



# THE BOUGAINVILLE BULLETIN

*Our voice, Our image, Our place*

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## BOUGAINVILLE TO CONTROL FISHERIES

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## HOW MUCH WOULD INDEPENDENCE COST?

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## "THE BOUGAINVILLE WAY" ESSAY COMPETITION

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ABG launches its Strategic Development Plan, setting out the next five years priority development activities for Bougainville.

[See pages 11-14]

## JSB supports joint weapons disposal plan

The December 2017 Joint Supervisory Body (JSB) has endorsed K12 million to support the Bougainville Weapons Disposal and Rehabilitation Plan of Former Combatants including members of the Me'ekamui factions.

Acting Director for Veterans Affairs and Weapons Disposal, Mr Dennis Kuiai thanked both governments for their support.

[Continued page 23]

# Referendum roll update to go ahead

The Bougainville Referendum Commission Transitional Committee (BRCTC) has decided that a special voter roll will be produced for the referendum, based on updating and verifying the common roll used in the 2015 Bougainville election.

The Committee, which is the joint government authority to prepare for referendum (while the larger Bougainville Referendum Commission is established)

is meeting regularly to progress arrangements.

Committee member Chief Secretary Joseph Nobetau, described the recent meetings in Port Moresby as very productive.

"Both governments have reached agreement on practical issues associated with the conduct of the referendum," Mr Nobetau said.

"People have been concerned about the credibility of the common

roll, so it is good news that a new voter registration exercise will go ahead across Bougainville, and for Bougainvilleans in every constituency in Papua New Guinea", said Mr Nobetau.

A Referendum Operations paper was presented by Bougainville Electoral Commissioner and Co-Chair of the BRCTC, George Manu.

"This operations plan guides the implementation of the electoral process

of the referendum. I am happy with the agreements reached by the Committee," said Mr Manu.

"With support from the International Federation for Electoral Systems (IFES), we have carried out a voter roll assessment throughout Bougainville. We will now involve all Community Governments to verify and update names on the rolls through their respective Village Ward Recorders", Mr Manu said.

[Continued page 16]

## Haku leaders reconcile

[Story on page 21]







Our voice, Our image, Our place

Editor’s Desk

Hello Readers,

Welcome to Edition 12 of the Bougainville Bulletin and also the first for 2018!

Since the last Joint Supervisory Body meeting in December last year, a lot of work has been done towards progressing important referendum-ready activities.

This edition captures these notable developments such as the Memorandum of Understanding that was signed in January this year which marked the start of the process for draw down of Fisheries powers and functions – a key step towards economy building.

The Community Governments have established themselves as a key stakeholder in the referendum process. They are currently supporting and preparing our people for key referendum activities particularly the creation of the referendum voter roll.

We also have a special lift-out on the Bougainville Strategic Development Plan 2018-2022. This five year plan has been endorsed by the Bougainville Executive Council and will be used as a guide for Bougainville’s development. Learn more about its Vision and key development priorities that the government has planned for its people.

You will also find information on the approved Joint Weapons Disposal Plan and the planned Unification Summit for Bougainville Veterans that is set to happen in the second quarter this year, plus a Special Message to the people of Bougainville from the Bougainville Veterans.

On a more positive note, we are running an essay competition in this edition called “The Bougainville Way”. Read on Page 14 how you can participate and get your message out to the public of what the “Bougainville Way” means to you.

The Bulletin Team

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About the Bougainville Bulletin

The Bougainville Bulletin is a publication of the Autonomous Bougainville Government, produced by the Directorate of Media and Communication, Department of President and Bougainville Executive Council.

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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- us on AutonomousBougainvilleGovernment
- Past copies can be downloaded at: www.abg.gov.pg/bougainville-bulletin

The editor reserves the right to publish all stories.

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New ABG Departmental Secretaries

The following appointments have been made by the Bougainville Senior Appointments Committee to lead the Bougainville Public Service



Deputy Chief Secretary  
(Strategic Planning)  
Thomas Boe Raivet



Deputy Chief Secretary  
(Operations)  
Peter Nomoreke



Department of Community  
Development  
Mana Kakarouts



Department of Economic  
Development  
Steven Tsivele

2018 Diary

Official public holidays & events

The following are officially designated public holidays in the AROB:

Friday, 30 March  
Good Friday

Saturday, 31 March  
Easter Saturday

Monday, 2 April  
Easter Monday

Thursday, 17 May  
Bougainville Remembrance Day

Friday, 15 June 2018  
ABG Foundation Day

Monday, 2 July  
250th Anniversary of visit of Louis Antoine de Bougainville

Monday, 23 July  
National Remembrance Day

Thursday, 30 August  
Peace Agreement Commemoration Day

Monday, 17 September  
in lieu of National Independence Day

Tuesday, 25 December  
Christmas Day

Wednesday, 26 December  
Boxing Day

Public events

Reeds Festival  
Arawa  
5 - 9 July

Bougainville Chocolate Festival  
Hutjena Oval, Buka  
21 - 22 September

See event details on ABG events calender  
www.abg.gov.pg



Security is critical

The Bougainville Police Service have a critical role to play to ensure that peace and order is kept in Bougainville for the Referendum.

This was the challenge made by President Hon. Chief Dr John Momis when addressing police during their Annual Dedication Mass at Hahela Catholic Mission in January this year.

“As the Referendum is approaching, police must be strict to charge offenders. Public servants and politicians misusing government properties should be charged as well,” Mr Momis said.

Mr Momis thanked officers for their dedication and service to Bougainville, and urged police to continue to improve and be prepared before the Referendum.

“There is work to be done to improve the law and order in Bougainville with an increase in drunkards, petty crimes and armed robbery.

Deputy Police Commissioner Francis Tokura shared similar sentiments calling on police to refocus in preparation for Bougainville’s Referendum journey.

“I urge all police officers to serve with distinction, ensuring that peace and order is maintained.

Mr Tokura challenged the Bougainville Police Service to improve in their duties, relaying five key messages Police Commissioner Garry Baki had issued.

“Commissioner Baki would like to ensure that the BPS change their attitudes and dedicate themselves to God; to guide them to maintain peace and order in Bougainville; behave themselves within and out of Bougainville so that they are seen as ambassadors representing Bougainville; refocus on their duties and responsibilities; serve the people diligently and focus on Bougainville’s journey towards Referendum,” Mr Tokura said.

“We are servants of the public and we must reflect on that. We have to refocus on our duties and responsibilities, change our attitudes and move forward in preparation for Referendum,” he said.

Mr Tokura also added that there has been a major cut in the budget allocated for the BPS this year and he called on the police personnel to work within the budget and above all else to serve with honesty and prepare for Referendum.

Fisheries MoU to drive economy

The signing of a fisheries MOU and funding agreement between the national government and ABG will help Bougainville’s economy grow and sustain itself.



National Minister for Fisheries and Marine Resources Hon Patrick Basa, hands over K15 million fisheries support funding to President Momis.

An MOU with the National Government marks the hand over of fisheries management powers to Bougainville - paving the way for Bougainville to earn major fisheries revenue.

National Minister for Fisheries and Marine Resources, Hon Patrick Basa, said the MoU is the vehicle to drive the Bougainville fisheries and marine resources industry.

“Bougainville fisheries have huge potential to drive the Bougainville’s economy,” he said.

“On behalf of the O’Neil/Abel government it gives us great satisfaction and happiness to sign this MoU between the National Government and the ABG.”

President Momis welcomed the signing and K15 million funding support to develop the sector and implement the MOU.

“This is a symbolic moment. This is the first time that the National Government has sought to honour their obligations related to the fisheries under the Bougainville Peace Agreement.”

“This was a key outcome of the last Joint Supervisory Body (JSB) meeting with the Prime Minister in December and demonstrates that the JSB is finally achieving its intended purpose as a decision making and resolution body, charged with providing the necessary direction to key government agencies,” he said.

The MoU establishes a Bougainville Fisheries Management Authority (BRMA) to regulate the three nautical mile Bougainville fishery zone, spells out the transfer of fisheries powers and functions from the NFA to the BRMA and details activities to support the fisheries sector.

The Buka fish market at Wong Yu Beach front will become a model project. Once completed people can sell or buy fish.

Ice will be made to keep fish fresh - all services not currently available in Buka.

The Kieta cool room is almost complete and will provide the surrounding coastal and island communities with a place to market fish including ice making.

The NFA is also funding the construction of fisheries officers residence at the Department of Primary Industry station in Kubu.

Minister Basa said capacity building and infrastructure development are of paramount importance for the authority to perform its role.

International research suggests that Bougainville can earn up to K100 million a year from commercial fishing licences - providing a major revenue and economic boost to fund government services.

[See page 7 for ABG priority marine projects]



## Wanpela kampani blong Australia i gat laik long wok wantem Otonomes Bogenvil Gavman long mekim wok painim aut long Buka pasis.

Dispela kampani nem bilong em i Mako Tidal Turbines (MTT) i bin sainim agrimen wantem ABG long mekim wok painim aut long Buka pasis.

MTT i laik mekim wok painim aut long Buka pasis long save moa long strong bilong Solwara na sapos em i ken generatim elektrisiti.

Bisinis na Ekonomi Dvelopmen Consalten bilong Klienhardt Pty Ltd, Mr Jim Bitomsky tok olsem dispela agrimen bai givim tok orait long ol long testim strong bilong Buka

pasis. Dispela agrimen i tok orait long tupela kampani, Mako Tidal Turbines na Kleinhardt Pty Ltd long wok insait long tupela yia long kisim data, skelim infomesen na wokim bisinis case bilong bikplea projek na elektrisiti bai bikipela component bilong em.

Mr Bitomsky i tok olsem sapos ol i painim aut olsem Buka pasis i ken generetim pawa ol bai toksave long ABG sapos guvman i laik go het long dispela wok ol bai mekim proposal na givim lo ABG.

Mr Bitomsky i tok olsem ol masin bilong skelim strong bilong solwara bai stap long wanwan point long solwara na ol bai kisim infomesen na salim igo long Sydney long Australia.

Minister bilong Ekonomi Sevis Hon Fidelis Semoso i tok olsem, ABG i hamamas long givim sapot long MTT long go pas long wok long lukluk long Buka pasis na kisim infomesen sapos em i gat potensol long generetim elektrisiti o nogat.



The new generator for Buka which has been supplying power to Northern Bougainville providing a capacity of 2.5 to 5 megawatts. INSERT: Joint launching by PNG Power Acting Managing Director Ms Carolyn Blacklock and President Hon. John Momis.

## Government management system in ABG

Member for Haku Hon. Robert Tsika calls on the Autonomous Region of Bougainville to look at employing the E-Government system during the last parliament sitting in 2017. This is the area where accountability and transparency can be very well captured which goes together with the effectiveness of this government.

E-Government is the application of ICT by government agencies. The aim of using ICT is to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the government agencies processes.

“Use the technology today for transparency and accountability. The efficiency and effectiveness with our work to run this government”, he said.

Mr Tsika added that the government should have their private data systems so that they collect data on a daily basis or minute basis to run their work and make decisions on true and valid data based

on the available data.

