



THE BOUGAINVILLE BULLETIN

Our voice, Our image, Our place

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ABG CHIEF SECRETARY UPDATE



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BOUGAINVILLE CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL UPDATES



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LIFT-OUT: REFERENDUM TOK PISIN FACTSHEET



Momis: Mipela i redi

Ol pipel bilong Bogenvil i amamas olsem tupela gavman i wanbel na makim pinis dei bilong referendum. Ol pipel nau i wetim tasol dispela dei bilong ekseaisim demokretik rait bilong ol long politikel fiutsa (future) bilong ol.

Dispela tok Presiden Seif Dr. John Momis i mekim i no long taim i go pinis long palem long mun Mas bihain long Join Supervaisori Bodi Miting long Port Mosbi.

“Ol pipel bilong yumi i referendum redi na wet tasol long ekseaisim vot bilong ol long dei namba 12 long mun Oktoba”, em i tok.

Momis i explen long palem olsem, join referendum rotso (road show) misin long

Bogenvil i bin helpim ol lida bilong ABG na Nesenel Gavman long tokaut klia long ol pipel long proses bilong referendum.

“Mipela i bin inap bung wantaim ol komyuniti long Bogenvil na givim infomesen long wanem taim referendum bai kamap, na wanem olkain toktok o samting bai i kamap na wanem proses bilong bihainim taim vot bilong referendum i pinis”, Momis i tok.

“Em i klia long mi olsem i gat strongpela sapot bilong indipendens, em i impoten yumi mas eksplenim, kisim indipendens i gat wanem



mining tru”, Momis i tok.

Gavman wantaim Bogenvil Referendum Komisn i mas karimaut yet bikpela pablik awenes

longkliaimtingting bilong ol pipel bilong Bogenvil na Papua Niugini long dispela tupela opsen long taim bilong vot long

referendum: Namba wan em long kisim moa pawa na strong bilong Atonomi o namba tu, em long kisim ful Indipendens.

| October | | | | | | | |
|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| WK | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun |
| 40 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 41 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 42 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 43 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 44 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

Referendum deit i stap pinis: Oktoba 12, 2019

Long namba 12 dei bilong mun Octoba 2019, ol pipel bilong Bogenvil bai vot long politikel fiutsa (future) bilong Bogenvil

Dispela fainel disisen Bogenvil na PNG Gavman i bin pasim long dei 1, Mas, long Join Supervaisori Bodi miting.

“Mipela i amamas olsem mipela inap

infomim o tokaut long pipel bilong Papua Niugini na Bogenvil olsem dei bilong referendum bilong Bogenvil long politikel fiutsa (future) bilong ol bai kamap long Oktoba 12, 2019”, Praim Minista O’Neil na Presiden Momis i tok.

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Our voice, Our image, Our place

Editor's Desk

Welcome to the first edition of the Bougainville Bulletin for 2019!

With the final date now set for the referendum on Bougainville's political future, there is no better time than now to truly unite as one people, one voice, one Bougainville – and walk down this road of achieving our aspiration together.

The past year we have seen and participated in referendum-ready activities including reconciliations, weapons-disposal programs, and integrating all people back into their communities.

We have seen our people taking ownership of the process to ensure that we are 'referendum-ready' and that has been a positive and very encouraging step forward for Bougainville as whole.

The government at the leadership and administration level have been out in communities conducting awareness programs, informing our people of key activities and information that will help people make a well-informed choice.

The Bougainville Referendum Commission has also embarked on it's awareness drive to educate our people on the different electoral activities that will happen before, during and after the referendum.

This awareness or any awareness for that matter, is critical, as research shows that people regard information as empowerment and something that they rightfully deserve. It is a service that allows people to be well-informed in order to make good decisions.

Our Community Government Structure continue to play a crucial role in the referendum process, especially with the updating of the referendum roll, which is being done through respective ward recorders.

It is important that all communities work with the government and key agencies such as the Bougainville Referendum Commission to ensure that all eligible voters are registered on the referendum roll.

It is equally important also that we as Bougainvilleans commit to respecting the outcome of the referendum, we commit to continue our development journey and most importantly, in the spirit of the Bougainville Peace Agreement, we commit to maintaining and upholding peace beyond the referendum.

God Bless Bougainville!

The Bulletin Team

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About the *Bougainville Bulletin*

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We encourage stories from the public, government and community organisations. To submit an article or letter for publication, please contact us:

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Directorate of Media and Communications: Bougainville Peace Agreement and Referendum Awareness, Buka, Northern Region



Referendum choices defined

The Autonomous Bougainville and National Governments have defined the two referendum choices of greater autonomy or independence.

autonomy with greater powers than those currently available under constitutional arrangements.

be an independent state, separate from the State of Papua New Guinea.

with greater clarity in preparing for the October 12 referendum, but more public awareness was now needed.

The two governments have tasked the Joint Post Referendum Transition Taskforce to develop how each definition would be implemented in practice.

President Momis said the long-awaited definitions provide Bougainvilleans

“The definitions have been included in the Joint Referendum Key Messages document and provided to the Bougainville Referendum Commission who will be providing this to the public through awareness activities.

Independence

An independent nation state with sovereign powers and laws, recognised under international law and by other sovereign states to

Greater Autonomy

A negotiated political settlement that provides for a form of

Referendum deit i stap pinis: Oktoba 12, 2019

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Agrimen bilong tupela gavman long dispela fainel deit i makim bikpela asivment(achievement) long wok bungwantaim bilong implementim Bogenvil Pis (peace) Agrimen.

Bihainim long dispela toksave, Bogenvil Referendum Komisen (BRC) i bin tok, writs bilong vot bai ol i givim long 16 August,2019.

BRC Chief Referendum Opisa Mauricio Claudio, i bin tok, Komisen bai hariap long karimaut ful enrolmen eksesais long Bogenvil.

“Mipela i askim strong ol pipel husait inap long vot long enrol bai ol inap vot long referendum taim ol opisa i kam long eria bilong ol,” em i tok.

Spesel referendum enrolmen

eksesais bai lukim ol wod rekoda i go long ol wan wan haus long wod bilong ol long sekim na stretim vota rol bilong ol. Bihain long dispela bai ol i putim ol rol long pablik ples wei ol pipel i ken lukim na sekim nem bilong ol. Na tu ol i ken ripot sapos i gat sampela asua i stap, em ol i mas stretim bipo long referendum.



Dennis Kuiai, Acting Secretary - DPAI

Tupela gavman gat plen bilong holim Nesenel rekonsiliesen bipo long referendum i kamap long Oktoba.

Ekting sekreteri bilong Pis Agrimen Implementesen, Dennis Kuiai, i bin tok, ol i

Nesenel Rekonsiliesen bipo long Referendum

makim mun July long dispela yia olsem taim bilong dispela rekonsiliesen.

“ D i s p e l a Rekonsiliesen em tupla gavman i bin tok oraitim long Mas long Join Supavaisori Bodi miting. Rekonsiliesen em bilong kamapim tok sori namel ol kombaten (BRA) na ol memba bilong PNG sekyuriti fos em ol ami, polis, na ol woda, (koreksenel

services).

“Em i singaut bilong nesenel rekonsiliesen, o pasin tok sori, em pasin Melnaesia. Olsem ol pipel bilong Bogenvil husait i stap long Papua Niugini i ken vot wantaim no gat pret” em i tok.

Mr. Kuiai i bin tok, Bogenvil Eksekiutiv Kaunsil i makim pinis Deputi Seif Sekreteri bilong Stratejik Plening Kenel Thomas Raivet

(Ret.) long lidim Bogenvil Tim. Ol bai wok bung wantaim PNG Tim long plenim na lidim dispela rekonsiliesen.

Join Supavaisori Bodi miting i luksave tu long olkain progres bilong pis na rekonsiliesen i wok long kamap long Bogenvil.

Ol dispela kain wok i redim ol pipel long kamap ‘referendum redi’.

Niu Zilan long lidim rijinel sekuriti sapot long referendum

Gavman bilong Bogenvil na Papua Niugini i pasim tok pinis, long kisim helpim bilong rizenel (regional) sekyuriti misin long lukautim pis (peace), na lo na oda long taim bilong Bogenvil referendum.

Kantri Niu Zilan (New Zealand) bai go pas long dispela rizenel sekyuriti misin. Ol bai wok bungwantaim ol opis bilong Fiji, Solomon Ailan, na Australia. Ol dispela opisa bai i no karim ol samting bilong pait. Niu Zilan, Fiji, Solomon Ailan na Australia, em ol kantri I bin witnesim saining bilong Bogenvil Pis (Peace) Agrimen.

Ol bai helpim Royal Papua Niugini konstabulari (polis) na Bogenvil Polis Sevis long lukautim pis (peace) long Bogenvil long taim bilong referendum.

Sekuriti misin bai kam long tripela wik bipo long referendum na stap inap kaunting i pinis.

ABG Presiden John Momis na Prait Minista Peter O'Neill i tok orait long dispela long join supervaisori bodi (JSB) miting long mun Mas. Ol i tok klia olsem tu, ol opisa bilong sekyuriti misin bai no karim ol samting bilong pait. Wok bilong ol em long givim advais na gaidens long ol lo enfosmen opisa na i no bilong go pas long lukautim lo na oda

ABG unites with Mekomui

ABG Presidential News

The integration of the Mekomui Faction remains a priority of the Autonomous Bougainville Government as it prepares for the referendum.

In a small but significant ceremony the ABG President Grand Chief Dr John Momis and his cabinet held a ceremony of unity with the Mekomui Faction from Panguna.

Commander of the Mekomui Defence Forces Moses Pipiro is a central character in the faction who has encouraged realignment with the

ABG.

“From the outset I must pay tribute to our President Grand Chief Dr John Momis for his leadership in the last forty years,” Mr Pipiro said.

“President Momis’ leadership has set the layout for Bougainville in our journey to self-determination as we prepare a future for all the people of Bougainville,” he added.

“It is time for all Bougainvilleans to unite and support our President, our leaders from the ABG and our national MP’s must come together and



From left to right: Minister for Peace Agreement Implementation, Albert Punghau, Moses Pipiro, President John Momis and Minister for Public Service, Robert Sawa Hamal Sawa.

pave the way forward for our people,” Pipiro said.

“We fought a revolution against oppression and so our dreams of independence must be realized,” Pipiro said.

President Momis thanked Mr Pipiro for his consistency and commitment to peace and unity as well as dealing with the ABG.

