by the Commonwealth Secretary-General at the invitation of the Government of Papua New Guinea. The Group is to consider the various factors impinging on the credibility of the electoral process as a whole.

The Group will determine in its own judgement whether the elections have been conducted according to the standards for democratic elections to which the country has committed itself, with reference to national election-related legislation as well as relevant Commonwealth, regional and other international norms and commitments.

The Group is to act impartially and independently. It has no executive role: its function is not to supervise but to observe the process as a whole and to form a judgement accordingly. It would also be free to propose to the authorities concerned such action on institutional, procedural and other matters as would assist the holding of such elections.

The Group is to submit its report to the Commonwealth Secretary-General, who will forward it to the Government of Papua New Guinea, the PNG Electoral Commission and leaders of political parties, and thereafter all Commonwealth member governments.”

**- See more at: <http://thecommonwealth.org/media/press-release/sir-anand-satyanand-leads-commonwealth-election-observer-mission-papua-new#sthash.zoTI1aG4.dpuf>**