Many governments have realised the importance of information and communication technology (ICT) to improve the delivery of information and services to citizens and businesses. That is, they have started to embrace the World Wide Web for delivering information and services to all citizens and residents.

ABG had cases on corruption for a very long time and now that they have come to realise the problem, it should be solved. Install E-Government

management system to lessen the problems encountered in offices.

Meanwhile, the web phenomenon has changed the way people work and communicate. However, while the web is an exciting technological tool, it does require innovative design to make it accessible to everyone, including people with disabilities.

## Legal year opening



Justice Kandakasi speaks at Bel Isi Park.

Justice Ambang Kandakasi visited Bougainville to open the legal year - a tradition marking the opening of the Court System.

Justice Kandakasi addressed a parade of law and justice officials and dignitaries at Bel Isi Park.

“The opening of the legal year marks an opportunity for us to review how we have conducted ourselves in the discharge of our duties and responsibilities in the past year, see what is ahead of us in the new year and dedicate and commit ourselves to doing what we must do for the peaceful co-existence for

our country, promoting freedom and economic development.”

“I commend each of you to first uphold the rule of law, amongst yourselves and within yourselves, your family, communities, tribes and clans then we expect the rest of the nation to fall in,” he said.

He acknowledged that it was a challenge in Bougainville, however, under the Peace Agreement the law and justice sector have done extremely well in maintaining the peace process.

ABG Minister for Law and Justice Hon Willie Masiu

encouraged members of the disciplinary forces and those within the law and justice sector to uphold their duties and serve the people.

“I am satisfied that all agencies of the law and justice sector have been established in Buka and Arawa, however, agencies should be established throughout all regions so people can have easy access to legal services,” he said.

The Minister said his department is working with their national counterparts regarding the drawdown of powers and consultations on Justice and

Attorney General.

“Bougainvilleans have indicated through the BPA to have a home grown justice system that is acceptable to them. This will be done through a wide range of consultations,” Mr Masiu said.

Mr Masiu said a major obstacle to the sector and generally all ABG departments is a lack of funds; however, he was thankful for the national government and development partners such as Australia and New Zealand for their support in assisting the law and justice sector in Bougainville.

## Biometric system to improve ABG staff punctuality

Minister for Public Service Hon. Robert Sawa has announced his department is researching an electronic clock in/clock out system to improve punctuality in the Bougainville Public Service.

Minister Sawa said punctuality is a big problem. “We have our own Bougainville Standard Time, but public servants seem to be starting at PNG time and knocking off at Bougainville

time,” Mr Sawa said.

“How productive are we with this behaviour?”

To address the issue, the Minister is looking at a biometric system so that public servants will be paid only according to hours worked.

“I am aware that this is going to be very expensive but at the same time, we are going to save a lot of money. Public servants who come in at twelve o'clock and knock

off at 2 o'clock and still get a full pay is both very unfair and expensive for the ABG.”

This year is a very crucial year for the leadership of the ABG and all our departments and public servants need to use their responsibilities to go out to the communities to embark on assisting the government of the day.

Mr Sawa stressed that he wants the Bougainville public service to be unique in terms of work dress

standard.

He said uniforms have been issued to all public servants and it is the task of departmental heads to ensure that staff are fully attired in their uniforms on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, adding that uniforms should also been worn on historical events to showcase the public service.

Despite the setback on punctuality, Mr Sawa said he is proud of the Bougainville

Public Service of how unique they are despite the challenges they face.

“We come up with very sound, unique policies to ensure that we have workable structures in place, to implement the political desire of the decisions that are being made by the government.

I am sure that if we all work together, we will achieve what we are fighting for,” he said.

## Research: Bougainville has a high level of Autonomy

*International research suggests Bougainville has a high level of autonomy under the Bougainville Peace Agreement, with powers to make laws, raise revenue and engage in international relations.*



A study of all autonomous regions around the world says Bougainville's autonomy arrangements are very strong, giving the ABG high levels of decision-

making powers, many which are yet to be used.

The study findings are part of a series of seven independent research studies by the National Research Institute,

using the best experts from around the world.

The aim is to inform both the national and Bougainville governments ahead of the upcoming referendum.

Ms Martina Trettel, from the Italian Institute for Comparative Federalism, said she herself was from an autonomous region in Italy, which shared culture and language with

neighbouring Austria.

“Autonomy for us has been a positive experience that has resolved issues between Italy and Austria.

However she said autonomy arrangements

were different in every case, from Cook Islands to Puerto Rico.

“Where does Bougainville fit into this range of autonomy—between full independence and a province within the state?”

A definition of autonomy is “granting internal self-government to a region, thus recognizing a partial independence from the influence of the national or central government.” (Heintze, 1998)

“Autonomy is sometimes called ‘the middle way’: not the goal of either party in negotiations,

but a compromise often only reluctantly granted by the national government, and usually ungratefully received by the autonomus region.”

“This compromise is way of dividing the cake so everyone believes they have the biggest piece of the cake,” she said

“Bougainville has very strong autonomy arrangements – similar to states like Cook Islands which can leave New Zealand if they want, and can have their own international relationships.

Of all the key autonomy

‘Autonomy is a tool – and so it is about how the tool is used, and in all cases a lot of time and capacity building needed.’

Ms Martina Trettel

powers, Bougainville has them all: constitutional powers, legislative powers, administrative powers (drawdown of national government functions),

judicial powers and systems, and external relations.

She said a common problem with autonomy around the world is the gap between the powers and legal framework provided, and what is actually implemented.

“For autonomy to work, time is needed and knowledge. It must be shared and owned by both sides: the national government and the ABG.”

“I think Bougainville is very close to independence, it has a lot of potential and broad powers.”

“But autonomy is a tool

– and so it is about how the tool is used, and in all cases a lot of time and capacity building needed.”



Ms Martina Trettel, Italian Institute for Comparative Federalism, briefed national and Bougainville parliaments on a comparative study of autonomy arrangements for the National Research Institute.



# Growing Bougainville's economy

*Expert proposes four areas to grow Bougainville's economy: fisheries, cocoa, overseas training and remittance, and a property levy in urban areas.*

Respected international Reonomist Dr Satish Chand has presented four possible ways Bougainville can grow its economy. His research is part of a series of National Research Institute studies to help prepare both Bougainville and the national government for referendum and the outcome.

Dr Chand said it was an honour to be invited to the Bougainville House of Representatives to brief leaders, and a privilege to work with Minister and Secretary of Treasury and Finance to develop the research report.

Dr Chand said he has looked at ways to better fund the current autonomous government, as well as a possible future independent

Bougainville.

"While the moratorium on Panguna mine is in place, tuna is the one hope, but it requires cooperation with the National Fisheries Agency," Dr Chand said.

"Up to K1 billion of fish is captured in Bougainville waters every year. This can generate up to K100million for Bougainville, and this is sustainable."

"A small tax on cocoa is an option because it is produced all around Bougainville, it is the glue that holds Bougainville together.

A small tax could fund agricultural services that assist farmers: for example addressing pod borer."

The research, which has been presented to both national and Bougainville

governments, provides four ideas to raise revenue.

"These numbers are provided so governments can make decisions."

Minister for Treasury and Finance, Robin Wilson, said he wants to stop using government spending as a one-way water tap – but focus more on using government spending to fund investment opportunities.

"We want government spending to be an investment, to help generate income back to the government in the form of tax and economic development," Mr Wilson said.

Dr Chand stressed that working towards fiscal autonomy must be a cooperative effort between both governments.



## 4 ways to grow the Bougainville economy

### Tuna fisheries

Fishing license fees are worth up to K100million

### Cocoa tax

1% cocoa export tax to fund agricultural services

### Levy on urban properties

A levy on properties in urban centres (Buin, Arawa, Buka) to provide better ur ban services

### Pacific Labour Scheme

Access regional workers program in Australia to build Bougainville's workforce

## Priority agriculture and marine projects announced

The Department of Primary Industries and Marine Resources has announced its priority projects for the next three years.

The first is the establishment of the Bougainville Fisheries Marine Authority (BFMA) to oversee the implementation of the recent MoU signed between the National Fisheries Authority and the ABG.

Secretary for Primary Industries and Marine Resources, Mr Thomas Betitis, says the establishment of the BFMA will enable the ABG to exercise its full responsibilities over fisheries

in Bougainville. This includes the responsibility to negotiate with the national government on the formula for revenue generation from the tuna catch within Bougainville waters," explained Betitis.

### Other priorities include:

- **Improving capacity and infrastructure for the fisheries sector**
- **Buka Jetty and shore base facilities**
- **Sea boundary survey**
- **Tuna cannery feasibility studies**
- **Completion of Kieta cool room**
- **Sea cucumber facilities**

- **Seaweed shed**
- **Coastal fisheries support**
- **Inland fisheries support**
- **Breeding and supply centre**
- **Duncan hatchery-agriculture & livestock**
- **Forestry-native species nursery**

Mr Betitis called on the people of Bougainville to be patient and to allow the ABG through the Department to carry out its work.

"These projects will be implemented through the processes outlined in the MoU and we will ensure that all communities will benefit," he said.

## Panguna mine moratorium



*The ABG has banned all mining exploration in Panguna to reduce community conflict and tension.*

The ABG is the regulator of all natural resources in Bougainville including minerals and the Panguna mine which it has full control over.

The ABG has completed the legal processes under the *Bougainville Mining Act* 2015 in relation to BCL's application to renew its exploration licence over the Panguna Mine area. It has concluded that it is untenable under the current circumstances for the Panguna project to proceed, and a decision has been made not to grant an extension to BCL's exploration licence. This means BCL does not have more tenement in Bougainville or any legal right over Panguna mineral resources. The legal ownership of the Panguna resources goes back to the customary landowners of Panguna and the ABG.

It is in Bougainville's best interest that the Panguna resources owners be left alone and be dealt with by the ABG alone regarding any future plans for the Panguna project. This can happen when the circumstances are conducive and the moratorium is lifted.

For BCL or RTG or any other investor to directly deal with the landowners regarding the development of the Panguna project will only result in more division and problems amongst the people and may affect ABG's drive for peace and unity leading towards referendum.

The ABG will not accept nor be influenced by any speculations regarding its decision on the moratorium and redevelopment of the Panguna project.

Resources cannot accept or deal with any tenement application located wholly or partly within the proposed reserved area until a decision is made to lift the reservation.

The reservation process under the *Bougainville Mining Act* has commenced and in March the public was invited to comment on the ABG's decision to impose the reservation.

It is in Bougainville's best interest that the Panguna resources owners be left alone and be dealt with by the ABG alone regarding any future plans for the Panguna project. This can happen when the circumstances are conducive and the moratorium is lifted.

For BCL or RTG or any other investor to directly deal with the landowners regarding the development of the Panguna project will only result in more division and problems amongst the people and may affect ABG's drive for peace and unity leading towards referendum.

The ABG will not accept nor be influenced by any speculations regarding its decision on the moratorium and redevelopment of the Panguna project.

