



THE BOUGAINVILLE BULLETIN

Our voice, Our image, Our place

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BHOR converts to Bougainville Constituent Assembly

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Bougainville Land Laws passed

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Bougainville hosts first ever Development Cooperation Conference

The Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) successfully hosted the first-ever Bougainville Development Cooperation Conference from 2nd to 3rd July 2025 at the Hilton Hotel in Port Moresby.

The Conference brought together national leaders, development partners, and representatives from the international community to discuss effective strategies for aligning Bougainville's development priorities with those of its partners.

President of Bougainville, His Excellency Ishmael Toroama, emphasized during the Conference that development cooperation in Bougainville must be strategic, inclusive, and focused on long-term sustainability for the people of Bougainville.

"Development cooperation must be strategic, inclusive, and focused on long-term sustainability for our people. This Conference has provided a platform to better align our priorities with those of our partners and deliver meaningful outcomes that reflect Bougainville's vision for the future," President Toroama said. He noted that, unlike the rest of Papua New Guinea, Bougainville continues to rebuild from the destruction of the ten-year conflict, which left much of the region's infrastructure, institutions, and economy in



ruin. "The ten-year conflict saw the complete destruction of our infrastructure, institutions, and economy. It is important that international support from development partners and the Government of Papua New Guinea recognizes and reflects Bougainville's distinct needs, moving beyond conventional aid toward targeted reconstruction and high-impact investments," he stated. President Toroama added that the Conference served as an

opportunity to reflect on what had worked, what needed improvement, and how genuine partnerships could be built to empower Bougainville's development agenda. Held under the theme "Enhanced Collaboration Between the Government of Papua New Guinea, Autonomous Bougainville Government and Development Partners for Effective Development Cooperation That Maximizes Impact and Aligns with Bougainville's Priorities,"

the two-day event featured panel discussions involving development partners, heads of missions, Bougainville Government officials, and representatives from the National Government. The Conference was coordinated with the full support of the Bougainville Executive Council and the Government of Papua New Guinea, in line with the provisions of the PNG Constitution that guide foreign aid consultation processes for Bougainville.



Our voice, Our image, Our place

Editor's Desk

Hello readers!

Welcome to another edition of the Bougainville Bulletin.

This Edition showcases the progressive milestones and achievements that continue to shape Bougainville's steady transition toward political independence and sustainable development.

Under the leadership of President Toroama, he led a team to meet with the United Nations Secretary-General in September reaffirming Bougainville's respect for international law and its commitment to democratic principles.

His appeal for international recognition of the Bougainville people's 97.7 percent vote for independence highlights Bougainville's resolve to achieve a peaceful and legitimate political settlement with Papua New Guinea.

Equally important are the significant policy and legislative developments shaping Bougainville's governance and economy. The passage of the Bougainville Mining (Gold Production Levy Amendment) Act 2025 marks a critical reform. Similarly, the endorsement of the 20-year Bougainville Transport Master Plan sets a clear roadmap for long-term infrastructure development, improving connectivity and access across Bougainville.

The inaugural Bougainville Development Cooperation Conference held in Port Moresby brought together national leaders and development partners to align support with Bougainville's own priorities. The outcomes of this conference opens a new era of collaboration and shared responsibility in delivering sustainable development and growth for our people.

This edition further highlights progress in public sector reforms and essential service delivery, including its social and environmental achievements, such as the launch of the Green-Blue Economy Policy and the induction of Bougainville's first Digital Transformation Officers — clear indicators that Bougainville is investing in modern and sustainable governance and growth.

As Bougainville continues to take strong steps toward independence, the Bougainville Bulletin remains your trusted platform to share these stories of progress and purpose.

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.

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President Toroama appeals for UN support in talks with UN Secretary General

President of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, His Excellency Ishmael Toroama reaffirmed Bougainville's unwavering commitment to peace, democracy, and the rule of law in his bilateral meeting with United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres in September.

In his address, President Toroama called on the United Nations and the international community to recognize and uphold the democratic choice of the Bougainville people, who voted overwhelmingly – 97.7 percent – for independence in the 2019 Referendum.

“Mr. Secretary General, I would like to assure you that Bougainville

respects the democratic principles and human rights and fundamental freedoms as laid down in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and as given expression in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other international human rights instruments embedded in International Law,” President Toroama said.

He emphasized that PNG became a state party to the provisions of the treaties, under international law and “is therefore obliged to accept, respect and endorse the binding Bougainville referendum result for independence”.