“Mekomui must be made a part of the ABG, they are our people and deserve to be part of the process of self-

determination,” Momis said.

“I must thank Mr Pipiro for being courageous and having the confidence to open up dialogue with the ABG to realign itself with the rest of Bougainville,” Momis added.

“Mr Pipiro’s actions is a display of leadership and his commitment to peace and unity on Bougainville,” President Momis said.

Momis made it clear that the ceremony was not in any way to entice the

landowners of Panguna Mine.

He added that the ceremony between the ABG and the Mekomui was a way forward to being prepared for the referendum to decide Bougainville’s political future.

Momis revealed that the ABG is ready to work with the Mekomui Factions to engage them in a collaborative manner to ensure a successful outcome of the referendum.

Momis on voter eligibility

The eligibility criteria to vote in the upcoming referendum is outlined in the Bougainville Peace Agreement.

ABG President Chief Dr John Momis made this statement following concerns raised by the public on who is eligible to vote in the referendum.

“The rules for who can vote in the referendum date back to the Bougainville Peace Agreement, which states - in section 315 - that “eligibility to vote in the referendum will be the same as for national elections in Bougainville plus non-resident Bougainvilleans.

“This gives the right to vote to all Papua New Guinea

citizens who have resided in Bougainville for at least six months and meet other criteria such as age. This applies regardless of whether you consider the person to be Bougainvillean or not,” explained Momis.

President Momis clarified that these criteria have been known for a long time and there is no new rule being applied.

“We have waited twenty years for this referendum, and so we must participate in our largest possible numbers. I call on all eligible voters to enroll during the upcoming enrolment exercise, and to participate in the display and

review the process that will follow,” Momis said.

Meanwhile, the Bougainville Referendum Commission has announced the eligibility criteria as follows - for those living in Bougainville are:

- **Must have been living in Bougainville for at least the past six months prior to enrolment**
- **Were born on or before 12 October 2001**
- **Are a PNG citizen**
- **Are entitled to vote in PNG National Elections For non-resident Bougainvilleans, the eligibility criteria are:**
- **Must have links to**

Bougainville by birth, adoption, marriage or clan

- **Were born on or before 12 October 2001**
- **Are a PNG citizen**
- **Are entitled to vote in PNG National Elections**

After the enrolment period, the draft roll will be displayed for public inspection and objections. Any voter who believes that an enrolled person is not eligible – due to age, for example, or due to not having resided in Bougainville for the last six months – can lodge an objection that will be considered and determined by the BRC.



Update from the Chief Secretary



Chief Secretary to the Autonomous Bougainville Government, Joseph Nobetau, has outlined the following key areas that remain a priority for the ABG Public Service in the year ahead.

These include building on public sector reform, public service leadership, law and order, economic empowerment and expanding the revenue base and preparing Bougainville for the upcoming referendum.

Over the past two years, the Chief Secretary has embarked on reforming the public service and these efforts will continue this year.

“As Public Service Leaders each of us has an obligation to lead. This means working together, utilising mechanisms such as the Senior Management Committee and the soon to be established Central Agencies Coordination Committee to ensure that that the public services provides the best advice possible to Government,” he said.

Mr. Nobetau also highlighted the importance of

good governance and how it must be at the cornerstone of all public service activities.

He made reference to the recent review of the autonomy arrangements of Bougainville saying that while there are areas that we have excelled in, there also remain a few gaps in the way services are delivered to the people.

“I encourage all Bougainvilleans to recognize that there is a link between their own actions and the destiny of Bougainville.

“Each of us have an obligation to ensure we conduct ourselves to the highest standards, not just because that is the right thing to do, but because that is what our fellow Bougainvilleans expect of us,” he stated.

Another key priority area is to continue addressing law and order issues in the region.

The Chief Secretary called on the public service to support the efforts of the Bougainville Police Service by upholding the law. He also warned that those found to be in breach of any laws will be held to account.

As head of the public service, Mr. Nobetau says he is mindful of the need to provide a foundation that is economically secure for Bougainville.

“This means investing in our people, providing an environment that is conducive to investment and which encourages innovation.

“In 2019 a key priority for the public service is to build on economic reforms to enhance trade and investment. This requires that public sector

agencies continue to develop policies and legislation that support our primary producers, and the many Bougainvilleans that continue to work in the informal economy,” he explained.

There is also further work that needs to be done in terms of achieving the government’s goal of fiscal self-reliance.

“While we have challenges in administering our tax laws, it is expected that greater engagement between the Department of Treasury and Finance, the Bougainville Tax office and key economic agencies will advance our efforts to reform our tax base.”

He further said that a key focus should also be on drawing down powers that deliver the maximum economic return to the region.

“We should be strategic in harnessing those [powers] that benefit us the most.

“The journey to peace and self-determination is a long one, and as a public service we are better placed focusing on what we can realistically achieve, rather than trying to achieve too much too soon.

He also welcomed the audit work that will be done this year to look at the existing draw down process, with the aim of developing an effective strategic work plan for the years ahead.

Speaking on the upcoming referendum, the Chief Secretary acknowledged that the preparatory work to be done will consume public services resources, however remains adamant that all public servants have a role to play in ensuring that

Bougainvilleans understand the referendum process.

He further urged all public servants to assist the public in their understanding in an impartial manner.

“It is not our role to play politics, and I encourage all public servants to practically assist the referendum process in an impartial way,” he said.

In terms of service delivery at the district level, there will be greater support for a more practical manner of service delivery that will enable meaningful participation at district levels.

The Chief Secretary while acknowledging the continued support given to the ABG public service from development partners, he also stressed the importance of aligning this support with ABG’s strategic priorities and development aspirations.

“This will include bringing together our development partners, in consultation with the Department of National Planning, to ensure that we eliminate duplication, enhance accountability and transparency and ensure that priorities are being met.”

Nobetau concluded in saying that though there are many challenges that continue to face the ABG public service, he believes that through hard work, continued faith and being strategic, the public service can achieve more.

“Let 2019 be a year of implementation and growth, so that we may maintain our path to peace and ensure that the foundations are in place to support our long-term future,” he said.

Toktok ikam long Bogenvil Referendum Komisen

Bogenvil Referendum Komis (BRC) i tok welkam long agrimen bilong atonomes Bogenvil Gavman and Nesanel Gavman long makim dei namba 12 bilong mun Oktoba, 2019, olsem dei bilong polling bai stat.



Bougainville Referendum Commission Chairman Bertie Ahern.

BRC Siaman Bertie Ahern i givim luksave long wanbel tingting bilong tupela gavman na tok strong long ol i mas givim olgeta sapot long BRC.

“I mas i gat gutpela sapot na kliapela tingting i givim stia na bihainim tingting bilong ol pipel aninit long lo bihainim BPA na JSB Resolusen”, Ahern i tok.

“Tupela gavman i mas wok wantaim long gutpela (future) bilong Bogenvil na skelim gut ol toktok i karampim

gavamn long Port Mosbi Long Buka, Mr. Ahern i bin tokaut long apoinmen bilong Mauricio Claudio olsem Sief Referendum Opisa bilong Bogenvil Referendum Komisen (BRC).

“Yumi amamas tru long yumi painim wanpela experiens man olsem Mauricio husait inap tru na i gat save bilong lidim tim bilong yumi long referendum proses”, Ahern i tok.

Bihainim dispela apoinmen bilong Seif Referendum Opisa, BRC bai statim ful wok bilong rekodim olgeta nem bilong ol pipel. Bai ol i go long wan wan haus yusim rekot bilong ol wod rekoda long sekim na stretim gut ol rol bilong ol vota bai rol i ken kamap stret.

Ol dispela rol nau bai ol i putim long pablik ples long wan wan wod bai ol pipel i ken lukim na sekim husait inap long vot. Na tu ol i ken tokaut sapos i gat sampela asua i stap, em ol i mas stretim bipo long referendum.

Referendum Rol em nupela samting, i narakain long ol vota rol em ol i save yusim long ol arapela ileksen long Bogenvil na long ol nesanel ileksen. Enrolmen long ol arapela ilekrol rol i no min olsem nem bilong yu bai i stap pinis long Referendum Rol. Long dispela risen, olgeta husait inap vot long referendum i mas traim enrol long Referendum Rol.

“Mipela i gat strongpela laik bai ol lain husait inap vot long

referendum, i givim nem taim,” Claudio i tok.

“Namba samting tru, kwaliti bilong Referndum Rol i stap long hand bilong ol pipel sapos ol i enrol o putim nem”.

BRC em indipenden bodi na i gat 7-pela memba. Siaman husait i go pas em intenesenel opisa. BRC i mekim wok bihainim pasin i stret na i stap indipenden na i no save kisim o bihainim toktok na dairekesen bilong ol ausait lain.

BRC i work strong tu olsem bai referendum i kamap fri bihainim intenesenel stended (standards). Na ol pipel i ken wanbel long wanem disisen i kamap long vot ol i givim. Olsem bai wanbel na pis (peace) i ken stap long Bogenvil.

Join Sekreteriel miting bilong ol wepon disposal

Join Wepon disposal sekreteriel miting i bin kamap long Arawa long mun Februari bilong dispela yia 2019. Dispela miting i bilong kamapim rot o proses bilong bihainim na bungim ol wepon na rausim na redi long referendum.

Astingting bilong dispela miting i bilong toksave long Sekretariat we ol i stap nau long wok bilong disposal bilong ol wepon na wanem moa samting ol i mas mekim. Na hau Sekretariat i ken sapotim ol yet long dispela proses.

Join Supavaisori Bodi bilong wepon disposal i bin kamap wantaim 4-pela step

bilong bihainim long wok bilong wepon disposal, em ol Konstituensi i mas bihainim aninit long ABG Depatmen bilong Komyuniti Gavman. Dispela wok bai kamap bihainim netwok bilong ol wod rekoda na ol komyuniti gavman memba. Ol i trenim pinis 1000 manmeri long hau bilong sekim rekot bilong amamas wepon wan wan wod i rausim pinis.

Sekreteriet i luksave olsem klostu 25 Konstituensi i tok aut ol i redi long referendum. Tasol sekreteriet i laikim moa infomesen long ol i ken sekim gut namba bilong ol wepon ol i bungim na rausim pinis.

Olsem bai ol i ken tok, dispela Konstituensi i referendum redi.