## How much would Independence cost?

*Independent research says independence will cost between two and three times the current government budget – or about K600-900 million each year.*



Dr Satish Chand

Respected economist Dr Satish Chand says an independent government would need between two and three times its current budget to keep up the current level of government services.

Dr Chand's research, produced for the National Research Institute, is the first attempt to try and work out how much Bougainville would need if it chooses independence.

Hemadehispresentation to the Bougainville House of Representatives in

January.

The research aims to look at ways to better fund the current autonomous government, as well as a possible future independent Bougainville government.

The amount of K600-900 million each year includes the salaries of public servants, teachers, police and health workers, as well as new responsibilities like defence, border protection, currency and international relations that come with independence.

Dr Chand based his calculations on the economies and population of neighbouring Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji – and compared them with Bougainville.

However, Dr Chand made it clear that despite

**'This helps our people to make informed decisions. When we as one people will decide the political future of Bougainville.'**

Vice President Masono

the large gap between current government revenue and what might be needed for independence, this alone would not stop the referendum from going ahead.

"There is nothing in the the Peace Agreement that says fiscal self reliance - the

ability of the ABG to pay for its daily budget from internal revenue – is needed for the referendum to take place, or for independence to be considered," Dr Chand said.

The presentation is part of a series of seven independent research studies being undertaken by the National Research Institute using the best experts from around the world. The aim is to inform both the national and Bougainville governments, and their peoples, ahead of the upcoming referendum.

Vice President Raymond Masono welcomed the researchers to Bougainville.

"These researchers can add their international knowledge to what we already know about Bougainville," Mr Masono said.

"This helps our people to make informed decisions. When we as one people will decide the political future of Bougainville."

Mr Masono said, "Some of us thought that referendum was a simple thing when we started down this road – but it is more complex than that. Referendum contains a lot of information that needs to be understood. People need to have this information so they can make their own choice at the referendum."

"The issues are not just about political autonomy, or political independence, but the issues of economic autonomy. As an independent government we will need a lot more resources than what we currently have."

## Bana for free trade



Members from the National Government, ABG and investors during initial talks.

South Bougainville's Bana District is earmarked to become Bougainville's first free trade zone. Initial talks herald what might be an answer in fostering economic development through the Bana Development Initiative.

Investors have expressed interest with initial plans of tapping into agriculture, fisheries and tourism.

The Bana Free Trade Zone (BFTZ) pilot project aims to help boost the economy of Bana District, Bougainville and Papua New Guinea by attracting companies to a business focused environment within the BFTZ area, with the coast line aimed at being a major international corridor.

The Bana Development Initiative Technical Team headed by Mr Paul Kebori said the free trade zone will bring much needed stimulus. It is hoped this will eventually provide opportunities to enhance the livelihood and welfare of communities in and around Bana.

"Initial studies have revealed that employment and income opportunities will be created for 60 - 80 per cent of the population within the BFTZ area, spin off activities for local Small to Medium Enterprises to contribute to the advancement of the area.

He said in 2014 the people of Bana District took it upon themselves to investigate options to foster economic

development within the district which resulted in the Bana Development Initiative through which the Bougainville Executive Council made the decision to establish the Bana Free Trade Zone pilot project under the *PNG Free Trade Zones Act* 2000.

Government officials from both the National Coordination Office for Bougainville Affairs and the Department of Commerce and Industry began discussions in advancing the project.

The Regional Member for Bougainville Hon. Joseph Lera has also showed his support and committed his backing to ensure the project gets all the needed support during its initial pilot phase.



# Bougainville women celebrate International Women's Day



Mrs Agnes Titus, human rights activist, Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation



Women leaders and participants



Live NBC/RPL talkback show

International Women's Day (IWD) celebrations in Bougainville this year focused on women's contributions to the peace process and called for unity in preparation for Referendum.

During celebrations from Bel Isi Park, President of Bougainville Women's Federation Mrs Rachel Tsien said that IWD was an important day where women around the world gathered to reflect and celebrate on women's achievements, and discuss issues affecting women.

"This day is very important for women. It is a time for women to

address issues that affect us. Although we have not been heard in the years gone by, we will continue to speak and make our voices heard," she said.

Bougainville selected a theme for this year to acknowledge preparation for referendum: *Our Voice, We're Women, We're Ready*.

Leader and human rights activist with the Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation, Agnes Titus, said that such a campaign unites women because of their common interest.

"Today is the day that we have come to celebrate the achievements

and contributions we as women have made towards Bougainville, PNG and the world as a whole."

"It is time for women to look at their rights, gender and justice, and to tap themselves on the shoulder to acknowledge that yes - women have contributed immensely," she said.

Mrs Titus challenged women to not look down on themselves but truly appreciate that they have contributed to peace in Bougainville.

"Never forget that women in Bougainville, we have been making a difference during the good and bad times, and we still continue. Women,

we are always ready!" she emphasized.

Similar sentiments were shared by the Executive Director for Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency, Mrs Helen Hakena, saying it is an important day to look at the issues women are faced with and acknowledge women's achievements and contributions towards peace building and unity," she said.

Mrs Hakena said although it had not been an easy journey for Bougainvilleans to take, through the prayers and tears of the women, peace had been restored.

Women representatives from the churches, Community Government, NGOs, government representatives and the public joined together in activities.

A highlight was a live two hour radio panel discussion and talkback through ABG's *Radio Ples Lain* and NBC.

The theme: Women and Referendum, gave listeners the chance to raise questions on issues affecting women in Bougainville, especially the referendum.

Minister for Community Development Hon Josephine Getsi was among the guests.

## Music for peace

Offspring, Stage Crew, Extreme and others entertained with original tunes that cry for peace and unity, weapons disposal and referendum at the *Yumi Wan Festival*.

Bougainville artists have come together to announce that the referendum count down has begun.

Held for the second time, Committee Chairman, Mr Robert Aneisia said that this was a campaign to promote peace and unity and that the count for

referendum has begun.

"It was our contribution, to provide a peaceful and unifying environment to discuss political issue for Bougainville."

"Yumi Wan provides an opportunity for everyone to congregate and have their voice where people need to share information."

President Chief Dr John Momis congratulated the Yumi Wan Festival committee and participants for their efforts.

"In Bougainville we have embarked on a journey of discovery in search of our new national identity."

President Momis said that this was important because, "In Bougainville we have a rare opportunity to create the type of society and the type of nation we want."

Momis reminded all that, "True to our traditions we are trail blazers and pioneers of new innovative



A popular bamboo band from Haku known as Extreme

and creative ideas and things in response to our felt needs and aspirations."

"We are not afraid to think outside the box in order to effectively pursue our noble goals of human

liberation and human development."

National Member for North, Hon William Nakin pledged a funding support of K10, 000 towards the festival.

# Unity library essay competition winners

*Six bright stars of the future have written prize winning essays on the topic: 'You in the Future'*

The Unity Library, Buka, conducted a creative essay competition for school students on the topic of their future.

The competition was open to the primary and high school students aged 8 to 18.

Unity Library Secretary

Ms Lesley Palmer said that the competition was held to encourage reading and writing, and promote the library as a place for learning and community.

"The competition began in October last year, and we extended it the to the end of February this year

as many students went on holidays. We wanted to encourage as many people to write essays as possible," Ms Palmer said.

Ms Palmer congratulated all children who entered essays into the competition and said it showed showed had

very interesting ideas and stories to tell.

The library has been open since 2016, and has a permanent building next to the Further Open and Distance Education centre.

"We are open 3 afternoons per week (Monday, Wednesday and

Friday) from 1pm to 5 pm and we have a wide variety of lending material to suit both adults and children. We also have some special reading resources for teachers. The library is free for users and run by a team of dedicated volunteers," she said.

## 1st Prize

**Salote Kebori**

"I like writing and reading imaginative narrative stories. It makes me happy. Taking up challenges makes me gain a lot of new knowledge. My favourite topics are health, science, technology and art. I also love drawing. I've got the talent of being an artist and I'd like to complement my artistic skills and my love for math with my dream of becoming an architect in the future. As an architect it will be exciting to design unique architectural designs to help develop the towns and villages and the lives of the people of Bougainville. That's my way to help Bougainville become a better place"

**David Kebori**

"I want to be a doctor in the future so that I can look after sick people in the hospital. I will help to improve the lives of people in the villages in Bougainville and PNG. I want to help people have safe drinking water and eat healthy foods grown in their gardens. I want to see children and babies

## 3rd Prize

**Jessica Takali**

"My future dream job is to be a biologist so that I can save my beautiful island. I love plants and animals and my island has lots of them. My grandmother tells me that there are many more people in my community now than before. These people cut down trees and clear new places to build their homes. When I see the trees, coconuts and palms are cut, I feel sad. Since our island is small, when the population grows it won't have enough trees and the many different birds we have today won't have homes. The skills I will get in my job will help me teach my people in the community to look after our environment wisely."

**Aloysius Billy**

"I want to become a doctor because I have an interest to treat patients and carry out awareness for more healthy living in the community. In my community I am going to help those who are sick and injured and unable to go to the hospital or don't have enough money to pay for their medicines. I will advise my people about how to keep our place clean and how to keep our body clean and safe to stay healthy at all times.

**'As an architect it will be exciting to design unique designs to help develop the towns and villages and the lives of the people of Bougainville. That's my way to help Bougainville become a better place.'**

Miss Salote Kebori

## 2nd Prize

**Marycatherine Tavore**

"My aim is to become an anthropologist. After completing studies and becoming an anthropologist, I will come back to Bougainville and do my work here. In this way, my island will be the first to benefit from my profession.

As an anthropologist, I feel it is my duty to study the culture and help preserve it. I find listening to legends told to me by my relatives, especially by my mother, enjoyable. But I have noticed that only very few are documented. So, because of this reason, I would like to document legends.

Also, something else that I would like to do would be to develop documentaries about Bougainville."

**Augustine Levi**

"My aim is to become a teacher because I love teaching and helping children or youths. I want to send them to other big institutions so that Bougainville can have good citizens in the region or even in the world. I will make sure all the children in my community who are not educated will be educated. There are many drug consumers in my community. I will make sure that all of them are educated. I will run some small courses for them so they can attend and gain some interest. I will be thinking positively in my job to put my effort into my students both in class and outside too."



## I am Hetty Mangan

*"I'm Hetty Mangan. I'm from the Happy Isles of Matsugan, the coral and sandy beach in Buka," a friendly Hetty introduced herself to the Bougainville Bulletin.*

Many locals have their own name for Matsugan Island. Some call it the coral island of Bougainville but for Hetty, it is the happy isle.

Hetty talks about her life and the changes she has seen as she mends the front desk of the long time Lomankoa Guest House, located in the heart of Buka Town. She is the supervisor in charge of the guesthouse management.

She said that the current trend of change is that there has been a change of skin colors in Buka.

"I can see more change in the skin color and many more business setting up. I can see many people from Asian countries setting up business in Buka and that there is competition with Lomankoa Guest House. But that doesn't stop us from continuing," she added.

Employed for 18 years, Hetty only completed her primary school at the Sohano Primary School.

It was her passion for ministry and Christian outreach programs that landed her the job at Lomankoa in 1999.