President Toroama highlighted that

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ABG passes Bougainville Mining (Gold Production Levy Amendment) Act 2025

The Bougainville House of Representatives passed the Bougainville Mining (Gold Production Levy Amendment) Act 2025, in its July parliament session.

The new law amends specific provisions of the *Bougainville Mining Act 2015* to provide a clear legal framework for the imposition, collection, and administration of a Gold Production Levy on gold mined in Bougainville—whether or not the gold is processed within the region.

President Toroama when presenting the Bill to Parliament as Minister for Mining, described it as a practical reform that secures a fairer share of Bougainville's natural resources wealth for its people.

“The changes are technical in nature, but their effect is significant. They will improve compliance, increase transparency and help ensure that the benefits of gold production in Bougainville flow more directly to contribute to internal revenue for the ABG,” President Toroama stated.

The amendment introduces two different rates for the gold levy. A ten percent levy being applicable to gold other than that produced by an ABG approved refinery facility, and a five percent levy being applicable on gold produced by an ABG approved refinery facility.

The amendment Act makes the following key seven changes:

1) it introduces clearer reporting obligations for licensed gold dealers, including the requirement to record the date and amount of each payment of a gold production levy by the dealer in dealings register against the record of the purchase or sale of the gold.

2) It imposes a ten percent levy on gold mined in Bougainville, other than gold produced by an ABG approved refinery, which is at a lower rate of five percent,

for reasons to provide a competitive edge to the ABG refinery facility.

3) It provides for the gold production levy to be paid to the Bougainville Chief Collector of Taxes and into the Bougainville Consolidated Revenue Fund, before the gold is transported out of Bougainville.

4) it clarifies the allocation formula, so that a defined percentage of collected levy revenue is transferred directly into the Bougainville Consolidated Revenue Fund, to contribute to Bougainville's internally generated revenue.

5) it empowers the Secretary for Mining and Petroleum to approve an ABG Gold Refinery facility by notice in the Bougainville Gazette, to which a reduced production levy of five percent can be applied.

6) it provides for offences and administrative penalties if the gold production levy is not paid.

7) it empowers the Bougainville Chief Collector of Taxes to issue compliance notices and where necessary, apply administrative penalties for late or false reporting and for failure to pay the gold production levy.

This amendment Act further strengthens existing unauthorised mining provisions of the Bougainville Mining Act 2015, wherein unauthorised equipment and unauthorised minerals like gold are liable for confiscation and forfeiture to the government; with the administration currently developing regulatory mechanisms for effective implementation of the unauthorised mining provisions of the Act, including effective collection of the gold levy.

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the definition of independence that was on the referendum ballot paper, was provided by the National Government.

“PNG was in effect, foreshadowing Bougainville's Independence with the

definition which essentially articulated for Bougainville to be a separate independent state, separate from PNG.”

“PNG is bound by its own consent to be a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other international human rights instruments embedded in International Law thus having a duty to adhere to the provisions of these treaties.”

President Toroama also acknowledged the UN Peacebuilding Fund's (UNPBF) role

in enabling the successful referendum and called for its continued support as Bougainville transitions into independence.

The President also highlighted the Melanesian Agreement, signed with Prime Minister James Marape in June 2025, which provides a framework for ratification of the Referendum result and outlines awareness programs for both the National Parliament and the people of Papua New Guinea and Bougainville.

President Toroama also presented a copy of The Bougainville Memoir to the Secretary General at the conclusion of their discussions.

Secretary-General António Guterres appreciated receiving a copy of the Bougainville Memoir, saying, despite the brief meeting, the memoir would help give insight to Bougainville's aspiration for independence.





OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SECRETARY

MR KEARNNETH NANEI

Hello readers

While political milestones are important, the everyday work of building a nation happens on the ground—through better services, stronger infrastructure, and opportunities for our people. In recent months, the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) has made significant progress in delivering tangible development across Bougainville. Let me share with you some of these key achievements.

30-year Transport Master Plan: The Bougainville Executive Council has approved a 30-year Bougainville Transport Master Plan. This plan sets out a vision for the next three decades, with clear 10-year phases for development in roads, airports, and sea transport.

Already, we have seen important progress. The redevelopment of Aropa Airport was officially launched this year by the Prime Minister and the President. Once completed, this will allow us to discuss reopening the airspace between Bougainville and Solomon Islands—a move that would expand trade, travel, and cultural exchange.

At the same time, discussions are ongoing for upgrades to Buka Airport, including runway extensions and improved facilities. In the rural areas, ABG has entered into partnership with

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) to service rural airstrips.