Ko-sea na Dairekta bilong Sosel Polisi na gavanens bilong Dipatmen bilong Praim Minista na Nesanel Eksekutiv Kaunsel Mr. Christopher

Asa i tok, “Wepon disposal i stap ki bilong Referendum proses na stap sentrel long ol Konstituensi i tok aut olsem ol i referendum redi. I gat list i redi na stap pinis bilong sekim na sapotim dispela proses bihainim komyunit gavman system. Sekreteriet i agri long dispela plen na sapotim dispela tingting bilong kisim moa infomesen o data long wok bilong wepon disposal”.

Long dispela miting long namba wan taim, Me’ekamui Denfens Fos i stap insait. Longpela taim ol i stap ausait long toktok bilong Bogenvil Pis (Peace) proses inap nau.

ABG Ekting Sekreteri bilong Dipatmen bilong Pis (Peace) Agrimen Implementesen na Ko-sea Mr. Dennis Kuiai i tok, “Kam insait bilong Mr Moses Pipiro, mausman bilong Me’ekamui, i soim progress i kamap. Yumi mas gohet long strongim dispela wok long mekim Bogenvil i kamap fri long ol wepon long skeiuriti bilong Bogenvil na tu long bihainim toktok bilong Bogeville Pis Agrimen”.

Maternal and Child Health Strategy launched

The ABG Department of Health now has a Maternal Child Health Strategy that will guide the department to improve maternal child health in Bougainville.

Health Secretary, Clement Totavun, said concerns such as high maternal mortality, high infant mortality, low immunization coverage are areas that the strategy aims to address.

“We now have a tool and we will be talking to our partners and government to support us deliver the strategy and achieve the desired results and targets,” he said.

Though funding has been a major issue affecting the department, Secretary Totavun said they were able to complete a number of health

projects throughout the region. These include the rebuilding of the Arawa Hospital and two new community health posts in South and Central Bougainville in 2018.

“Apart from the new facilities, we have also secured funding for rebuilding the Kunua Health Centre to be raised to a Level 3 District Health Centre this year.

“So much needs to be done in our department and funding is a major setback, however, we have managed to deliver with support from the government, NGOs and other stakeholders and we will continue to deliver and reach out to the people of Bougainville,” he said.

He added that in preparation for the referendum, the Health

Department has begun working on improving and strengthening the health systems within the hospitals, especially rural health centres.

He called on all health workers to be focused on performing their primary role to deliver health services and improve quality of care for the people.

Mr Totavun also called on Bougainvilleans to be conscious of their health and live healthy lifestyles in preparation for the referendum this year.

“Look after ourselves, change our lifestyles, avoid alcohol and illicit drugs and work with our community leaders to create a new environment for our children after the referendum and beyond,” he said.

Polio campaign successful in AROB

The ABG Department of Health announced a successful roll out of the polio vaccinations throughout Bougainville since the first launching in 2018.

ABG Minister for Health Hon. Dennis Lokonai, confirmed this in his statements during the second launching at the Bel Isi Park in February this year, commending the health workers throughout the region for carrying out the vaccinations diligently.

“Today the launching is a very crucial occasion as we are here to ensure that we protect our young population from the disease polio,” he said.

Mr Lokonai further thanked the hard working Department of Health and

all the health workers in Bougainville for setting the record for Bougainville as being the first province in PNG to vaccinate 100% of children less than 15 yr of age.

“This is a record that we must be proud of as Bougainvilleans, despite all the negative challenges at this point in time, there are good things happening,” he stressed.

“The Department of Health is working very hard to provide service to prepare Bougainville for the referendum and in order for Bougainville to prepare for the outcome of the referendum, we must have a healthy population to make a new nation so as the responsible department,

the department is working very to ensure it provides the necessary services to its population,” he said.

Director for Bougainville Healthy Community and Commissioner of the Bougainville Referendum Commission (BRC) Ms Ruby Miringka also shared similar sentiments urging all stakeholders, including communities and the people of Bougainville to work together with the health workers and NGOs to combat the disease.

“We believe together with the other stakeholders, we are going to achieve 100% coverage of immunising our children against polio. We must all work together to ensure that all our

Media as peace-builders



Editors and Senior Reporters in a group photo with the ABG President Hon. Chief John Momis in Buka.

Mainstream media continues to play a critical role in reporting and informing the people of PNG and Bougainville on the progress of implementing the Bougainville Peace Agreement.

Last month, the ABG together with the National Coordination Office of Bougainville Affairs, with support from the United Nations, hosted a Conflict Sensitive Training for editors and senior reporters from various local and national media organizations. Editors and Senior Reporters learnt about the history of the Bougainville Peace Agreement and received an in-depth knowledge of Bougainville issues to help them report in a manner that is well-informed, balanced and sensitive to the Bougainville context.

With less than five months before the referendum vote in October, media reporting that is balanced, accurate and fair, will play a key role in maintaining peace in Bougainville.

children are immunised and be sure that we have a healthy population in Bougainville in 2019.,” Ms Miringka said.

Polio had reemerged and was reported in PNG last year causing the National Government to declare a National Emergency against Polio in June 2018 and a launching was done to carryout vaccinations throughout PNG.

World Health Organisation (WHO) under the United Nations has supported

the vaccination program throughout PNG, including Bougainville

According to WHO polio continues to paralyse children and the disease is still found in some of parts of the world and mainly affects children under five years, however, it has also revealed that the number of cases in the world has decreased by 99% and more people will be saved because of effective vaccination efforts against polio thus it can be eradicated.

Yuniti Laibreri mekim Bogenvil displei koleksen

Planti ol gutpela buk na art (o piksa) i soim stori bilong Bogenvil, long sait bilong demokrasi na Bogenvil Referendum i stap nau long Buka Yuniti Laibreri. Ol i putim long displei (display) bai ol pablik i ken kam lukim.

Dispela spesel displei em Deputi Spika bilong Palemen, Francesca Semoso na Oliver Green bilong Intenesenel Faundesen bilong Eletorel Sistems (IFES) i bin lonsim (launch) long mun Mas.

Miss Semoso i tok tenkyu long Yuniti Laibreri na IFES long kamap wantaim dispela tingting.

“Wantaim komitmen, visen, na pesen (passion) yupela helpim ol pipel bilong Bogenvil. Em i impoten long yumi olgeta long rit, kisim infomesen, na kamap gutpela wasman/meri bilong kalsa na histori bilong yumi”, Miss Semoso i tok.

Oliver Green husait i Progem Menesa long IFES, i strongim tok

long impoten wok (roll) ol laibre i save mekim bilong givim infomesen long ol pipel.

“Long wankain taim yumi rit long amamas long ol stori, dispela i helpim yumi wan wan tu long kamap gutpela manmeri. Ol laibreri i gutpela wei bilong kisim save o edukesen, na infomesen bilong mekim ol impoten disisen. Mipela i amamas long mekim dispela long pipel bilong Bogenvil, na moa yet bilong redi long referendum bai kamap”, em i tok.

Yuniti Laibreri em i wanpela bilong ol tupela laibreri long Bogenvil. Ol i givim gutpela sevis long ol skul na ol komyuniti long Bogenvil. Long ol husait i laik kirapim laibreri bilong ol yet, dispela tupela laibreri i save donetim o givim ol buk na givim trening tu long sait bilong riding na laibreri menesmen.

Moa yet, Yuniti Laibreri ron gut, maski no gat helpim moni i kam long gavman.

Tasol Laibreri i kisim gutpela helpim long ol lain i komitim ol yet na wok wantaim bilong ol Bogenvil pipel. Dispela ol i mekim olsem ol volentia, donesens (donations) na tu wok bungwantaim ol arapela orgenaisesen.

Deborah Mumia i bin wok Volentia olsem Laibreri Menesa long tripela yia pinis. Em i tok long Bogenvil Displei olsem, dispela Displei em i impoten na gutpela we bilong stat isi.

“Mipela i kamapim ol impoten buk bilong Bogenvil, ol Bogenvilian yet i raitim, na i bilong ol pipel bilong Bogenvil. Mipela i tok tenkyu long IFES long kamap patna wantaim mipela long dispela impoten projek. Mipela givim tenkyu tu long Yunitid Kingdom Wantok Sosaiti long gutpela helpim wantaim K5,000 kes (cash) donesen. Wantaim dispela moni mipela inap baim ol buk long Buka Bogenvil Bukshop, “em i tok.



Deborah Mumia who volunteers at the Unity Library, speaking at the launch of the Bougainville Display

Central youths attend Bougainville Peace Agreement workshop



Youth participants pose in solidarity to work towards a free, fair and transparent referendum

Youths in Central Bougainville have been urged to speak freely, fairly, transparently and without violence on the Bougainville Referendum.

Over 30 youths attended a workshop organized by the Department of Community Development, with support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), to reach out to youths using their networks to disseminate information about the Bougainville referendum.

Youth Coordinator with the Department of Community Development, Stacey Tarura, explained that this workshop was a follow up from one that was conducted last year and aimed to reach out to empower youths.

“The workshop is about creating safe spaces for opportunities for participation in decision-making within peace building and the Referendum process,” she said.

The youths received updates from various government agencies including the Department of Peace Agreement Implementation, the Directorate of Media and Communications and also from the Bougainville Referendum Commission.

They were also involved in practical sessions on conducting awareness activities on the Bougainville Peace Agreement and referendum.

Many spoke on the referendum and how it is an election that will be conducted on October 12 and that it is a vote the people of Bougainville will take on the two agreed options of Greater Autonomy and Independence.

Janice Wade is a youth representative from the Wakunai District, said she learnt how to gain confidence and encouraged other youths to take the stand.

“There are many youths out there who have the potential to do greater things but are afraid to take the risk. I especially encourage the girls to be brave,” she said.

“Come out. Use your talent. Use the challenges you face in life as a stepping stone and keeping moving on,” she said.

Following this training, the youths of Central Bougainville are now equipped with the accurate and current information and tools about the Bougainville Peace Agreement and the referendum, and can now conduct awareness activities in their communities.

He said that the youths at his district made up most of the population

Pewana Community powered by transparency



Pewana WASH noticeboard



Pewana WASH cashbook on noticeboard

A community water supply and sanitation project in Bougainville is achieving new levels of transparency by putting all of its budget information on a public noticeboard for all to see.

Pewana village in South Nasioi, is posting

its water supply project budget and expenditure on its new community notice board so everyone can see for themselves where the money is going.

The project management committee says it makes their life easier by stopping rumours and conspiracies

about people stealing money. All Bougainville Community Grants have started erecting notice boards for key project information – especially the finances. The notice boards will also be used for other information such as government notices. This grassroots

initiative may look simple, but it’s actually a powerful tool of local transparency and social accountability within the village – meaning all grant money is spent for the community.