Part of her job includes organizing the setting up of the conference room and guest rooms and answering to customers needs.

Ms Mangan's biggest customer was the Australian Foreign Affairs Minister Ms Julie Bishop, who was the guest of honour at the Lomankoa Guest House during a gathering with the Bougainville women's groups in 2015.

"Julie Bishop's impression of the set up of the conference room was: 'I thought I was in PNG but I'm in Australia,'" she said.

Apart from her normal duties, Hetty is ministering to children from the United Church and has been a Sunday school teacher for six years now.

"My dream for today's kids is for them to be the leaders for tomorrow."

Not along ago, in December 2017, Hetty organized a small vocal fusion for her children's ministry that got the children as young as 7 years old to belt out their favorite gospel songs.

The united church children's ministry then toured an island belonging to Matsugan, known as Sal Island.

Ms Mangan said that it was the first of its kind for the children to come out freely and express themselves.

As the Coordinator for Children's Ministry,



she believes in uniting kids together despite their different backgrounds.

Ms Mangan believes that the children will make the change starting at their homes.

Regarding her thought on the upcoming

Bougainville referendum, her thoughts on preparing for the vote in 2019 are for the chiefs to wake up and get involve with their people who are roaming aimlessly in town.

## Tidal Wave

Peter Kakai is a driver of his very own hire car business called Tidal Wave. He hails from the Tantareki village of Konou constituency, Buin District.

He started his business in 2007 when he was in his 40's, but driving began when he was in grade three.

"I would drive our old tractor to clear my mother's garden," he said.

"No one taught me how to drive. I learnt it myself," he added.

With just a very old ten-seatter vehicle, Tidal



Wave's first customers were British American Tobacco, ABG, Council Of Elders (COE), Buin District office and the

Electoral Commission.

"When I first started my hire business, I was using old vehicles. You could even see smoke steaming

out of the engine or the vehicle. But many of my customers did not look down on the kind of vehicles I owned. They chose Tidal Wave because of the customer relations we had with them," he recounts.

"For others, they laughed at me and even made a mockery of my vehicles. But I did not give up."

After eleven years of business, Peter now owns twelve vehicles and will soon see the next vehicle shipped into Bougainville from East New Britain.

"I am waiting for my new five door," he exclaimed with joy.

Peter is his own boss

and he has been driving on the Kokopau to Arawa road and then Buin highway for years. When asked how long it takes to drive from Kokopau to Arawa, he said, it used to take five to six hours but as the road became better, it now takes less than three hours.

Peter completed his high school at Port Moresby, at the Dell Asall High School. He then continued his learning for electronics undertaking CODE.

He comes from a proud family background that owned a successful business for transport and trading known as the Kakai Trading and Kaikai Trans that lived through the Bougainville Crisis.

## Special feature lift out

### BOUGAINVILLE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2018 - 2022

**VISION** *A united, safe, peaceful, healthy, educated, resilient and prosperous Bougainville that promotes respect, trust, moral, christian and our cultural values and recognises the identity and rights of our people", it expands a set of strategies and activities.*



## <<<INSIDE>>>

What is the Strategic Development Plan? • Development priorities • Joe Lera: "One Bougainville" • 'Bougainville Way' essay competition



Download the complete plan:  
[http://www.abg.gov.pg/images/misc/SDP\\_2018-22\\_-FINAL\\_low\\_res.pdf](http://www.abg.gov.pg/images/misc/SDP_2018-22_-FINAL_low_res.pdf)

# WHAT IS THE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN?

The Strategic Development Plan is Bougainville’s blueprint, a guide for development over the next five years. Through this Plan, the ABG is responding to identified community needs from South, Central and Northern Regions. This ‘all-inclusive’ approach taken by the ABG promotes equal opportunity for participation by all.

Under a united Vision for Bougainville, the Plan focuses on four key areas:

1. Social development: a peaceful, harmonious and healthy society
2. Economic development: economically self-reliant, and managing our own resources, land and other natural resources to develop Bougainville
3. Infrastructure development: building the physical foundations for development and peace
4. Government framework: a sound, transparent and effective governance framework to deliver services.

For each activity under these four areas, the Plan includes a brief analysis (the challenges), and then details the strategies and activities for the next five years.

The government has limited resources and capacity and cannot do everything at once. The Plan therefore sets out priorities for each activity (immediate/urgent, high, medium and long term). This will guide government to the task of developing Bougainville for all Bougainvilleans.

With the limited capacity and resources of the government, the Plan is a realistic and practical plan that understands and captures the needs/demands raised by our communities.

The Plan is another positive step towards Bougainville implementing autonomy and progressing good governance. It signals Bougainville’s growing confidence in determining our own development priorities and how government can best coordinate and meet these needs.

# HOW WAS IT DEVELOPED?

The development of the Strategic Development Plan was overseen by a Strategic Development Working Group:

- Chief Secretary to the ABG (Chair)
- Secretary for Mining
- Secretary for Treasury and Finance
- Secretary for Health
- Secretary for Primary Industries
- Secretary for Justice
- Secretary for Community Government

The working group consulted with many groups and individuals to develop the plan and hear people’s voice. These included:

- ABG Ministers and Heads of Department
- Bougainville Representatives to the National Parliament
- National Department of Finance
- National Department of Treasury
- National Department of National Planning
- National Coordination Office for Bougainville Affairs
- Local Bougainville Associations throughout PNG
- UPNG Bougainville Students Association
- Women’s groups, youth groups, ex-combatants, chiefs and village elders, community government workers, church-based organisations, business representatives and NGOs from North, Central and South Bougainville.

VISION		
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT
Peace and reconciliation	Economic policy	Trunk (national) roads
Safety and security	Agriculture and cash crops	Feed roads and walking tracks
Education	Marine resources	Wharves and ramps/jetties
Health	Tourism	Airports and rural air strips
Youth, recreation and sport	Shipping	Electrification
Women and children	Land	Telecommunications and ICT
Lost generation	Minerals and energy	Water and sanitation
Veterans	SMEs and business skills	
Spirituality	Inwards investment	
Media, radio and television	Statutory bodies	
Environment & climate change	Taxation, grants and revenue	
Culture, identity, heritage		
GOVERNMENT FRAMEWORK		
Bougainville Peace Agreement	Community government	
Corruption and transparency	Public sector management	
Referendum	National government relations and functions	
Strategic planning	Partner relations	

## SUMMARY URGENT PRIORITY ACTIVITIES

### Peace and reconciliation

- Database: collect and document outstanding Conflict cases to ensure are resolved to restore unity, and that resolved cases are not resurrected.
- I n t r a - g o v e r n m e n t reconciliations: complete PNG reconciliations with Bougainville.
- Focus reconciliations: separate crisis-related cases that must be resolved from post crisis law and order issues
- Maintenance of peace: promote peaceful and harmonious society

### Safety and security

- Bougainville Police Service: improve security, safety and crime prevention through community policing. Ensure proper staffing and management, and support by the law and justice system: courts, corrections, probation and juvenile justice, community police and highway patrols.

### Education

- New Bougainville Education Plan completed
- Fees spent: Ensure Tuition Free Fees used properly

### Women and children

- Lukautim Pikinini: Drawdown Lukautim Pikinini Act 2014 powers and provide staff training
- Child protection: Strengthen child protection systems including training of volunteers.
- Women’s Advocacy: Strengthen women’s advocacy: support to BWF and women’s community groups, encourage and support leaders.

### Lost Generation

- Participation: ‘Lost generation’ given access to participate in the governance process and referendum, through a thorough understanding of the Peace Agreement.

### Veterans

- Veterans awareness that Bougainville conflict ended with the signing of BPA
- Ensure Veterans are recognised for their role in bringing political change.
- Ensure Veterans are reintegrated into society and are able to meaningfully participate in economic development, promoting rule of law

### Media, radio, television

- Encourage, facilitate and support use of internet, digital and wireless

technologies for awareness to schools and communities

- Government: Maintain a strong Directorate of Media and Communications.

### Environment and climate change

- Strengthen capacity of ABG to enforce environmental laws especially small and large scale mining
- Establish Office of Climate Change
- Mainstream Climate Change: Establish climate change and reliance projects across government

### Urbanisation

- Develop urbanisation policy to control urbanisation drift

### Economic Policy

- Enforcement: Ensure Department of Economic Development is resourced to implement and enforce economic development policies

### Agriculture

- Establish an Agriculture Commodity Board to control marketing and quality.
- Establish a Women in Agriculture Desk within the Department of Lands.

### Marine resources

- Complete the drawdown of marine and fisheries powers,

level for all tuna in PNG EEZ and representation at all fisheries talks, map applicable portion of EEZ.

### Tourism

- Communities engaged: Coordinate and liaise with communities, increasing community engagement and awareness on tourism

### Minerals and energy

- Safety: awareness to optimise safety of mining processes
- Implement awareness & controls on use of mercury.
- Panguna: Opening a mine at Panguna is a priority for the government. The mine holds the potential of large benefits for landowners and the people of Bougainville. Significant resources will be made available to removing the impediments to the re-opening and development of a successful mine.
- Exploration licenes: Acceptance of applications for exploration licences for tenements in Isina, Toremamu and Jaba
- Ensure licences issued through open, transparent process.
- Small-scale mining: small scalemining will beregulated under the community mining provisions of the law.
- Increased regulation. Priority to regulating use of mercury.
- Illegal miners: Illegal foreign miners removed from Bougainville and PNG.
- Environmental hazards: Regulate, monitor and mitigate all environmental and geological hazards, including those arising from use of mercury. People will be consulted and made aware of environmental issues and all hazards

### SMEs and business skills

- Develop policy to facilitate entrepreneur development through a mentoring program for small and medium enterprises

### Inward investment

- Promotion: Promote foreign direct investment and joint ventures as key driver for investment, trade, growth and prosperity under strict laws that are enforced; Build image of Bougainville as investment destination to attract foreign investment.

### Airports and airstrips

- Buka and Arawa airports

operational for public transport flights

- Arawa Air navigation: Enhanced navigation facilities at Aropa.

### Telecommunications and IT

- Work with service providers to ensure competitive reliable services, including facilitating access to land, resolving disputes.
- B Mobile partnership: ABG partnership with B Mobile to develop transmission network including owning the towers under a lease-back arrangements to B Mobile.

### Implementing the BPA

- Complete Second Joint Review of Autonomy Arrangements
- National Govt Service Delivery: Work with national government, its departments and NCOBA to improve services provided by those departments until functions can be established within the ABG.
- Cooperation with National MPs: Work closely with the four National Bougainville members of Parliament: leadership, political and development cooperation and coordination.
- Review JSB and meet regularly: Implement the agreement with the national government to jointly reform the Joint Supervisory Body (political leaders) and Joint Technical Team (senior government officials) and hold at least two JSB meetings a year.

### Corruption/transparency

- Departmental oversight: Strengthen core departments: President/ BEC, Finance/ Treasury, Personnel Management, Justice, Technical Services and Bougainville Tenders Board to provide contract monitoring and oversight of finances.
- Systems strengthened: Strengthen ABG systems and processes to comply with public finance and public service laws.
- Public Service practice and discipline:

Implement the ABG Public Service Regulations and General Orders and Code of Conduct and implement disciplinary procedures.