Power remains one of Bougainville's biggest challenges, but it is also one of our top priorities. We are investing in renewable solutions to increase supply. Solar farms are being developed in Buka and Toniva, while a 1MW solar project in Buin is on track for completion later this year.

In addition, the Bougainville Power and Water Corporation (BPWC) has been established as ABG's public utility. By the end of this year, BPWC will take full responsibility for generating, distributing, and retailing power in South Bougainville. This will later expand across the region under its Rural Electrification Program. The aim is simple: to ensure reliable, sustainable, and affordable power for our people.

Through the Anchoring Bougainville Program, ABG has signed an MoA with the Investment Promotion Authority to create a Bougainville Business Registry. Once in place, all businesses operating in Bougainville will register here, and their taxes will be paid directly to the Bougainville Taxation Office. This will keep revenue in Bougainville and strengthen our financial independence.

At the same time, the ABG has issued four

exploration licenses under the Bougainville Mining Act, including one to Bougainville Copper Limited (BCL). In June this year, the National Government transferred its 36.4% shares in BCL to the ABG, making BCL a Bougainville-owned company. Our expectation is that BCL will announce a joint venture partner before the end of the year to assist with redeveloping Panguna mine.

Improving Services for Our People **On the health front, major projects are underway:**

- **The Level 4 Hospital in Buin and the Level 3 Hospital in Soroken are under construction.**

- **The Arawa Referral Hospital is in the design stage, with plans to move forward once completed.**

- **K20 million has been allocated for upgrades to Buka Hospital, with technical teams working on designs and assessments.**

Alongside health facilities, feeder roads are being upgraded across the region, rural electrification projects are expanding in North Bougainville (Halia and Haku), and new power surveys have been completed for Gagan in Peit Constituency.

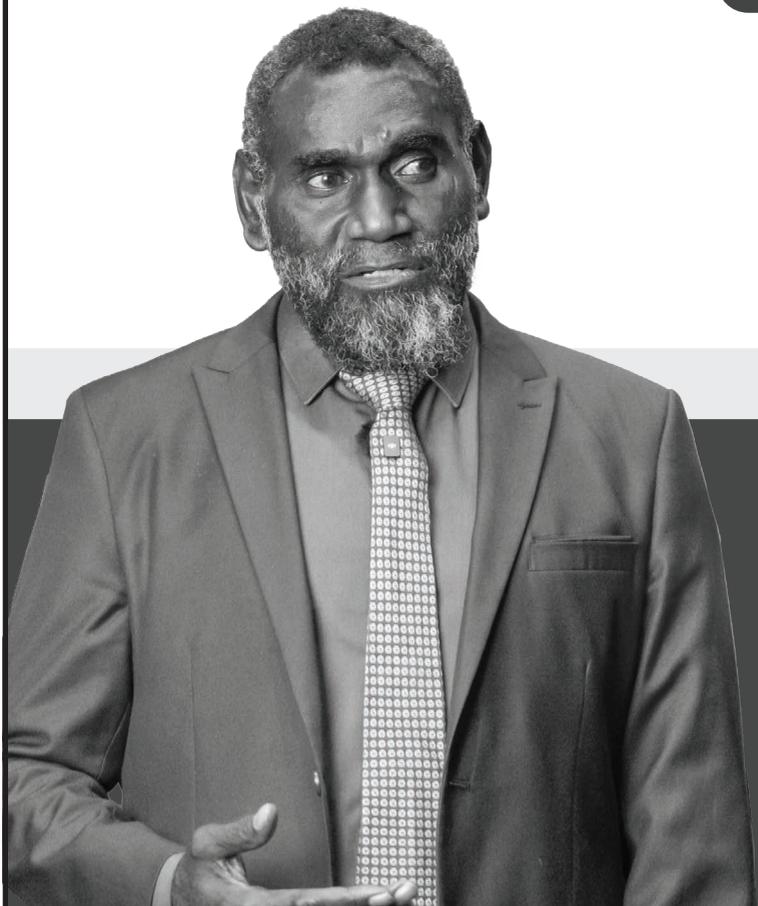
All of these projects—whether in transport, energy, economy, or health—are not just about infrastructure. They are about laying the foundation of a new Bougainville, one that is ready to stand on its own as an independent nation.

Let me also share that in July this year, Bougainville hosted the first-ever Bougainville Development Cooperation Conference. This event brought together our development partners, the Government of PNG, and the ABG to align donor efforts with Bougainville's own priorities for reconstruction and development.