Transparency, accountability, and good governance – they’re words that are used

often, but are stubbornly difficult to practice all over the world. But hopefully what Pewana is doing in rural Bougainville will spread, and in the future people all over Bougainville will demand the same transparency that the project committee in Pewana are practising.

People with disability must enroll

People living with a disability who are eligible to vote must be considered for enrollment on the referendum roll and exercise their right to vote in the Bougainville referendum.

This was according to Mr Steven Kiwi, who was very vocal about the youths at his District at Kieta, to enroll their names.

Mr Kiwi was speaking at a workshop for youths to learn about the Bougainville Peace Agreement and referendum.

He said that the youths at his district made up most of the population

and although some have a disability, it wasn’t a barrier to their normal activities.

“I have a big concern for the youths at my district. A good number of youths have a disability here at my district. And youth, they make up the majority of the population to vote and I would like to see many of them register their name on the referendum roll to vote.

“If they cannot walk to the nearest locations to enroll then let’s carry them. Let’s make sure that they also enroll. It is their right and they are also human beings,” he

said.

A polling place should also be located near the schools and hospitals so that no one is excluded from voting, he added.

Meanwhile, the Bougainville Referendum Commission is currently creating a new referendum roll. All eligible voters, including those with a disability, as long as they be of full capacity, must register their names to be on the referendum roll.

People are advised to see their Ward Recorder for more information and ensure that all eligible voters are registered.

Selau Suir youths learn brickmaking



Selau Suir District Youth Association has been busy at work learning brickmaking. A total of 60 youths from the affiliated groups attended the training and enjoyed first hand practicals.



BOUGAINVILLE REFERENDUM 2019

Referendum Roll Update

To vote in the Referendum, your name must be on the Referendum Roll. Only people whose name is on the Referendum Roll will be able to vote. It is very important that the roll is accurate.

Work on updating the Referendum Roll has begun. You can help by talking to your ward recorder and checking your name when the list is displayed. The roll will be updated in 3 phases.

Phase 1 - Roll Verification

Comparing the 2015 ABG voter roll with ward records and 'cleaning' the voter roll by removing anybody who should not be on the roll, for example they are deceased or have moved overseas. This is done by your ward recorder. This phase should finish in April.

Phase 2 - House-to-House Enrolment

Your ward recorder will visit each household in the ward to add the names of eligible people who were not on the 2015 ABG voter roll. Your ward recorder will bring the necessary form and help you to fill it in. All eligible voters have the responsibility to meet the ward recorders when they visit their areas. This phase will start in June.

Phase 3 - Public Display

The Referendum Roll will be displayed publicly in each ward. You should look up your name on the roll to check that your details are correct. If your name is not on the roll, or your details are not correct, tell your ward recorder immediately. This phase should start in July.

Enrol now to vote in the Referendum!

THIS FACTSHEET IS AUTHORISED BY THE CHIEF REFERENDUM OFFICER

PO BOX 350, TELEPHONE: 7283 5159

For more information click on bougainville-referendum.org or write to info@bougainville-referendum.org



Referendum TOKSAVE

Fact Sheet No.3
April 2019 - Tok Pisin



Lo bilong referendum Itok aut olsem nesenol gavman na otonomos Bogenvil gavman imas wanbel long husait bai go pas long karim aut referendum. wanem taim bai referendum ikamap, ol askim bilong referendum na usait inap long vote long taim bilong referendum.

1) Husait bai karim aut wok Referendum?

Bogenvil Referendum Komisn bai go pas long karim aut wok bilong referendum. Chairman bilong dispela komisn em wanpela man bilong narapela kantri, nem bilong em Bertie Ahern. Igat sixpela komisina tu husait bai wok aninit long Chairman, nem bilong ol em: Patrick Nisira, Thomas Webster, Ruby Mirinka, Robert Igara, George Manu na Patilias Gamato. Wok bilong Enrolment na kamapim niupla referendum roll em displa komisn bai go pas long wokim.

2) Wanem kain ol askim bai stap long taim bilong vote?

ABG na Nesenol Gavman oli wanbel pinis long dispela askim we ol pipol bai vote long em. Askim emi go olsem:

YU WANBEL LONG BOUGAINVILLE KISIM:
(Putim X insait long box)

- BIKPELA PAWA LONG ATONOMI
 INDIPENDENS

3) Wanem taim bai Referendum i kamap?

ABG na Nesenol Gavman i makim 12 Oktoba 2019 olsem final deit we ol pipol bai vote long displa referendum bilong makim politikol sindaun bihain taim bilong Bogenvil. Dispela em deit we polling bai stat.

4) Husait i ken vote?

Ol man na meri husait iken registerim nem bilong ol long Referendum Roll imas:

- 18 pela krisimas na ligo antap
- Stap insait long peles o ward bilong yu moa long sixpela mun
- Citizen bilong PNG
- Gat gutpela tingting
- Noken stap long laip yia or moa long nauwpela mun long kalabus
- Noken gat nem nogut long burukim elektrol lo insait long laspla tripela yia.

Sapos yu stap long narapla provins long PNG, yu ken enrolim nem bilong yu sapos yu wanpla Bogenvillean, bihainim hau Mama Lo bilong Bogenvil emi tok aut.

Bihainim seksen 7 (I) bilong Mama Lo bilong Bogenvil, yu wanpla Bogenvillean sapos yu:

- Autsait man o meri wanpla Bogenvil klen adoptim bihainim kastom o lo
- Autsait man o meri maritim Bogenvil man o meri na
- Displa man o meri husait papa o mama blong em i bilong Bogenvil.

Website: www.abg.gov.pg

Facebook: Autonomous Bougainville Government

5) Wanem samting em Referendum?

Referendum emi wanpela elektoral proses. Emi wankain olsem eleksen, tasol long eleksen ol pipol i vote long wanpela candidate – long referendum ol pipol bai vote long wanpela o moa askim. Long yumi hia long Bogenvil, dispela referendum emi bai kamap long ol pipol long makim wanem kain sindaun o politikol gavman yumi laikim long behain taim.

6) Wanem ol rule or tok orait bilong Referendum?

Ol rule (lo) or tok orait bilong referendum emi stap insait long fopela mama lo:

- 1. *Bogenvil Pis Agrimen*
- 2. *Mama lo bilong Papua Niugini*
- 3. *Mama lo bilong Bogenvil*
- 4. *Organic Law on Peace-building in Bougainville*

Ol bikpela het tok long referendum emi stap insait long mama lo bilong Papua Niugini (Section 338-343). Tasol dispela ol fopela mama lo hia emi soim wei bilong tupela gavman long behainim bipo long taim bilong holim referendum, long taim stret bilong referendum na behain long referendum ikamap. Wankain olsem Bogenvil Pis Agrimen ibin behainim way bilong



wok bung namel long nesenol gavaman na ABG, referendum tu bai behainim wankain wei bilong wok bung bambai tupela gavaman iken kamap long wanbel tingting long ol wok rere bilong referendum.

7) Wanem samting em Good Governance (gutpela wok gavman)?

Bogenvil Pis Agrimen emi tok aut klia olsem good governance or wok gut bilong gavman em bai halivim long markim date bilong holim referendum.

Bogenvil Pis Agrimen emi no tok aut long meaning turu bilong good governance, tasol mama lo blong Papua Niugini em toktok long good governance olsem:

“.....democracy, the opportunity for participation by bougainvilleans, transparency, accountability and respect for human rights and the rule of law, including this constitution.”

Wok bilong skelim good governance emi stap insait tu long joint referendum wokplan. Ol pipol imas kilia olsem sapos good governance emi no kamap gut, emi bai nonap long stopim yumi long holim referendum, referendum bai mas go het yet.

8. Wanem ol wok i kamap long rausim ol masket bilong pait?

Wok bilong rausim ol masket emi wanpela pos bilong bogenvil pis agrimen. Taim yumi gat yet ol masket bilong pait istap insait long ol komuniti bilong yumi, displa iken

kamapim poret na iken kirapim tingting bilong pait o bagarapim narapla.

ABG na nesenol gavman emi bin tok oraitim wanpla plen bilong rausim ol masket bipo long referendum. Displa emi karamapim tu ol rekonsilisen imas kamap long ol komuniti bilong helpim komuniti long wok bung na rausim ol masket.

ABG emi wok klostu wantaim ol feksen na ex-kombatan long komitim ol yet long rausim ol masket bilong pait. Planti ol rekonsilisen na wok bilong rausim ol masket emi kamap pinis insait long konstituensi long bogenvil na dispela emi gutpla long olgeta pipol long bogenvil we emi halivim ol pipol long redi gut na oli pilim fri long vote long referendum.

9) Wanem samting bai kamap long ol pipol husat ino take part long Referendum?

I nogat lo or mekim save long ol man meri husat ino nap vote. Tasol result bilong referendum bai affectim olgeta pipol.

10) Wanem bai kamap bihain long referendum?