- Maintain and support a strong internal audit function.
- Contract management: Ensure professional assessment of contracts and tenders

### Referendum

- B o u g a i n v i l l e R e f e r e n d u m Commission (BRC): Ensure ABG Office of the Electoral Commissioner and National Electoral Commission establish the independent BRC to conduct the Bougainville Referendum.
- Resolve outstanding key issues including criteria for non-resident Bougainvilleans to participate and the referendum question(s).
- Ensure that ABG contribution to resource the (BRC) is made available. Provide technical support to the BRC through the BRC Secretariat on a secondment basis
- Ensure that Awareness is designed, disseminated and reviewed periodically including intra departmental and inter departmental communication.
- Enable Dept of Community Government to participate in delivery of consistent, reliable referendum messaging down to ward level.

### Public service

- Build the capacity of the Department of the President and BEC to monitor and report on the implementation of the Plan. Provide advice on major public policy initiatives.
- Support President: Support the President as the head of the ABG and the BEC. Provide advice on major public policy initiatives and support the President and the

BEC in coordinating, managing and delivering on programme expectations

- Right-sizing: Complete a right-sizing exercise for all departments, review proposed structures and undertake retirement and/or retrenchment of public servants who have reached mandatory retirement.
- Implement the agreed recommendations of the Organisational Capacity Assessments across eight departments/offices

### Taxation, grants and revenue

- National recurrent grant request to national government be prepared and submitted on the basis of providing functions. National Economic Fiscal Commission will be invited to update its costs of service calculations
- Collect revenues: All constitutionally mandated revenues and grants from the national government will be collected.
- Restoration and Development Grant: continue to explore legal avenues to reach a definitive interpretation of the provisions for the payment of RDG
- IRC and MVIL: improve collection of IRC administred tax, MVIL administered land transport
- Fisheries revenue: ensure NFA meets its obligations to share international fishing revenues. Clearly define the Bougainville portion of the EEZ
- Local taxes collected: strengthen Bougainville Tax Office so local taxes and levies are collected promptly with improved compliance with current laws - Sales tax, liquor licencing, ABG contractors c o m p l i a n c e w i t h income tax compliance

### Project management

- Reestablish PMU within Department of Technical Services
- A contractor adviser ( p r o f e s s i o n a l engineering firm) engaged to ensure PMU has the resources, support and skills to ensure all aspects of best practice project management, laws and guidelines are followed
- capacity of local contractors enhanced so that they can access contracts and comply with conditions

### National government relations

- ABG will maintain cordial and professional relations with PNG leadership and the public service. It will welcome visits by national government departments/agencies to Bougainville
- ABG will maintain an open and transparent c o m m u n i c a t i o n s approach and seek to ensure that there are ‘no surprises’.
- We will work with national government to ensure: the development of effective relations between Ministers and Departments Heads in both governments; support to national government departments/agencies to provide services

### Partner relations

- Three joint GoPNG/ ABG development partner meetings a year
- Open access and dialogue with our international partners: join our priority needs to the available partner support.
- Development partners will promptly respond to ABG requests for information and meetings. They will regularly report to the ABG on activities, outcomes, costings and impact
- Maintain strong relations with regional partners, in consultation with National Government.



# One Bougainville: Role of the Strategic Development Plan

**Statement by the  
Regional Member  
for Bougainville:  
The Hon. Joe  
Lera, MP**



With the recent release of the ABG Strategic Development Plan, it timely that as Regional Member, I make a few short remarks.

I want to talk about how the National Government and the ABG can work together to more effectively advance the interests of Bougainville by aligning efforts to the expressed needs of our people as stated in the Strategic Development Plan.

The Plan is a significant achievement. I want to place on record my admiration for the work of President Momis and his Government, for the leadership they have shown in drawing together this important foundational document. It marries up

government priorities with the expressed needs of our people.

The fact is that up until the finalization of this important Plan, those of us representing Bougainville in the National Parliament lacked a clear reference point on which to anchor our support.

The ABG Strategic Development Plan changes this.

As National Government Members of Parliament, my fellow representatives and I from North, Central and South Bougainville have an important role to play.

On the one hand, we are there to ensure that the interests and needs of the people of Bougainville have a voice in the National

Parliament. On the other hand, we are there to hold the National Parliament to account on the very clear obligations contained in the Bougainville Peace Agreement.

As Regional Member that has always been my mandate. I again commit to continue such work.

We are all Bougainvilleans, whether we are from the far reaches of the Atolls or the distant wards of the South. We all have an obligation to work together in the interests of Bougainville for a bright, successful and prosperous future.

This concept of "One Bougainville" is important to me as Regional Member. As we prepare for the referendum and continue on our journey to self-determination, we must create and enhance a sense of what it is and means to be Bougainvillean.

We must avoid the pitfalls of the past and resist the temptation to

regionalise. For it is a fact that for us to be strong and meet future challenges, we must be united.

There are too many lessons from elsewhere in the world for us not to heed this warning.

We must unite, embrace what we have in common and work together as one to return Bougainville to the shining jewel it once was in our beautiful Pacific region.

It is in this context that the ABG Strategic Development Plan has the opportunity to help all of us, National and ABG Members of Parliament alike, to work together for a common goal.

The Plan, which contains for the first time, a holistic and comprehensive list of actions, provides that common reference point.

Whether we seek to progress the development of critical infrastructure, advance economic development, build our social institutions or lay

the foundations for strong and effective government, the Plan outlines the steps that must be taken.

For my part, I commit today to working with my ABG counterparts to do what I can as the Regional Member for Bougainville to advance the expressed desires of our people as outlined in Plan. I also call on my fellow National Government Members of Parliament to do the same.

By working together as one, and using the road map we now have at our disposal, we have a unique opportunity to advance the interests of all Bougainvilleans. Let us not fail, and let us not let our people down. Let us restore Bougainville as a beacon of hope where all Bougainvilleans, young or old, can feel safe in the knowledge that Bougainville has a bright and prosperous future.

God bless you all, and may God bless Bougainville.

## The South experience

*Across the Buka passage, on a long and bumpy road, crossing fast running rivers and passing through the narrow feeder roads of remote villages, the Bougainville Bulletin newspaper travels far and wide to reach its audience, you the reader.*

It took a whole day to cover six villages in Buin district - but the reaction of people to getting the latest *Bougainville Bulletin* news - especially about referendum - makes it all worth while.

Located at the southern tip of mainland Bougainville and famous for its Buin anytime slang, the district is known to many as the 'cow boy' town. It only received the name 'lewa town' when the former Australian High Commission representative Tim Bryson opened newly sealed roads in Buin town last year.

Many remote villages are separated by rivers and mountains. In a slow moving car it took nearly one hour from one, while

another involved crossing nearly twenty rivers.

In the South, cocoa plantations dominate the spacious land and many of the schools are located deep in the jungles. Nevertheless, the ABG Media and Communications team did their best to distribute more than 10,000 copies of the ABG newspaper to Buin, Siwai and Bana districts.

The *Bougainville Bulletin* is the pride newspaper of the ABG. Funded by the governments of Australia, New Zealand, PNG and ABG, the Chief Secretary, Mr Joseph Nobetau, is tough about the paper representing the voice of Bougainville from the government to an ordinary person, and the editorial team knows it.



Youth at Piano, Buin District delighted to get their copies of the Bulletin

"It is my first time to see the *Bulletin*," many exclaimed upon receiving the paper, suggesting the new distribution strategy is getting right to the grassroots.

"When I see a picture of Buin town in the *Bulletin*, I know that the town is developing," said Augustine Tevoro, a local youth leader.

"Thankyu tru, nau mi ken kisim moa infomesen

blong gavman", is the most common response from people.

The *Bulletin* team has only eight days to distribute 30,000 copies to the south, central and north regions. While on the road traveling, stops are made to pass on the paper to eager readers. The papers were delivered at schools, clinics, markets and locations that gathered people for meetings.

This is the end of the

long process of gathering information, writing news and then liaising with Post Courier in Port Moresby for printing, and finally delivery.

The *Bulletin* is a bi-monthly newspaper, which is produced by limited staff, under the challenging circumstances of unreliable electricity. But because the staffs are passionate they get the job done. Enjoy your reading!

## Komuniti infomesen senta

Arawa Taun • Buka Taun • Buin Taun

Kommuniti infomesen senta long Buka emi bin kamap long yia 2016 wantaim bikpela tingting long kamap olsem hap we igat ol kain kain infomsen bilong gavman.

Long tok klia moa long dispela, ol infomesen senta emi kamap long givim isi eksen long olgeta man meri long go long em long kisim infomesen long ol kain samting olsem ol wok bilong gavman, ol wok bilong ol dipatmen na tu infomesen blong Bogenvil Pis Agrimen na Referendum.

Igat tripela komuniti infomesen senta insait long Bogenvil, wanpela

istap long Buka Taun, narapela long Arawa Taun na tu long Buin Taun.

Dispela ol senta oli gat samting yumi kolim long bilbod. Dispela bilbod o skrin emi save soim ol piksa long kain kain issue. Emi save soim tu ol awenes piksa bilong referendum.

Komuniti infomesen senta emi hap bilong olgeta man meri long kam long em na askim long wanem kain infomesen yu laikim.

Igat wok man bilong ABG Media na Komunikesen isave lukautim dispela senta na emi ken halivim yu long wanem samting yu laikim. Ol man meri imas fil



fri long kam insait long komuniti infomesen senta na kisim halivim na lainim moa long ol wok kamap insait long bogenvil. Komuniti infomesen senta em wanpela bilong ol komuniti awenes fesilitis UNDP ibin fundim insait long Bogenvil.



## Bougainville Way Essay Competition

Students, youth and adults are invited to enter the Great Bougainville Essay Competition

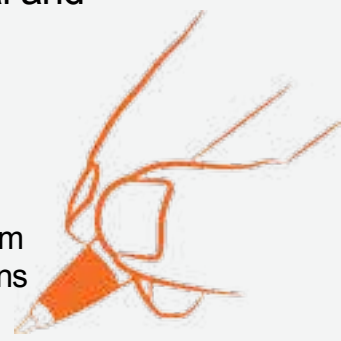
*Theme: What does the 'Bougainville Way' mean to me?*

How can we be One Bougainville? • What makes being Bougainville special and unique? • What unites us all? • What is the 'Bougainville Way'?

How to enter:

- Essays can be hand written or typed
- Any word length
- Poetry, song lyrics as well as essays are acceptable
- Entries must be received by **4pm, Monday 2 July 2018**
- Entries must have name, age and contact mobile phone number
- Categories: primary school, high school, over 18.

Director, Media and Communication  
**Office:** Airport, Buka  
**Email:** abgcommunications@gmail.com  
**Post:** ABG Media and Communications  
ABG, PO Box 322, Buka, ARoB  
**Facebook:** Autonomous Bougainville Government



Winners receive a FM/SW/AM solar light & wind up radio, and will be published in *Bougainville Bulletin*. An initiative of the ABG Directorate of Media and Communications.