For too long, external partners have worked independently across Bougainville. This conference was about unity—ensuring that all partners work within ABG's priorities and contribute directly to our development agenda. It was a proud moment to see Bougainville take the lead in shaping how development support is directed.

Fellow Bougainvilleans, the work is far from complete. But the progress we are making shows what is possible when government, partners, and our people work together with determination. Let us continue to support these efforts and keep building the Bougainville we want for our children.

Kearnneth Nanei, LLB
Chief Secretary



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

HON. ISHMAEL TOROAMA

President and Minister responsible for Inter-Government Affairs, Mining & Petroleum and Media & Communications

Hello readers.

I wish to use this opportunity to reflect on the journey we have embarked on together over the past five years of my term as your President. It has been the highest honour of my life to serve as your President during one of the most critical and transformative periods in our political history.

When I took office in 2020, Bougainville was at a crossroads. The 2019 Referendum, in which 97.7% of our people voted for independence, delivered a powerful message to the world. It became our duty, as your leaders, to responsibly carry that mandate forward through peaceful, structured, and inclusive processes.

Our government anchored its work on four key pillars: progressing the independence agenda, strengthening governance and service delivery, promoting economic growth, and consolidating peace and stability. These were underpinned by our Six-Point Strategy, which laid the roadmap to achieving political, economic, and administrative control, private sector mobilisation, long-term planning, and international relations.

In pursuit of political control, we began laying the foundations for a new Bougainville

Constitution, which will give legal force to our people's aspiration for independence. In all our political engagements with the National Government, I held firm our position for political independence – it is non-negotiable and it is our destiny.

On economic control, we launched the *Anchoring Bougainville's Economy* initiative to build a revenue base that is truly our own. We will soon establish the Bougainville Investment Registry, we will restructure the Tax Office, and begin building the Bougainville Revenue House. A central focus of this strategy is the responsible re-opening of Panguna mine which is a vital economic asset that holds the potential to sustain a significant portion of our budget.

Administratively, we have seen positive growth through a new generation of Bougainvillean public servants stepping up to lead. This shift is a signal of our readiness to assume full responsibility for the delivery of essential services—education, health, infrastructure—on our own terms. We are now working to transfer key powers from the national government to Bougainville so that we can manage our own services, develop our own policies and build a public service that truly

understands and serves our communities.

From the beginning, I knew that government alone could not build our future. We needed our businesses, our churches, our community organisations, and our NGOs to walk with us. Together we have worked to grow local industries, improve services, and create more opportunities for our people.

This journey has not been easy, but I have seen the strength of Bougainville's entrepreneurial spirit and the dedication of our community partners. Small businesses have stepped up, NGOs have delivered vital programs, and we have built partnerships that will continue to shape our nation.

And because independence cannot be achieved through short-term thinking, we developed the *Bougainville Vision 2052* and our *Medium-Term Development Plan 2023–2027*. These are more than policy documents—they are blueprints for a future that is peaceful, prosperous, and independent.

On the global stage, we have begun asserting Bougainville's presence with maturity and diplomacy. We engaged our partners, opened new avenues for technical and economic cooperation, and maintained peaceful dialogue with the PNG Government—culminating in

the historic signing of the *Era Kone Covenant*, our guiding agreement for Bougainville's final political settlement.

We also faced challenges: delays in funding from the National Government, lingering law and order issues, and the slow pace of revenue generation. Yet, we did not allow these to define us. Instead, we stayed the course with unity, humility, and determination.

To the people of Bougainville, I say thank you. Your faith in our shared future has been my greatest source of strength. To our traditional leaders, youth, women, and civil society—your wisdom, resilience, and sacrifice have shaped this journey.

As we go into our elections for the fifth House, I urge the next leaders to remain focused on completing the political settlement, building our economy, strengthening peace, and empowering our young people. Independence is not a destination reached by one generation—it is the legacy of many. We have laid the foundation. It is now time to build the house.

May God bless Bougainville.

**His Excellency Ishmael Toroama, MHR
President**

BCL shares transferred to ABG

The Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) now holds majority ownership in Bougainville Copper Limited (BCL), following the transfer of 36.4 percent shares held by the Government of Papua New Guinea to the ABG.

ABG President His Excellency Ishmael Toroama described the transfer as a momentous occasion, expressing his gratitude to the Prime Minister and the National Government for their commitment in executing the transfer of shares to Bougainville.