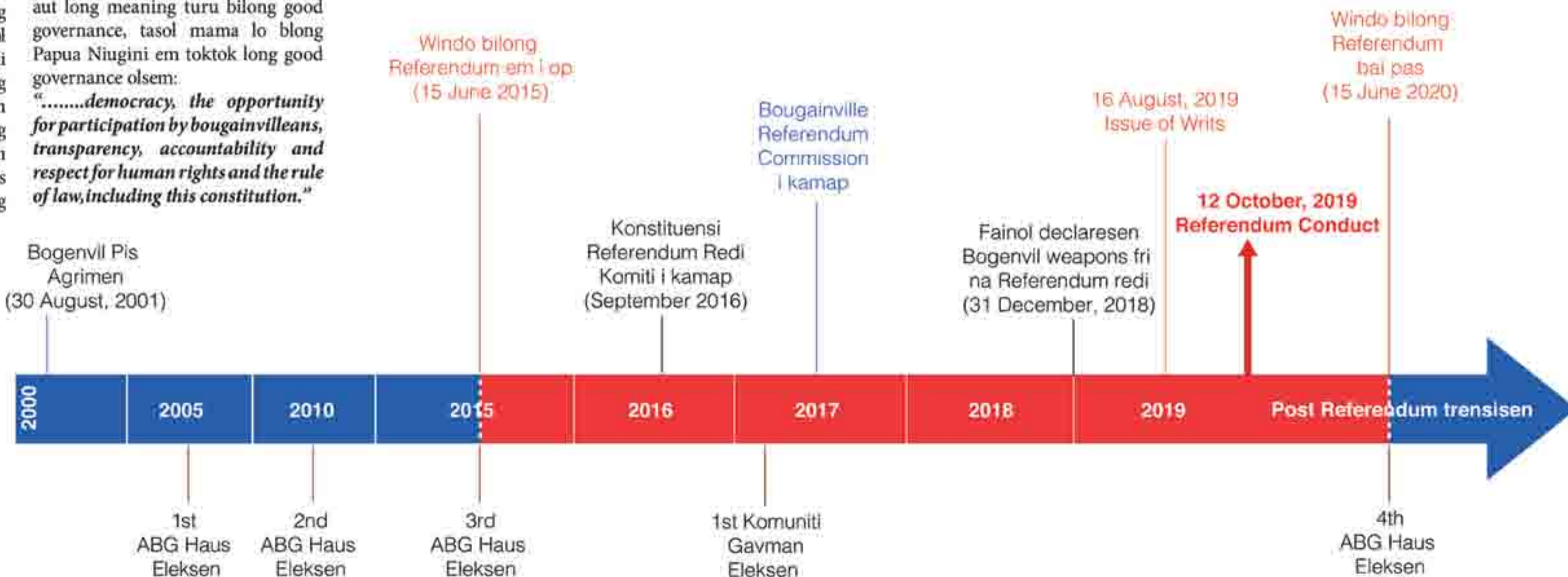
ABG na nesenol gavman oli wanbel long proses bai kamap behain long

referendum. Dispela proses emi bai go olsem:

- 1. *Ol pipol bai vote*
- 2. *Nesenol gavman na ABG bai toktok long nisa!*
- 3. *Nesenol palamen bai wokim fainol disisen*



Referendum Timeline



Wok bilong karim aut fri na fair referendum em ino isi. Referendum inap long kirapim pait namel long ol pipol. Wanpela samting we inap long kamap em dispela grup husait oli pilim olsem oli lus. Long sampela kantri olsem East Timor na South Sudan, pait ibin kirap behain tasol long oli holim referendum bilong buruk lus.

Sapos yumi hia gat ol klia tok orait bilong referendum we ol pipol i andastandim, emi ken halivim long abrusim ol kain hevi olsem.

Insait long wok rere bilong referendum, em impotant tru long toktok long ol gutpela na nogut we iken kamap taim Bogenvil holim referendum. Em impotant long lainim long history na expiriens bilong ol narapela kantri husait oli holim pinis wanpela referendum. Dispela em bai halivim tupela gavman long abrusim ol kain hevi long kamap bipo na behain long referendum.

Ol toktok ino klia

Faol Tingting 1

ASKIM: Sampela man meri ting olsem Bougainville Referendum bai nonap long kamap sapos igat ol masket bilong pait istap yet.

BEKIM: Nogat, referendum bai kamap yet. tasol yumi olgeta mas wok bung wantaim ol lida bilong yumi long rausim olgeta masket bicos ol masket inap long bagarapim sindaun bilong yumi na em ken afektim autkam bilong referendum.



Faol Tingting 4

ASKIM: Sampela man meri ting olsem Bougainville Referendum bai nonap long kamap sapos Bougainville i nogat gutpela wok gavman.

BEKIM: Nogat. Referendum bai kamap yet. Tasol ABC na ol pipol imas strongim gutpela wok gavman long olgeta level insait long Bougainville.

Faol Tingting 2

ASKIM: Sampela man meri ting olsem Bougainville bai kisin Independence kwik taim bilhain tasol long Referendum.

BEKIM: Nogat. ABC na Nesenol Gavman i wanbel pinis long proses bai kamap behain long referendum:
1. Ol pipol bai vote
2. Nesenol Gavman na ABC bai toktok long risal
3. Nesenol Palamen bai wokim faimol disisen

Faol Tingting 3

ASKIM: Sampela man meri ting olsem Bougainville emi mas igat inap moul bilong em yet bipo long yumi holim Referendum.

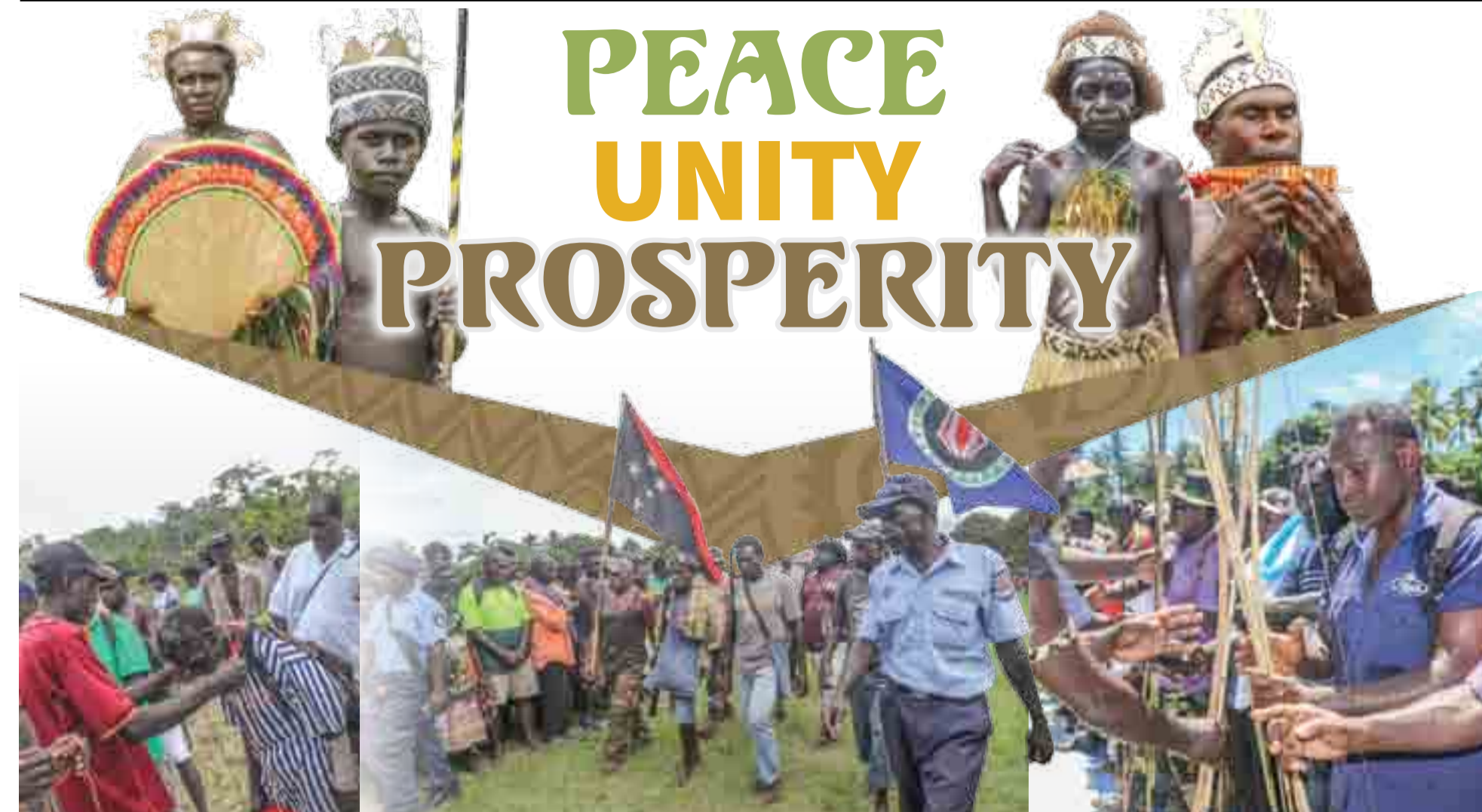
BEKIM: ABC emi wok strong long growim economy bilong yumi, behain long referendum, sapos ol pipol i vote long bikpla atonomi o independens, dispela ol wok kamap bilong growim economy bai continue yet.

Faol Tingting 5

ASKIM: Sampela man meri ting olsem Bogenvil Pis Agrimen bai pinis long yu 2020.

BEKIM: Nogat. Bogenvil Pis Agrimen emi nogat pinis bilong em. Ol tripela pos bilong pis agrimen (atonomi, rasrim masket na referendum) bai kam long arere bilong em taim yumi holim pinis referendum, tasol pis agrimen bai nonap pinis – eto bai stap yet.

Dispela fact sheet emi tok klia bilong ol tok orait na lo bilong referendum. Long kisin moa save, yu ken go long ABC website: www.abg.gov.pg or Autonomous Bougainville Government Facebook page.



**WORKING TOGETHER,
BUILD PEACE, UNITE BOUGAINVILLE**



Bougainville Churches reconcile

Churches in Bougainville held a reconciliation ceremony in Arawa over the Easter period, in an effort to unite all its people as one body of Christ, before the referendum.

The ceremony brought together representatives from the Roman Catholic Church, the United Church of Papua New Guinea, the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the Christian Life Church, the Assembly of God, the God's Kingdom Network, the Christian Revival Centre, the Christian Mission Fellowship, the Four Square, the Ambassadors of Christ, the Bread of Life International, the Amalgamated Local Churches, the Nazarene Church.

The mainline churches were represented by Bishop Bernard Unabali (Catholic), Bishop Abraham Toroi (United), Pastor Andrew Miriki (SDA) and Pastor Albert Magoi (Pentecostal). The theme of the ceremony was, 'Rebuilding God's kingdom through the power of the Gospel', and was led by the Bougainville Christian Churches Association. The ceremony also saw participation from the Bougainvillian ex-combatants. The churches acknowledged that the coming of different denominations to Bougainville since the early 1900s had created a division among the people and this disunity continued on through

the Bougainville crisis years involving the Bougainville Revolutionary Army and Resistance Forces members.

ABG President, Hon. Chief John Momis, was also present at the ceremony. He commended the churches for committing themselves to reconciling and uniting all the Christians in Bougainville.

"It is good that all churches have now come together as one.

"It is important to recognise that although we have differences, we must not allow these differences to separate us," he said.

President Momis committed K50,000 from the ABG to the churches,



BRA veteran receiving teaching book from Bishop Abraham Toroi. (Photo credit: Aloysius Laukai)

saying although the ABG was facing financial difficulties, it recognised the contributions of the churches to the development of Bougainville.