# O'Neill/Momis referendum talks



*O'Neill: "I am pleased to announce that we have established a referendum transition committee that will manage the process and set out the questions to be asked at the referendum for the people of Bougainville."*

The Prime Minister and President have made progress on key issues concerning Bougainville and the Peace Agreement. At the Joint Supervisory Body meeting in Port Moresby, December 2017, the two leaders agreed on a resolution that progresses referendum preparations, as well as issues such as fisheries revenue, national grants owing to Bougainville and weapons disposal.

On behalf of the people of Bougainville, President Momis expressed deep gratitude to the Prime Minister and his government for the very constructive discussion and the resolutions reached. "The National Government must have greater visibility in Bougainville in terms of construction of programs and the priorities in Bougainville,"

Mr Momis said. "I'm happy to say that the Prime Minister and his team have come to some very important decisions which were not thought possible in the recent times. "More political dialogue from both sides, both governments is needed to support the peace process, which will be a world class achievement if we get it right," said Mr Momis.

Mr O'Neill said his government is supportive and will continue to manage the issues of Bougainville and will continue to allow the process of the draw down of powers to continue. "We have established a referendum transition committee that will manage the process and set out the questions that will be asked at the referendum for people of Bougainville to consider," he said.

"It is also important that the issue of the referendum question not only consider the people of Bougainville but the rest of PNG." "Greater understanding of the peace agreement signed 13 years ago is needed." "It is encouraging to know that the wider community of Bougainvillian community has taken ownership of the issue of weapons disposal plan going forward."

## Referendum Committee decides on voter registration

[Continued from page 1]

Bougainville Electoral Commissioner and Co-Chair of the Bougainville Referendum Commission Transitional Committee (BRCTC), George Manu, said the referendum voter roll update should begin in April and end by December this year.

There will then be a process of public scrutiny to ensure the roll is correct. The final referendum roll is expected to be complete by April 2019.

The Committee also approved the structure of the Bougainville Referendum Commission Secretariat. Recruitment will commence as soon as funding is made available.

The Department of Foreign Affairs has been tasked to formally distribute letters to the proposed international candidates to Chair the independent BRC. Meanwhile, the

**'A new voter registration exercise will go ahead across Bougainville and PNG.'**

Committee has noted the urgent need to progress discussions between both governments on the referendum questions to be put to voters, and the voter eligibility criteria for non-resident Bougainvillians.

Preparations for these two tasks are being supported by the ABG Department of Peace Agreement Implementation and will be the subject of discussion at the next Joint Supervisory Body meeting in May 2018.

### Referendum Plan: key points

1. Referendum voter roll update should begin in April and end by December 2018
2. **The 33 constituencies in Bougainville will be declared as 'voting districts'**
3. All provinces in PNG will also be declared as 'voting districts' to cater for Bougainvillians outside of Bougainville. BRC may further decide to have centres outside of PNG, but that will be done through consultations with PNG embassies internationally
4. **Polling duration will be two weeks**
5. Three counting centres: Buka, Arawa and Buin. Central Tally Room in Buka
6. **No postal voting because postal system is not reliable. If the BRC decides to have postal voting, that will be done only for Bougainvillians living overseas**
7. Temporary electoral workers will be mobilized to facilitate voting
8. **International support: Important because referendum concept is a new one for Bougainville, expertise from the international community is required.**

# Tanis: Bougainville wants a peaceful referendum outcome



James Tanis, Secretary Department of Peace Agreement Implementation

Secretary for Department of Peace Agreement Implementation, Mr James Tanis, says his Department wants Bougainville to take a different referendum road to avoid the conflict experience

of other countries going through referendum.

"There are many lessons to learn from independence referendums held around the world," Mr Tanis said.

"South Sudan, Timor Leste, the UK, and last year, Catalonia in Spain, have all gone through referendums and encountered problems afterwards. We want to avoid the same mistakes."

Mr Tanis made the comments opening a whole of government workshop that brought together departments of Community Government, Peace Agreement Implementation, Community Development,

Police, Parliament and the Directorate of Media and Communication to discuss referendum preparations.

"We would like to see the referendum not only conducted in a safe and peaceful way, but for peace to continue after the result of the referendum is known – the result must be accepted and respected by all," Mr Tanis said.

Mr Tanis said the Bougainville Peace Agreement, with its promise of referendum, marked the end of conflict in Bougainville.

"The Peace Agreement ended the war, the next step

is to support people with service delivery – that's what will make a difference to people's lives. Strong health, education and infrastructure services."

"At the end of the day we need strong, healthy people to assist in implementing our destiny."

"We want to be different: Timor Leste ended conflict with a referendum only to create a new conflict. South Sudan won independence, but then went to war with each other, Catalonia declared independence, but was internationally rejected, and now UK voted for Brexit but is still arguing how this

is to be done."

"Our strategy, the trident strategy, is preparing ourselves through weapons disposal, good governance and unification, preparing the national government with peaceful dialogue, and engaging with the international community to support the process.

Mr Tanis said the workshop was a strong signal that all arms of government and civil society must mobilise to prepare communities.

"We cannot just make announcements; we need to follow our words down to the community with action."

## Autonomy update

*The Directorate of Autonomy Implementation, Department of Peace Agreement Implementation, is responsible for drawing down powers and functions from the national government to the ABG as per the Peace Agreement.*

The implementation of the autonomy arrangements in Bougainville continues to progress well according to the Peace Agreement.

The core function of the Autonomy Directorate deals with the drawdown of powers and functions from the national government to the ABG.

The first notice for drawdown was issued in June 2016 when the ABG requested mining powers and functions from the national government.

There are now nine separate Memorandum of Understanding agreements between the nation government and the ABG.

This includes the recent Fisheries MoU between the National Fisheries Authority and the ABG signed in January this



Autonomy staff cross rivers to conduct Torokina district awareness, 2017.

year. Importantly, this recent signing marks the development of the Fisheries Revenue Benefit Sharing Formula set out in the Peace Agreement.

To date, there are a total of eight Bougainville laws passed by the Autonomous Bougainville Government House of Representatives. The most recent one was the *Community*

*Government Act 2016.*

Following the first Autonomy Review in 2013, it was found that the overall implementation of autonomy has been slow.

In a joint effort to fast-track this and the drawdown of powers and functions, an Overarching Memorandum of Understanding was established and signed in March 2017 (pictured). This sets out the roles of both governments in the drawdown process.

The Internal Affairs section is focused on the conduct of awareness on autonomy arrangements and links them to referendum preparations.

The most recent awareness outreach was in November 2017 in the remote areas of Torokina Constituency. A total of 13 villages



Joint Technical Working Group co-chairs Chief Secretary Joseph Nobetau and National Department of Personnel Management Secretary John Kali with signed resolutions for the Overarching MoU for the drawdown of powers and functions.

now have knowledge and understanding about the autonomy and referendum arrangements.

The next big activity is the Second Joint Review of the Autonomy Arrangements. This was one of the resolutions from the recent Joint Supervisory Body Meeting (JSB) in December 2017.

The JSB approved the Terms of Reference of the review and made a further decision to revise the proposed list of the Independent Panel of Experts to include nationals who have a greater understanding of the context of the Peace Agreement.

The Autonomy Directorate is also planning

two research projects. The first is 'Autonomy Implementation beyond the Referendum Vote'. This will look at socio-economic and political options that can be adopted by the ABG during the transition period regardless of the outcome of the referendum vote.

The second research titled '2018 PNG Education Reform Adaptability Test' will look at whether the recent PNG education reform is suitable for a post-conflict society such as Bougainville.

It is intended that the outcomes of these two research projects will serve as a basis for decision making by our leaders.



## War and peace



*Simon Pentanu, Speaker, Bougainville House of Representatives*

Anything war can do, peace can do better. There is no triumph in war. No victors. No winners. No joy. No glory.

Big and so called little wars are a menace to life on earth. They scorch the landscape, cause enormous damage to individuals and societies wherever and whenever they occur. They drench and gut humanity in irreparable ways. They leave untold mental and physical wounds that remain open and infected over generations.

Humans never seem to learn history's lessons about the terrors and untold

damage that come from fighting wars. The only lesson we seem to take away is, if another war has to be fought, it has to be fought harder, better, quicker and smarter. This lesson – which is no solution at all – feeds itself in never ending spirals that lead to more feuds, more fights, more wars. Examples of this are stark and real. They are dotted across every corner of the globe.

All wars do more harm than good. War is the most harmful and despicable form of terrorism against humanity. War even twists our language, as war mongers create euphemisms and meanings that suggest there are justifications for going to war and that friendly fire, collateral damage and injuries are par for the course, expected and normal.

The rules of engagement – yes, you must follow

‘Anything war can do, peace can do better’

the war rules – favour the wealthy and strong, and disadvantage the meek and weak. Guerrilla warfare tactics have emerged to counteract this disparity. The Viet Cong were a guerrilla outfit in Vietnam. The BRA was a guerrilla outfit here in Bougainville. Fidel Castro started out in his military fatigues thinking, employing and deploying guerrilla tactics. Comrade Mugabe, who recently reluctantly resigned as President of Zimbabwe, was still baffling the world with bellicose rhetoric as if he was still in the same guerrilla resistance he led against his one-time Rhodesian enemies.

Latter day religious

fundamentalists also drill themselves into a similar state of combative and defensive preparedness laced with religious fervour to fight their enemies.

All wars – conventional, non-conventional or guerrilla – leave disastrous effects and consequences. PNG and its one time province – now the Autonomous Region of Bougainville – are still reeling from a civil war in peace time. Let us not call the Bougainville crisis just a conflict. Both sides lost lives. Bougainville lost 20,000 or more people.

There is a very good reason why the Bougainville peace process must succeed. The Bougainville Peace Agreement is a joint creation between PNG and like-minded leaders of Bougainville. The PNG Government and the Autonomous Bougainville Government are beholden to

the BPA and committed to its success. We owe it to our future generations to make it succeed.

The Bougainville referendum is as much about sustainable peace as it is about the people's political choice. Whatever the outcome it is also about a peaceful coexistence and respecting that choice.

Our parliaments - the PNG National Parliament and the Bougainville House of Representatives - must bear witness and exercise the ultimate call to commit to a lasting peace, by their deeds and actions, in the spirit of the Peace Agreement.

We have an opportunity to show the world how difficult issues can be resolved – fully, successfully and locally. This would provide a stark contrast to the numerous international examples where similar opportunities have been squandered.

## Bougainville ready to complete its journey

Statement following the Joint Supervisory Body (JSB) meeting between the ABG and the National Government in Port Moresby last year.

This JSB meeting was long overdue but finally we were able to meet and discuss important issues associated with the implementation of the Peace Agreement and referendum preparations and Bougainville's political future.

The ABG and National Government, through this joint dialogue, agreed on a number of critical issues.

First was an agreement that both governments have a joint responsibility to progress work to ensure we achieve the target referendum date of 15 June 2019.

We agreed that there is an urgent need for the Bougainville Referendum Commission (BRC) to be the key body responsible for the conduct of referendum, and agreed to appoint an independent chairperson from the international community to lead it.

