



**Directorate of Media and Communications**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PRESIDENT AND BOUGAINVILLE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

## **Media release**

### **UN AND BOUGAINVILLE: COMMITTED TO THE PEACE AGREEMENT**

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Thursday, 22 February 2018

President of the Autonomous Bougainville Government Hon. Chief Dr John Momis has welcomed the new United Nations country representative to PNG, saying it was an honour that he has made time to visit Bougainville so soon after his appointment.

“I have a deep personal gratitude for the work of the UN over many years, assisting both the peace and development process,” President Momis told Mr Gianluca Rampolla, the new UN Resident Coordinator.

Mr Rampolla said the visit underlined the very strong partnership between the UN and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, and committed to continuing the work of his predecessor, Mr Roy Trivedy.

“The UN remains committed to working with ABG and the National Government to advocate for and support the peace process,” Mr Rampolla said.

The two leaders discussed a range of issues related to UN support in Bougainville, including the next phase of the UN Peacebuilding Fund to support the region prepare for referendum and beyond.

President Momis said there was a need to create a conducive environment for peace and the upcoming referendum.

“This includes engaging with key community leaders and those ex-combatants who have not yet signed up to the peace process,” President Momis said.

“We want to ensure that the referendum proceeds in a fair, open and transparent manner.”

“With need continued support and targeted funding to ensure that all Bougainvilleans feel they can participate in the peace process.”

Mr Rampolla acknowledged the President’s very constructive comments and noted that development sustains peace, and that peace ensures development.

The two leaders also discussed the referendum support program, future opportunities for partnership, governance, law and order and practical measures to promote and sustain peace.

President Momis said he was very encouraged by the mutual commitment on the part of both the UN and the ABG to continue working together to achieve the aspirations and goals of the Bougainville Peace Agreement.

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