Former BRA commander, Ishmael Toroama, representing the ex-combatants, acknowledged that the churches created divisions among the ex-combatants during the crisis and there were instances where

some churches took sides. He apologised on behalf of all former combatants for all crisis-related issues that affected the churches and also forgave the churches over issues that arose during the conflict.

Mr Toroama said it was important that the churches were now united and standing together with the rest of Bougainville in preparation for the referendum.

Community voice on referendum-ready

The Bougainville Bulletin talked to some women on what being 'referendum-ready' means to them. Here's what they had to say:

Martha Tavilu from Buin

"Tingting blo mipla lo referendum em olsem mipla mas putim ol guns away. Mekim peace insait long community blong yumi long Bougainville. Bai yumi gat gutpla sidaun bai nogat fait I kamap. Na wok bung wantem."

Josephine Soli from Haku

"Tingting blo mi long displa referendum ready em olsem mi mas readim mi yet long wokabaut I go long kisim independens blo Bogenvil."

Agatha sells at the market. Her view is:

"Why don't these people who are

the back bone come out to the street and come to informal mothers like us and tell us. You come to us and talk to us. We don't know anything."

Joyce Mastuha, a mother from Gogohe

"Mi wok long harim referendum na mi wok long tingting planti na tok bai yumi nonap pait oh? Bikos yumi lukim yet lo man I wok lo holim yet gun na pait kilim narapla, laitim ol haus. Na sapos yumi yet bai sanap mi nonap wokim kain pasin ya yu lukim nau lo eye blo yumi?" Yumi imas reconcile wantem narapla na redi long displa referendum. Sapos yumi kisim displa referendum yumi imas free long life blong yumi. Yumi imas reconcile long displa taim nau."

Here's what the ABG has to say about being 'referendum-ready':

'Referendum-ready' is a way Bougainville is preparing itself for the referendum. It is not a requirement under the BPA. The Bougainville House of Representatives referendum-ready initiative aims to get people referendum-ready from the bottom-up - at the community and individual level. This means people are reconciled, get rid of weapons and have awareness. It means people feel ready to vote freely and fairly and are ready to accept the result whatever the outcome.

To be referendum ready communities must do three things:

1. Be weapons-free: Weapons, even the presence of weapons, creates fear. Bougainville must be weapons-free for the referendum result to be respected by the national government and international community.
2. Be reconciled: All outstanding reconciliations from the conflict must be completed. Bougainville must be free of the past and unified to accept the future.
3. Communities must have awareness - to know what the referendum means and what the questions will mean for Bougainville's future.

Terra and Eivo Torau declared referendum-ready

As Bougainville approaches the targeted year to conduct its Referendum, constituencies in Bougainville were delayed against time to fulfil resolution number 5 of 2016 that was passed in the Bougainville House of Representative for all constituencies to be declared "Referendum-Ready" by 31st of December 2018.

Terra was one of the two Constituencies in Wakunai District of Central Bougainville that witnessed the official declaration on the 26th of December 2018.

Speaking to the people of Terra at the Wakunai Sports Oval, the Minister for Finance and Treasury and ABG Member for Terra Constituency Hon. Robin Wilson publicly declared his Constituency "Weapons-Free and Referendum-Ready".

"If we look at our journey here in Terra Constituency, I think we can reflect that the new journey that we take into referendum will be without issues, without fear or favour, without being intimidated, our focus is already set on what we want, and that is to decide our political

future through the referendum," he stated.

The one-day event saw different factions within Terra Constituency joined hands together and handed over weapons that were used during the crisis, and other weapons that were withheld. These weapons make up the 13% of weapons that were held amongst the factions in Terra Constituency.

Mr Nason Naisori, Veterans' Representative in delivering his speech declared that he was present to say sorry and clean up the mess that they created before Bougainville went into the referendum.

"I also stand here to appeal to you not to look at me as a member of a faction, I stand here to tell you that we all stand together united as one people," Mr Naisori said.

All commanders and leaders within the factions, marched with police personnel and handed over the weapons to the Community Government chairperson and vice, who both handed them to Hon. Robin Wilson and ABG Women's Rep for Central Region Hon. Marcelline Kokiai for containment.

The event was



witnessed by a crowd of over 2000 people of Terra Constituency including Community Government Chairman and members from the neighbouring Constituency of Rau, chiefs, and other dignitaries from around Central Region.

Reconciliations had been conducted at the ward levels which eventually led up to the constituency declaration on boxing day at Wakunai Station.

The Community Government chairman and the deputy then publicly approved and signed the verification on referendum readiness verifying that Terra Constituency had complied with the ABG Parliamentary motion on referendum readiness and is referendum-ready with a commitment to uphold and advocate for peace building, good governance and a peaceful referendum outcome and beyond.

As also required by the referendum ready checklist and declaration Hon. Robin Wilson also publicly declared and announced that people of Terra Constituency have a commitment to continue with:

1. Civic Education and Awareness
2. Good Governance
3. Electoral Activities at all levels
4. Consultation
5. Peace Building and Political Settlement during the Post Referendum Transition.

Meanwhile, Terra Constituency's neighbour Eivo Torau Constituency was also declared referendum-ready on the last Sunday of 2018.

ABG Member for Eivo Torau Constituency Hon. Clarence Dency stressed during his speech that it was not an easy journey to get the people to be ready, however thousands

of lives were lost in the crisis and it was time for the people to put away the past and prepare to make that final decision.

"Today is our time to stand together and declare that we are ready to vote in the referendum that will decide our political future," he said.

The Community Government chairman, Veterans Representative and the Constituency Member also declared that Eivo Torau was referendum-ready as they had given up the weapons for containment in 2001 during the United Nations Observer Mission to Bougainville.

Constituency referendum-ready declarations have almost been completed throughout the region and this has been possible through the Peace Building Funds from the UN and support from other partners and stakeholders.

Suir Constituency referendum-ready declaration

Suir Constituency celebrated their declaration of being 'referendum-ready' in February this year. The people signified their commitment to participate in the process leading to a secure, peaceful, free and fair referendum. They also reaffirmed their respect

to the rule of law and the outcome of the referendum. The declaration follows the successful declaration of 7 ward assemblies out of a total of 9 wards. The remaining two wards are working closely with their community government and people to complete their declarations.



Photo left: Suir Member and Minister for Technical Services, Luke Karaston signing the referendum ready declaration affirmation forms, witnessed by people of Suir and invited guests. Photo right: Veterans reconcile with traditional chiefs of Suir and restoring their chieftaincy authority.

Bougainville

CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL

WORLD CLASS BEANS TO WORLD CLASS CHOCOLATE

2019 Sub-theme: *Creating opportunities for our farmers for our future*

What it is:

The Bougainville Chocolate Festival is an annual event and is part of the ABG's commitment to sustainable growth in the agriculture industry. It also connects Bougainville cocoa farmers and their world class cocoa beans to international markets and buyers.

Thursday, 7th & 8th August 2019.

farmers to participate in. Competitions include:

Where will it happen:

The festival will be held at the Independence Oval in Arawa Town, Central Bougainville

Who can attend:

The festival is open to everyone to attend

What kind of activities:

There will be lots of fun games and competitions for families, kids and

When will it happen:

This year's festival will happen over two days, Wednesday and

There will also be information display stalls from organizations and local businesses and entertainment from live bands and cultural groups.

For more information you can contact:

- **Festival Secretariat:** csf.bougainvillepartnership.org or call 79197436
- **ABG's Tourism Directorate:** tourisminfo.bougainville@gmail.com
- **ABG's Media Directorate:** abgwebsite19@gmail.com



Cocoa farming tips By James Butubu



The Bougainville Bulletin is happy to introduce this column on Cocoa Farming Tips brought to you by James Butubu from the Department of Primary Industries. Each edition we will provide these very practical tips to help our cocoa farmers across the region increase cocoa yields per tree.

Cocoa (Theobroma cacao L) is an important cash crop and commodity throughout producing nations in the world and similarly in PNG and Bougainville. Cultivation and production of cocoa in Bougainville dates back almost 100 years initially in plantations and later in smallholder farms.

However, increasing or improving cocoa yields by small holder farmers is becoming big challenge in Bougainville.

In this article i want to highlight few tips that a farmer can do in order to improve his or her cocoa yields or the productivity of their cocoa trees. These are as outlined below;

1. Plant improved high yielding cocoa planting materials with better pest and disease resistance.

2. Timely pruning and maintaining cocoa trees to a manageable height limit (3.-4 meters)

3. Making sure to carry out a cocoa rehabilitation and replanting program (10% of your block each year)

4. Improve soil fertility and soil conditions for optimal tree growth and production through use of manure (compost) or fertilizer

5. Better pest and disease control and management through sanitation pruning, complete harvesting that interferes with pest and disease development cycles

6. Good weed control through manual or chemical means

7. Use of soil enriching shade trees and maintaining them to provide adequate light for good cocoa growth and production of pods

It is important to note that there are other external factors beyond the farmers' control such as natural disasters (storms, rainy seasons, droughts), political/civil unrest and cocoa marketing (low prices) that may also affect productivity directly or indirectly.

In the next edition, we will have a closer look at each of the farming tips listed above.

Feature: Bougainville Cocoa – a farmer's perspective



Mr and Mrs Saveke (far left) with staff from the ABG Primary Industries and Department and the Australian Aid Program

From the cocoa plantations in Siwai, South Bougainville, to the home ground of the famous rugby league club, Melbourne Storm in Australia, the journey of Steven Saveke unfolds.

Steven is from Kairapa Ward in the Ramu Constituency of South Bougainville. Chocolate made from his cocoa beans took out the overall Grand Winner gold award at last year's Bougainville Chocolate Festival - as judged by international chocolate standards.

The annual festival has become a key event in Bougainville's calendar since it was first held in 2016. It brings together cocoa farmers and buyers from across Bougainville, including international chocolate makers, with the aim of boosting the production of high quality cocoa in Bougainville.

As part of the prize for the Grand Winner, the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research purchased 140 kilograms of Steven's cocoa beans and sent

them to seven chocolate makers in Australia.

These companies were free to produce various chocolate products with the beans, with some to be entered in competitions around the world.

Eugene Quah, owner of Oh My Gelato, received 20 kilograms of Steven's cocoa beans and made a series of gelati (a variation of ice cream more popular in Italy), while The Magnificent Seven made Steven's cocoa into twenty different styles of chocolates!

Festival Co-chair and Secretary for Primary Industries, Thomas Betitis, says a key aim of the festival is to connect Bougainville cocoa farmers and their world class cocoa beans to international markets and buyers.