It is essential that the ABG and the National Government appoint commissioners to the BRC without delay. The Bougainville Executive Council has agreed to appoint Mr Patrick Nisira and Ms Ruby Miringka as two worthy candidates to represent Bougainville. The National Government has agreed to formalise their appointments by 9 February 2018.

These decisions are very practical actions that will allow the BRC to commence the important work of preparing for referendum.



*Chief Dr John Momis President*

Our two governments have also agreed that a trust account be established by the ABG to which funds for the BRC will be held. The two respective Electoral Commissioners will be joint signatories to the account.

“We also agreed that urgent consultations with the United Nations to secure a new package of support for the BRC and referendum process should proceed without delay. This practical technical

support will ensure that the BRC is well placed to conduct the referendum.

The JSB also agreed to progress important work to finalise the question to be put to the people of Bougainville at the referendum. It has been agreed that the question must be consistent with the Peace Agreement - it must be simple and clear and include separate independence for Bougainville.

The JSB noted the need for careful consultation in relation to the eligibility criteria that should apply for non-resident Bougainvilleans and the development of a common roll.

This work will be led by a joint team of technical officials.

An invitation for the international community to observe every part of the

referendum process will be extended to key institutions and governments.

The issue of weapons disposal was also discussed in detail. The JSB endorsed a four phase weapons disposal plan and the need for continued technical and financial support.

The reality is that if we are to achieve peace by peaceful means, we must do everything we can to ensure that the referendum is conducted without fear of violence. Continued efforts to dispose of weapons will ensure that this is the case.

The JSB has agreed on a terms of reference for this second joint review of autonomy arrangements to be conducted early this year. The learnings from the review, which will involve a panel of experts, will be critical as Bougainville moves towards the referendum.

## Community Governments ready to support referendum

Community governments have been called upon to support Bougainville's 'referendum ready movement'.

Department of Community Government Director, Ms Donna Pearson, briefed Members of the Bougainville House of Representatives in March.

Ms Pearson said Community Government leaders would be trained to undertake two Ward surveys using a common checklist.

The checklist will assess weapons-disposal,

outstanding reconciliations and any other issues preventing a free and fair referendum. The survey will provide a consistent approach to constituencies declaring themselves Referendum Ready.

“Ward Recorders are already in place, as well as the Community Governments,” Ms Pearson said.

“We call upon all Bougainville and our leaders to support this process.”

The surveys will be undertaken in April with a follow-up survey in



*Community Government Workshop in Tsiroge*

October.

A whole of government working group of eight departments will review Ward reports and recommend and coordinate steps to support communities with any challenges they face to getting themselves referendum ready.

Chairman of the

Parliamentary Committee for Referendum, Joseph Watawi, gave the approach his blessing.

“The Community Government survey plan supports to the Parliament decision to have all constituencies referendum ready by 31 December 2018,” said Mr Watawi.

“The Referendum

Ready Working Group is a whole of government response to support communities play a role in the referendum - to get themselves referendum ready.”

The group reports to the Minister of Peace Agreement Implementation.

## Ward Steering Committees to be established for Community Governments

*The Department of the Community Government conducted a one-week workshop to establish Ward Steering Committees, financial processes and referendum readiness for Community Governments.*

A total of 82 Community Government officers have been inducted into the planning, operational and financial procedures of Community Government.

The workshop targeted the establishment of Ward Steering Committees, the financial processes and referendum readiness activities.

Director of the Department of Community Government Ms Donna Pearson said that the weeklong workshop was to be aware of the changes in the Community Government, financial

processes, as well as referendum readiness planning.

She said that with the training under way, Community Governments throughout Bougainville should now be able to establish their Ward Steering Committees.

Participants were required to complete the establishments of structures at the ward level which are critical to the 2018 bottom-up planning process.

“We see a critical need to make sure officers understand specific operational and

administrative processes for Community Government for 2018 activities,” Ms Pearson said.

Participants included 43 Community Government Administration Officers, 13 District Executive Managers who are also Acting Community Government Managers, a further ten people currently Acting as Community Government Managers, and another 16 participants were from the the ABG.

Participants were provided with the *Community Government Act 2016*, printed with support from

‘Community Governments throughout Bougainville should now be able to establish their Ward Steering Committees.’

Donna Pearson

UN Women.

Participants were also briefed by, Adrianna Schmidt, Acting Director for the ABG Directorate of Media and

Communications.

Ms Schmidt trained officials in writing news stories, skills which the officers can use to better communicate and disseminate information efficiently to their wards and back to the ABG.

The participants thanked the Department for their informative presentations and looked forward to improving and implementing their 2018 work plans in preparation for the referendum in 2019. The workshop was supported by UN Women.



# South Sudan peace-builder shares referendum experience

A chief of South Sudan's independence shares his experience of referendum with Bougainville leaders.

Bougainville has been urged by South Sudan peace-builder, Dr Luka Kuol, to remain committed to the Peace Agreement to ensure the referendum is an internationally credible process.

“Don’t miss the opportunity of unity after the referendum.”

Dr Kuol was former Minister for Presidential Affairs, Government of South Sudan, which gained independence in 2011 but quickly fell into violent conflict.

Dr Kuol has visited Bougainville twice with the support of the United Kingdom and Conciliation Resources International.

“Bougainville is unique, and therefore needs homegrown solutions, but I am here to share South Sudan’s experience so that the Bougainville experience can be better,” Dr Kuol said.

Dr Kuol emphasised the need to prioritise bringing people together, to make people confident to disarm and unify behind the post-



Dr Luka Kuol briefing Bougainville leaders

referendum outcome.

“Bougainville must make sure it takes each step alongside the national government as well as maintain strong linkages to the international community.”

Minister for Peace Agreement Implementation, Albert Punghau, welcomed Dr

Kuol’s visit to Bougainville as a brother.

“We must learn from the lessons of others,” Mr Punghau said.

“Even though referendum is a new concept for Papua New Guinea and Bougainville, we can draw upon our internal cultural values to prepare ourselves.

“People with direct experience like Dr Kuol can assist us to create a referendum that is credible, a referendum that can sustain long lasting peace and put an end to conflict once and for all.”

“We must not pre-empt the outcome, but we must prepare ourselves to be referendum ready – this means being peaceful, unified, weapons-free and continuing to deliver the government services people need.

“Whichever way the cookie crumbles, the democratic process needs to take place and we must be prepared to accept the will of the people when they cast their vote.”

Dr Kuol emphasised six lessons from South Sudan:

1. Unification
2. Leadership
3. Awareness
4. Expectations
5. Inter-government dialogue
6. An economic plan

“After we received our independence, there was

no common enemy and we quickly fell into factions and disunity,” Dr Kuol said.

He said while leadership is important, people cannot expect leaders to be responsible for everything.

“Leadership can’t solve all problems, more important is institutional leadership, because focusing on one person is very fragile,” he cautioned.

Dr Kuol said good awareness was important to inform people about what expectations they should have after the referendum.

“In South Sudan, all the awareness was about the referendum – but not what the referendum meant or a vision and economic plan for what South Sudan would look like after independence.”

“People need to be engaged and there should be a safe space for discussion and dialogue at the community level and also with the national government about these issues.”

# Haku leaders reconcile



More than 300 community leaders in Haku Constituency gathered on Friday 26 January to witness and be part of a major reconciliation ceremony.

The reconciliation was organized jointly by the Member for Haku Honorable Robert Tulsa Chika and the Haku Community Government. It is the first reconciliations to be held as part of the constituency’s referendum-ready activities.

Honorable Tulsa

explained that this reconciliation is the first stage where leaders from different sectors of the community such as women, church, youth and traditional chiefs were called together to reconcile in the true spirit of peace.

“The organizing committee is also planning a mass reconciliation that is set to take place in April this year,” My Tulsa said.

Prominent clan leader Michael Poposan in his speech at the reconciliation ceremony

said that even though there have been so many reconciliations in the past, most people still do not know the true meaning of reconciliation and peace within themselves.

“To truly have peace, everyone must first go through a process of healing, in their mind and in their heart, their immediate family, communities and then Bougainville as a whole,” Mr Poposan said.

“It is only then that those that are reconciling with each other today will

experience and feel real reconciliation.”

The Haku Constituency has a high population of over eight thousand people, therefore it is foreseen that the mass reconciliation being planned for April may take over three days to complete.

This proposed mass reconciliation will involve about 72 clan chieftain leaders who will then prepare their clans. It is estimated that more than 100 pigs will be slaughtered during the mass reconciliation

as a bond to uphold the reconciliation and referendum ready preparation.

Meanwhile, the Haku Community Government, in consultation with the Constituency Member, have approved an additional ward to be included in their current ward system to be called Ward 13.

The composition of Ward 13 will be represented by the Haku Community living in Buka Town, Kokopau, Hutjena and Sohano respectively.

# Returning the spirits, returning peace



Monument to the missing

The community of Sipotavai, Tinputz, has erected a monument for those still missing from the conflict – the first of its kind in Bougainville.

Sipotavai community planned the ceremony and monument to be in line with local traditions over several meetings.

Sipotavai exists in a highly spiritual area in which the monument would allow for the spirits of the missing to return in peace to the land of their ancestors.

Linus Saram, head of the monument committee, said they wanted to move forward with their lives, but only after dealing appropriately with the issue of the missing. Following a local motto ‘to not leave any Bougainvillian out, dead or alive’, they opted for the monument with the sole

intention to address the issue without discrimination.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) supported the process. Representative Umar Khan said the monument helps bring an end to decades of suffering and trauma for the families of the 24 people missing.

Mr Maitu is one such affected family member. His brother disappeared early in the conflict.

For the unveiling ceremony, he walked 18kms in heavy rain.

“The monument allows my brother’s spirit to finally be at peace, with a resting place.”

For Suzzane, whose



12 year old son went missing, the monument brought mixed feelings. For two decades she has hoped he would return.

The monument now brings closure for Suzanne, yet also great sadness - it confirms her son will never return.



Coordination: Chief Secretary Joseph Nobetau chairs development partners meeting

# Development partners meet ABG

Chief Secretary Joseph Nobetau hosted a meeting of Bougainville Development Partners in Buka, 22 March.

Representatives from United Nations agencies, the European Union, Australia and New Zealand attended the meeting which was formally opened by President Chief Dr John Momis.

President Momis emphasised the importance of

cooperation, noting the significant support provided by donors over many years.

Chief Secretary Nobetau provided an overview of the ABG Strategic Development Plan. The Plan sets out the key development priorities for Bougainville over the coming five years.

