



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Leadership promoted through Athletes Commission elections

Elections for the Papua New Guinea Athletes Commission (PNG AC) will be held during the period of the Samoa Pacific Games this year and Team PNG athletes are encouraged to be involved in it.

Athletes from sports not on the Pacific Games programme this year will have the opportunity to vote in Port Moresby at the PNG Olympic Committee Office.

The elections are held every four years coinciding with the Pacific Games where athletes have the opportunity to vote for their peers. Those elected will represent them on various committees about issues affecting them. The Chairperson and the Deputy Chair of the AC will also sit on the Board of the PNG Olympic Committee.

They also work with other regional and international AC bodies to provide learning and developmental opportunities for athletes on different topics.

Two elections will be held during the Samoa Games, one is the PNG AC elections to vote for athletes to become members of their Commission.

The other election is for the Pacific Games Council Athletes Commission (PGC AC) which current Deputy Chairperson of the PNG AC, Ryan Pini has been nominated for a second term.

The current PNG AC led by Karo Lelai as the Chairperson is encouraging other athletes to come forward and take up the responsibility as young leaders.

“This is a great opportunity for athletes to gain experience in sporting administration and be the next generation of leaders,” Lelai said.

Nominations for athletes to become PNG AC members can only be done by the National Federations. PNG AC advises that sports can nominate athletes from another sport if they wish to.

Nominations will open on May 7th and close on June 7th. Nomination forms will be sent out by the PNG Olympic Committee.

Lelai and her team have been in office since the last AC elections which were held in Port Moresby during the Pacific Games in 2015.

In that time they have raised the bar in their role in ensuring that athletes' concerns and views are taken onboard by various sporting bodies when making decisions on different agendas.

Their work has attracted the attention of regional AC bodies with Lelai being elected as the Chairperson for the Athletes Commission of the Oceania National Olympic Committee (ONOC AC) and the Association of National Olympic Committee Athletes Commission (ANOC AC).

Meanwhile, Pini has also been busy with his election as a member on the Pacific Games Council Athletes Commission (PGC AC) and the FINA Athletes Commission.

The PNG Olympic Committee has nominated him for another term on the PGC AC and PNG athletes are urged to support this campaign by voting for him during the Games this year.

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