"The annual festival has been successful in both increasing international exposure to Bougainville's fine quality cocoa, and also led to improvements in the quality and yield of beans by local farmers,"



A chocolate maker explaining the different process involved in chocolate making to Steven and the team



A chocolate maker explaining the different process involved in chocolate making to Steven and the team

Mr Betitis said.

"As a result of the interaction between farmers and international chocolate makers, Bougainville beans are once again winning awards in chocolate festivals around the world.

Steven said that the trip to Australia to see the chocolate making process in action was truly an eye opener for him. He said he was impressed at the high level of commitment he saw from the chocolate makers and others in the industry.

While reflecting on this, he encouraged all cocoa farmers, the ABG and other stakeholders to show more commitment to the cocoa industry in Bougainville.

"We have had cocoa

in Bougainville over the last 800 years, yet we have not seen much development. There is a huge potential and I have seen that chocolate makers in Melbourne favour our Bougainville cocoa. But Bougainville must do more with the right level of support from all stakeholders," he said.

Steven urged cocoa farmers to manage their time well and work with each other to share ideas.

"Our farmers must be encouraged to do their very best, spend more time in their cocoa blocks and take good care of their cocoa. Farmers must share ideas, work together and move forward – together we can win as Bougainville cocoa farmers!" he exclaimed

proudly.

When asked if Steven would be competing in this year's Bougainville Chocolate Festival he had this to say:

"I took the opportunity last year and I won, so this year I will be present at the festival, but I'll leave the competition for my fellow farmers to participate in," he humbly explained.

The Bougainville Chocolate Festival returns to Arawa this year on 7 and 8 August under the sub theme of 'Creating opportunities for our farmers, for our future'.

The Bougainville Chocolate Festival is an initiative of the Autonomous Bougainville Government led by the Departments of Primary Industries and Economic Development, in partnership with the governments of Papua New Guinea, Australia and New Zealand.

Festival updates and information will be posted on Facebook/ BougainvilleChocolate-Festival and www.abg.gov.pg



Toktok ikam long nesenol memba blong North Bogenvil, Hon. William Nakin

Niu Gini, na long taim Nesenol Palamen i givim final retifikesen blong em long autkam blong displa consultations.

Ol narpla hanmak Member Nakin i laikim bai pipol blong em long North Bougainville Electorate i mas mekim kamap, pastaim na bihain long referendum em:

1) Unification bilong olgeta man meri bilong Bogenvil

Unity or bungwantaim blong Bogenvil long displa taim emi impotent tru. Referendum vote na autkam blong referendum, bai no nap kamap gut, sapos yumi ol man meri bilong Bogenvil i no bung wantaim long tingting blong yumi long bihain taim blong Bogenvil. Laik blong pipol blong Bogenvil long kamap independent, i depend tumas long unification blong olgeta man na meri long Bogenvil.

2) Peace na gutpla sindaun

Peace na gutpla sindaun long ples i save kamapim stability long wok kamap na developmen long ples, province na kantri. Yumi olgeta mas gohet yet long wokbung long lukautim peace na gutpla sindaun wea yumi yet ol man meri blong Bogenvil i bin kamapim pinis, bihain long yumi bin sainim Pis Agrimen i kam i nap nau. Em i tru tumas, yumi long Bogenvil i bin bihainim Peace Agreement, na

nau, yumi mas gohet moa yet long wok hat long lukautim bel-isi na gutpla sindaun long ples. Yumi mas lukautim ol Declarations blong yumi long Referendum Ready na Weapons Compliance wea ol ABG, Community Government, ol Chiefs na ol Veterans lida blong yumi i bin wok hat long en.

3) Pasin bilong pait na birua em bilong bipo

Pasin blong pait, pasin blong kilim man, pasin blong kukim haus blong narpala man, pasin blong bagarapim or kisim nating samting blong narpla man, pasin blo pulim kar blo narpla man, organization or government, threats, na intimidation, i mas stop nau, i mas kamap story blong bipo, bipo tru, tumbuna taim. Yumi ol man meri na pikinini blo tete i mas kamap olsem ol pipol i no save long violence. Yumi ol Bougainvilleans i mas soim pipol blong PNG long pasin blo pinisim hevi behainim peace, by peaceful means, olsem yumi bin toktok long en long Peace Agreement.

4) Pasin rispekt long lo na oda

Lo na oda em narapla bikpla samting, long wakabaut blong Bogenvil igo long referendum na bihain-taim blong displa Region. Referendum na autkam blong displa referendum bai kamap gut tasol, sapos pipol i luksave long ol mama lo na lukautim lo na

gutpla oda long olgeta constituencies long Bogenvil. Sampla hap long world wea pipol blong ol i bin holim pinis referendum blo independence, wan-bel i no bin stap, trutru peace i no kamap, lo na oda i no kamap, na ol i bin go bek lo pait.

Nau yet, nau yet, ol man bung pait na kilim man, kukim haus, looting, steal na wokbung long kisim samting blong narpala man yet. Ol pairapim gan na threatenim police yet. Police bai lukautim security blong pipol na properties blong ol wea Peace Agreement toktok long en. Sapos i gat threat long laif blong ol, wok blong ol, husat bai karimaut constitutional responsibility blong ol? Pipol i feel safe moa wantaim police. Member blong North Bougainville i askim strong pipol blo em long luksave long wanem samting em i rait na wanem samting i rong. Displa em rule of law. Yumi mas save long ol mama lo na lukautim ol , long kamapim gutpla sindaun long ples, bai ples i gat pis na bel isi.

5) Risponsibiliti go bek long femili

Olgeta members blong Bogenvil House of Representatives, ABG President, ol ministers blong em na 4pla Bougainville members blong Nesenol Palamen, ol Komuniti Gavman Chairmen na ol Ward members blong ol, na ol Chiefs, i tokaut pinis

long laik blong ol long displa tupla choices, long Questions to be put, insait long referendum ballot pepa. Nau yet, nau yet, Referendum Ballot pepa, gat wanpla question tasol, na i laikim wanpla ansa(X) tasol, long soim choice blo yumi wanwan. Displa Question or askim em; Yu wanbel long Bougainville long gat;

(1) Bikpela pawa long atonomi, or (2) Independens

Awareness imas kamappastaim long October 12, 2019, na i mas mekim klia, wanem samting em Greater Autonomy na wanem em Independence. Pipol i gat right long save gut, kisim gutpla na clear infomesen, long choice blong ol pastaim long ol i ken go long referendum polling booth na vote. Long Bougainville side, ol leaders i laikim bai disisen or choice pipol i makim long referendum ballot pepa, i mas klia olgeta, i mas noken kamapim doubt or tingting planti, long taim blong trensisinel post referendum consultation namel long ABG na Gavman blong PNG.

Joint Ministerial Task Force Hon William Samp (GoPNG) na Hon Albert Punghau (ABG) i go pas long en, i gat nau bikpla wok tru, long bungim wantaim na kamapim awareness long mekim klia meaning blong Greater Autonomy na Independence. North Bougainville

MP, William Nakin i tok, long displa referendum long kamapim klia autkam, olgeta man na meri krismas blong ol i nap long 18 years and above, i eligible long vote, ol i mas vote. Yumi pipol blong Bogenvil i gat wanpla Referendum tasol long mekim choice long future political statusblo yumi. Bai nogat narapla opportunity gen. Olgeta eligible voters i mas vote.

North Bougainville Member i tok, yumi olgeta Bougainvilleans i mas go bek long ol family unit blong yumi. Papa na mama i mas bungim olgeta pikinini blong tupla, kisim tingting na toktok long choice blong ol. Nau yet, Bougainville Referendum Commission (BRC)

bai go bek long olgeta Community Governments long karimaut house to house Referendum Roll Update blong ol. Papa or mama i mas lukim olsem, ol nem blong tupla i stap long Referendum Roll na, nem blo olgeta members blong family tu (ol pikinini), i mas stap long Referendum Roll. Family i mas gat 100% enrolment.

Na long Oktoba 12, 2019 papa na mama i mas lukim olsem, olgeta pikinini blong tupla i bin mas igo pinis long referendum polling booth, na ol i vote long exercise constitutional right Peace Agreement, PNG Constitution na Bougainville Constitution i givim ol, long mekim choice long

future political status blong Bogenvil. Tingim, yu gat responsibility long halivim leadership blong Bougainville na PNG long delivery blong final outcome blong vote blong yu.

Mi laik mekim klia gen long pipol blo Bougainville, importance blong Referendum, wea bai kamap long October 12, 2019. Displa Referendum, em blong inapim struggle blong pipol long sanap yumi yet olsem pipol blong Bogenvil.

Singaut blong Independence, em singaut blong bipo yet, na planti lida na ol man na meri lusim yumi pinis, taim ol i no bin kisim yet wanpla gutpla bekim long askim blong "bruk-lus." Bogenvil

Referendum, i givim yumi ol Bougainvilleans husat i stap laif yet, displa unique sans long mekim political choice aninit long Constitution blong kantri blong yumi (PNG), Organic Law blong Peace- Building long Bougainville na tu, Bougainville Constitution.

Long olgeta samting BPA i givim pipol, mi bilip displa rait long makim political future, em i bikpla samting stret, em bikpla luksave tru i kam long Government blong PNG. Yumi mas kirap na tok thank you long Government blo Papua New Guinea, na ol leaders blo Bougainville (the Parties) long givim yumi displa luksave, na yumi kirap tu na wokbung, bihainim laik

na spirit blong Peace Agreement long painim peace through peaceful means. Em nau, em laik blo Papa God antap tumas.

Em i business blo yumi ol Bougainvilleans long go long referendum polling booth na vote long choice blong yumi - Greater Autonomy or Independence. Wakabaut bihainim driman blong Bougainville blong yumi, em i hatpla wakabaut, yes, tasol bihain long olgeta hatpla wakabaut, em i save gat hamamas, kaikai, singsing kaur na danis. Em pasin Bougainville, em pasin blong yumi.