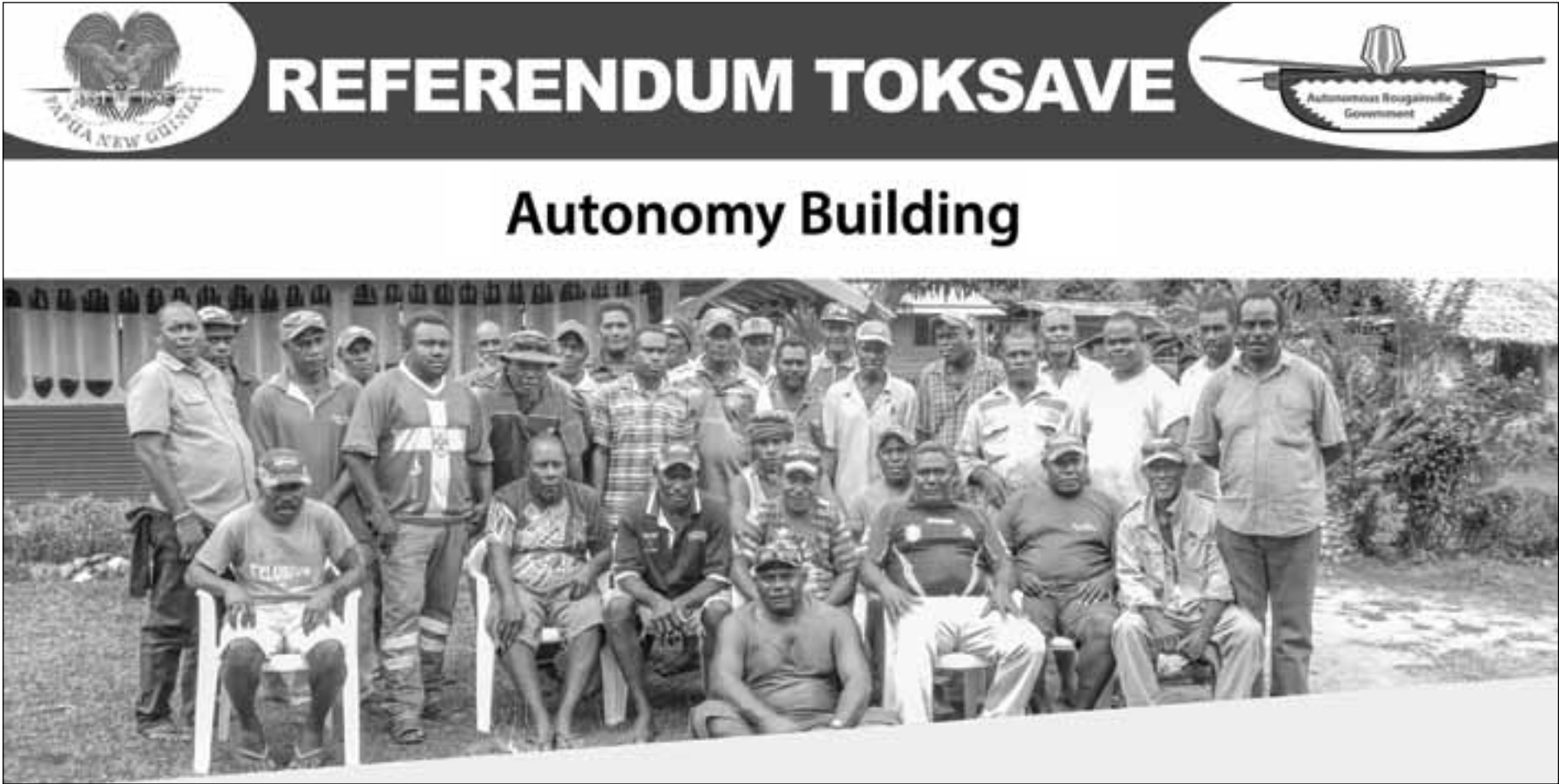
“Implementing the Strategic Development Plan will require the support of our development partners,

and in doing so, there will need to be coordination, harmonisation and regionalisation of support,” Mr Nobetau said.

Development partners also presented overviews of their current work programs. The group will meet again to talk further about how initiatives can be more closely aligned to support Strategic Development Plan objectives.



A message from  
**Bougainville Veterans**



“Mipela laik tok aut - sapotim na strongim wok gavman long kamapim wok bung namel long ol pipol na gutpela sindaun bilong bihain taim.”

1. The Autonomous Bougainville Government is our only legitimate government as it is led by democratically elected leaders and it is internationally recognised as Bougainville’s transitional government to a future political order that will be determined through a democratic, free and fair referendum.

2. Bougainvilleans were given the freedom to choose structures for an Autonomous Bougainville Government that enabled Bougainville to become a nation within the independent sovereign nation of Papua New Guinea

3. The Autonomous Bougainville Government is founded on a home-grown Bougainville Constitution on the basis of guarantees contained in PNG National Constitution that;

a) Facilitates the expression and development of Bougainville identity and relationship between Bougainville and the rest of PNG.

b) Empowers Bougainvilleans to solve our own problems, manage our own affairs and work towards the full realisation of our aspirations and ultimate vision of our right for self-determination.

c) Is the supreme law as regards matters that fall within Bougainville jurisdiction as almost all government powers and resources will be available as needed to shape Bougainville according to Bougainville priorities as evident with the three arms of the Bougainville Government: the Legislative, the Executive and the Judiciary.

4. We, the Former Combatants, including the Me’ekamui Factions, are now united under the Autonomous Bougainville Government and reaffirm our commitment for undivided support to ensure that Bougainvilleans are peacefully unified and participate inclusively to achieve our ultimate vision.

5. We whole-heartedly accept and apologise for our past aggressions, abuses, intimidations, harassments, brutalities, genocides and all other forms of violence and discomfort that we caused and humbly plea for pardon and amnesty from fellow-Bougainvilleans.

6. We invite all fellow-Bougainvilleans to join us to support and strengthen autonomy building for one Bougainville identity and vision.
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- # JSB supports joint weapons disposal plan
- [Continued from page 1]
- The December 2017 Joint Supervisory Body (JSB) has endorsed K12 million to support the Bougainville Weapons Disposal and Rehabilitation Plan of Former Combatants including members of the Me’ekamui factions.

Acting Director for Veterans Affairs and Weapons Disposal, Mr Dennis Kuiai thanked both governments for their decision and appealed to former combatants including Me’ekamui factions to support the Veterans Affairs Office and make sure that funds are spent well for positive outcomes for Bougainville and a weapons-free referendum.

“I urge all former combatants including Me’ekamui to support the Veterans Affairs Office to ensure funds are spent according to the endorsed Weapons Disposal and Rehabilitation Plan.

I am confident that the staged outcome-based spending will give confidence to us to access to more funding from both governments and the donor community,” said Mr Kuiai.

According Plan, K4 million is earmarked for weapons disposal activities, K7 million for veterans rehabilitation and reintegration, and K1 million for capacity building and logistics support.

In approving and endorsing the Plan, the JSB recommended the establishment of a Joint Trust Account to ensure the fund is well managed and used for weapons disposal and veterans’ rehabilitation activities only.

The funds will be released as follows: K6.9 million for 2018, K2.7 million for 2019 and 2.4 million for 2020. This will be done in accordance with the Public Finance Management procedures. The planned Former Combatants Unification Summit will now go ahead as part of the Plan’s implementation.
- 
- The recent JSB meeting in December in Port Moresby.
- ## Bougainville Former Combatants to host Unification Summit
- [From page 1]
- The planned Former Combatants Unification Summit that was to be held last year has been rescheduled for the second quarter of 2018.

ABG Veterans acting Director Dennis Kuiai described the summit as a priority activity to reach weapons disposal and sustaining the former combatants and Me’ekamui support for the referendum process.

The summit is the necessary step before implementation of the Weapons Disposal and Veterans Rehabilitation Plan, agreed to by both ABG and National Government.

There will be three separate summits held for North, South and concluding with Central Bougainville.

The theme of the summit will be “Continuing the service of moulding one Bougainville Identity and one Bougainville Vision”.

“Important decisions must be made on the final fate of Weapons Disposal (destruction, monuments, museum, etc.), veterans rehabilitation and reintegration activities, future of Veterans Affairs political representation, unification and participation in the Bougainville referendum process,” Mr Kuiai said

“A significant aspect of these summits will be the regional undertakings. These will be made where North Bougainville is to be declared weapons free no later than 31 July 2018; South Bougainville to be declared weapons free no later than 9 September 2018 and Central Bougainville to be declared Weapons free no later than 31 December 2018.”

Mr Kuiai thanked the former combatants including the Me’ekamui Factions for their patience and tolerance and further assured them that the summit is the preliminary phase of the Weapons Disposal and Veterans Rehabilitation Plan and has to be held prior to the actual implementation of the plan.





# Plan to revive the Autonomous Bougainville Games

*The Autonomous Bougainville Sports Foundation has plans to revive the spirit of the Autonomous Bougainville Games as one of the major sports in its calendar event this year.*

General Secretary of the Autonomous Bougainville Sports Foundation, Mr Robert Semoso, says they have proposed that the Autonomous Bougainville Games be set as one of the Major Sports Calendar Event for 2018.

He said the Foundation is now pushing for funding to support the proposal.

Mr Semoso said the Games would set the ground to identify elite athletes for selections towards the makeup of

Team Bougainville for the the 2019 Pacific Games in Samoa and the 8th PNG National Games in Southern Highlands in 2020.

"Discussions are being undertaken regarding Team Bougainville attending the prestigious Pacific Games on its own accord, and not part of Team PNG, he said.

"We have not had the ABG Games since 2010 when it was last held at Buin, he added.

"I am requesting recommendations on the location and the

theme towards attaining affirmatively wide-ranging development issues aims."

Mr Semoso said that another major sporting event this year they would like to hold is a classic Bougainville Cross Country Marathon Relay Contest. The race would start from Haku (Kessa) along the length of Buka and then Bougainville Islands to Buin, through Siwai, Bana, Paguna and ending at Arawa.

"The Cross Country Marathon Relay would involve mass participation

by our 13 Districts targeting about 200 athletes from each region."

"Jointly, the 2600 runners will take turns meticulously running every distance while passing their Batons of Unity to each other until they reach the finishing line."

"The Marathon Relay aims to replicate Bougainville's difficult, forbidding and challenging journey since the Crisis with the aim of highlighting Unity, Peace, Harmony and Stability as the crucial

factor to reaching our final destination of wellbeing."

"I am also working on bringing together an archetype Bougainville Semiprofessional Boxing Contest this year as a pathway to advancement for our boxers after stints at the PNG Games and National Tournaments."

The Autonomous Bougainville Sports Foundation (ABSF) is a non-government organization that is in partnership with the Department of Community Development.

## *Bougainville Way Essay Competition*

Students, youth and adults are invited to enter the Great Bougainville Essay Competition

*Theme: What does the 'Bougainville Way' mean to me?*

How can we be One Bougainville? • What makes being Bougainville special and unique? • What unites us all? • What is the 'Bougainville Way'?

### How to enter:

- Essays can be hand written or typed
- Any word length
- Poetry, song lyrics as well as essays are acceptable
- Entries must be received by **4pm, Monday 2 July 2018**
- Entries must have name, age and contact mobile phone number
- Categories: primary school, high school, over 18.

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**Facebook:** Autonomous Bougainville Government



Winners receive a FM/SW/AM solar light & wind up radio, and will be published in *Bougainville Bulletin*  
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*FM/SW/AM solar light & wind up radio*