Hon William Nakin, MP Member for North Bougainville

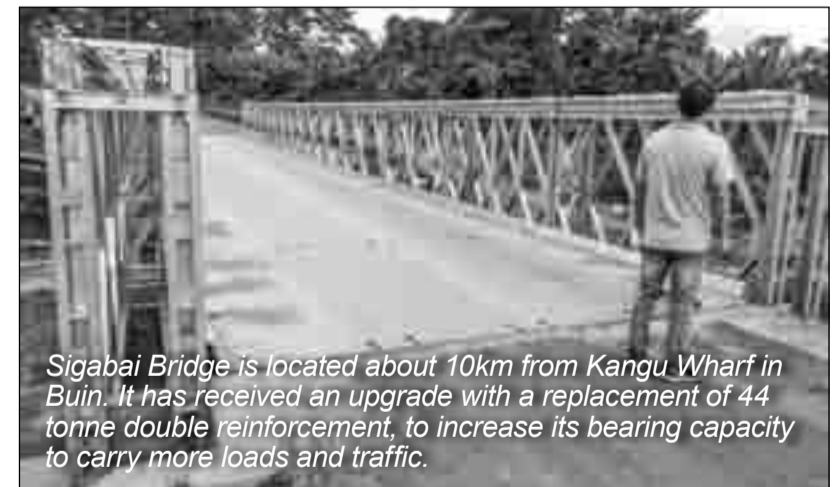
Development Projects Update

Health Centers: 4x Community Health post and three staff houses in Orami, Karato, Kakusida and Kodoro. The project is counter-funded by the Asian Development Bank (or ADB), the Australian Aid program and ABG.

Picture right showing aerial view of Orami Community Health Post



Aerial view of Karato Community Health Post and 3x staff houses



Sigabai Bridge is located about 10km from Kangu Wharf in Buij. It has received an upgrade with a replacement of 44 tonne double reinforcement, to increase its bearing capacity to carry more loads and traffic.

Sipatako Foot Bridge in Panguna District, built with support from the Regional Member for Bougainville, to ensure communities have safe access to walk.



Piano Health Center getting a facelift to its maternity ward, with support from the Regional Member for Bougainville.



Staff house for Bolave Sub Health Center, funded by National Government through Hon. Timothy Masiu initiative projects approved by the Southern Region DDA Board.

A library without books

An inspiring story of determination from Bougainville's Mortlock Island

BY DAVID LULU MARENA



Unity Library donates books to Mortlock, LR, Joana Hearne, Lesley Palmer (Unity Library Secretary), Apoki Kikiva (Community Rep)

Mortlock Island is located 250km far-east of Bougainville, with a population of about four hundred people. Its primary school was established in 1965. The school had a stand-alone library building with close to 8,000 books ranging from encyclopedias, maps and atlas, fiction and nonfiction, chemistry, agriculture, science, mathematics, journals, laws, novels and various other categories.

local islanders took great care and looked after the library as an important asset for the people on the island.

The library was the only source of enhancing learning and building knowledge capacity for the elementary and primary school students, the teachers and the local villagers too. Furthermore with the island's remoteness, and lack of access to electricity, internet, television and daily news, the library was the only source that kept people well informed and educated about almost everything.

That was until 2008

and 2010, when the island was hit by king tides that completely destroyed the building and sadly, the books too. But that did not stop the people of Mortlock – they were determined to have their source of information restored.

In 2011, the community built a new library adjoining to one of the elementary classroom. After eight years, the building still stands as a library without books. Numerous attempts to get possible funding from the Autonomous Bougainville Government and the National Government through elected leaders remain negative.

In 2016 Mortlock Takuu Island Climate Change Association (MTICCA) Inc, one of the leading non profitable NGO, contracted to the Atolls Islands of Bougainville under the Building Resilience to Climate Change program, made a commitment to seek possible assistance from international donor partners including their implementing agencies to donate books for the library.

MTICCA believed that the books played an important role in the community. Often at most times the atoll islands remain completely cut off from the rest of the world due to lack of shipping services and poor communication infrastructure making them the most isolated, disadvantaged and vulnerable atoll islands in the country.

In February this year, Unity Library through its donor partners in New Zealand heeded to the plight of the school children and community in Mortlock. Cartons filled with various kinds of reading books were donated to MTICCA's CEO and Principal Consultant, David Marena. The books are waiting to be transported to the remote atoll island with an official launch program upon arrival.

Upon receiving the donation, Mr Marena expressed great satisfaction and thanked Unity Library's staff that all the hard work and effort put in place to seek possible donors over the last three years has now come to fruition.

He says the donation of these valuable books will go to great lengths to improve the lives of the islanders and their students.

"By reading books, it helps to improve the ability of our students to speak English fluently. It increases the literacy rate as well which further makes them competent when they progress to secondary and tertiary levels," he said.

For an isolated island like Mortlock, books are a treasure that the community can use to explore and discover new things that can also improve their lifestyles – like learning about food preservation methods because they don't have access to electricity, or how to grow artificial coral reefs to help combat climate change issues they face on the island.

David says they look forward to receiving more book donations in the coming months.

"This will now fully equip Mortlock library making it the most advanced in the Bougainville," he says proudly.

Woman uses knowledge gained from books to make a living

When you learn how to read, you open your mind to a world of opportunities to gain knowledge about anything and everything. Marleen Hetsi from Lonahan Village in the Tsalato Constituency of Buka, has used her knowledge gained from reading to make a living for herself. She is pictured here

(seated) proudly holding up a book titled 'Knit it Together', which she borrowed from the Unity Library. She now uses the skills she learned from the book to create her own designs and crafts, which she sells locally. The girls pictured behind her are wearing the 'meri kolos' – designed and hand sewn by Ms Hetsi.



A commentary from Simon Pentanu

A remarkable place and planet



Youths

Youths Are Not Potential But Real

The youths of today
they are more numerous
they outnumber us
will outlast us
Keep them away
from jail houses
and juvenile centres
They don't belong there
Grow them up
to be wise and prudent
to reveal themselves
worthy of our care

Their hope, courage and faith
will mature in good time and space
they will get taller, wiser, stronger
and stretch further and last longer
We must recognise early signs
symptomatic of adolescent issues
and deal with the causal factors
not waste effort treating symptoms
We must deal with the causes
always at the front end
not fiddle with symptoms
at the back end

Youths are most important resource
worth more than minerals in the ground
more than fishes in the sea
begging and waiting to be harnessed
Have no doubt or hesitation
realise, accept and acknowledge
one day they will rule this Land
This is a fact, not fiction or imagination
- the youth is the hope of Bougainville's
future - they are mind boggling waiting
for us to make them happen.

A Metora (sandbank cum sand island) is a transient abode for everyone and everything that stops to rest here before passing on – or maybe getting swept away.

Its creation or formation is a mystery to the young first brought here for initiation. Its beauty is stark and captivating. A fine white coral sandbar in the middle of the reef, in the middle of the ocean, metora is hours away if you're paddling or could be a few fast minutes away in a motorised boat.

The seagulls and other seabirds use these patches more often than us on their fishing, feeding trips and to rest and procreate. If possession is nine tenths of the law, the birds and driftwood that stack up here have more claim to this place than we humans do. With two separate Retreat accommodations now available on Pokpok the two metoras off the Island are popular with guests who visit there briefly during the day.

I see the metora is a reminder that – as is the case with all other living things – our time on this planet is fleeting. We are only here for a finite time as custodians of nature, on behalf of the generations that will follow.

The first time ever I was brought to a metora was by canoe for my own initiation more than sixty years ago. I cannot forget, it contributed to make me who I am. The sun was high and bright and we were all subsumed by the vast, endless moving blue skies everywhere above us.

It was a joy. I can only vaguely remember the beautiful chants, the laughter and a lot of talking by the women, who are the ones that take the children out here in our culture. They still do today. It is

complex and involved but is a humbling ceremony that happens over at least 12 hours, usually with overnight feasting all of it back in the village.

The initiation on the big metora is the highlight and climax of the initiation, which ends with a rowdy welcome on the main beachfront when the initiation party arrives back at the village.

But you don't need to be an initiate to experience the power of the metora. On any ordinary trip you can feel a sense of your connection to this planet and belonging to a place to which you've never been before. The salty smell of beached seaweed and logs that have drifted long distances to land here remind you that you are out at sea, along way from home, at the mercy of the elements.

The Metora is where our children are initiated to learn about the sea as a source of food and life for their sustenance. It is a gift of nature. It is watched over by its sea spirits. It – together with its surrounding reefs and seas – demands respect.

Those who were here before us were custodians of such beautiful and fragile places as this. Our elders in traditional societies were some of the best conservationists that ever walked the Earth.

As elders on the Island today we have an obligation to pass on this knowledge to our children.

There are fewer children's sea initiations on the metora these days, but their relevance, significance and importance has not diminished. Among the Island villagers, the beliefs and traditions are passed on and continue.





BULLETIN Sports

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Sports policy review conducted in Buka

Vice Minister for Sports Hon. Wesley Raminai visited Buka with the CEO for PNG Sports Foundation Peter Tsiamalili (Jnr) and senior officers to conduct a two-days workshop on sports policy review.

PNG Sports Foundation CEO, Mr. Peter Tsiamalili who is the Chairman for the policy review team said that the workshop was carried out in the four regions of PNG making Bougainville the fifth region to have the workshop.

Mr Tsiamalili (Jnr) said that: "I am also very fortunate to have my boss who has allowed himself to be with us because he sees the importance of this particular exercise being done and that shows his commitment to sports."

"Hopefully in the next two days we hope to capture the challenges that are faced within our region and how we are using sports within our region to build and rebuild Bougainville but more importantly using sports as a global tool to address all the social issue and challenges that we are facing," he said.

Minister for Community Development, Hon. Josephine Getsi and Minister Assisting the President and Member for Halia Hon. Gordon Batek with senior officers of the government welcomed the delegates into the region on behalf of the government and the youths.



"Generation Found" Sports

Anyone who has played a team sport will know that every player has to work together. Successful sports teams support each-other, work cooperatively, value all the players and work hard to be the best players they can be.

A local NGO is empowering Bougainville youth, by turning sportsmanship skills into personal development.

Equal Playing Field, a youth focused organization, is working with local communities to help empower

youth and unlock their leadership potential.

They are launching a new initiative, "Generation Found" which focuses on giving personal and vocational development skills to the "lost generation". Bougainville youth who participate in "Generation Found" will be empowered with life-skills learnt through team sports.

Jaqueline Joseph, a prominent Bougainvillean youth leader and founder of Equal Playing Field, and her co-founder Adam Everill believe

that with the right tools,

Bougainville youth can "become the solutions to the great challenges of the present and future".

Known as 'players', youth will learn about team-work, gender equality, cohesion, valuing others and working for common goals. Learning these skills through sports gives youth the ability to become leaders and change-makers in their local communities.

Players will embark on a three-year training