“This is an occasion whereby I want to thank Honorable Prime Minister for giving us Bougainvilleans a springboard, an economic springboard for us to realize the potential in which we must empower the vulnerable and the people of Bougainville. To the people of Bougainville, it is our time,” President Toroama said.

President Toroama reflected on the difficult history of the Panguna mine, paying tribute to those who lost their lives in the

conflict and acknowledging the contributions of the Late Francis Ona and the Late Joseph Kabui, who were instrumental figures in Bougainville’s history but are no longer alive to witness this moment.

“To those that fought and died on the soil of Bougainville, I want to thank you all, security forces, and the people of Bougainville. Truly, as one of those honorable moments of this time, I truly cherish this time, Honorable Prime Minister, for giving back what belongs to the people of Bougainville.”

The transfer increases the ABG’s total shareholding in BCL to 72.9 percent, giving the Bougainville Government and its people, direct control over the company that currently holds the EL-01 Exploration License for Panguna.

The original BCL shareholding structure saw Conzinc Riotinto of Australia (CRA) owning 53.8 percent, Papua New Guinea government holding 19.2 percent and the remaining 27



percent held by various entities and individuals, including Bougainvilleans. In 2016, CRA announced the redistribution of its shares with ABG acquiring 36.45 percent and Papua New Guinea increasing its shares to 36.45 percent.

Discussions on the eventual transfer of the shares began in 2014 following a visit by then Prime Minister Peter O’Neill to Panguna. This led to a National Executive Council decision in 2016 for 17.4 percent shares to be transferred to the people of Bougainville, including the Panguna Landowners.

On December 13, 2019, during the joint announcement of the Bougainville Referendum results in Arawa, Prime Minister

Hon. James Marape reaffirmed the National Government’s commitment by announcing the transfer of its remaining 19 percent BCL shares to the ABG. The 2020 Joint Supervisory Body (JSB) meeting subsequently endorsed this decision, directing the immediate transfer of the entire 36.45 percent to Bougainville Minerals Limited – the holding company managing mineral assets for the ABG and Panguna landowners.

With the completion of this transfer, the ABG is now the major shareholder in BCL with 72.9 percent ownership, while the remaining 27.1 percent of shares remain with individual shareholders, some of whom are Bougainvilleans.



ABG partners with PNG Forest Authority for sustainable resource management

ABG Chief Secretary Kearneth Nanei emphasized the importance of a national economic agency progressively handing over

powers and responsibilities to the ABG.

“This is a significant occasion for Bougainville. It empowers us to build capacity, not only in manpower but also in regulatory institutions needed to manage forestry functions effectively,” Nanei said.

PNG Forest Authority Director, John Mosoro highlighted that the Agreement extends beyond capacity building and represents a step towards empowering

ABG to sustainably manage its own forest resources.

“This is not just about devolving power. It’s about building capacity, strengthening systems, and equipping Bougainville with the tools and support needed to manage its forests responsibly,” Mosoro said.

Under the new arrangement, forestry functions will be jointly managed by the ABG and the PNG Forest Authority until Bougainville establishes its own forestry policies and legislation. Oversight will continue to be maintained by the National Forest Board and the PNGFA while upholding Bougainville’s autonomy.

The Autonomous Bougainville Government has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the PNG Forest Authority, committing to the gradual transfer of key powers and functions under the forestry sector.

The signing ceremony took place in Port Moresby in August, marking a step forward for Bougainville in sustainable resource management.

Bougainville welcomes Miss Bird of Paradise, May Hasola, back home



Miss Bird of Paradise and reigning Miss PNG, May Hasola, graced the shores of her homeland as she arrived in Buka on an Air Niugini flight to Buka in June.

Miss Hasola was invited as a guest to attend the AROB Foundation day celebrations hosted at Hutjena oval on June 16th, 2025.

She was greeted at the VIP Airport lounge by ABG Protocol officer Mr Philip Kiha, Deputy Chief Secretary Mrs Belinda Lanbong, senior ABG officials and representatives from Buka Urban Community Government, Bougainville Womens' Federation and Bougainville Arts Culture and Tourism Authority (BACTA).

Miss Hasola was accompanied by her entourage including her mother, and she was moved to tears during the warm welcome ceremony held at the VIP arrival lounge at Buka airport.

Deputy Chief Secretary Belinda Gara Lanbong welcomed Miss Bird of Paradise Miss Hasola on-behalf of the ABG Government and people of Bougainville.

In her opening remarks Mrs Lanbong warmly welcomed Miss May Hasola to have come home and that on behalf of the government of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville and people of Bougainville added, 'we are proud to have you back home

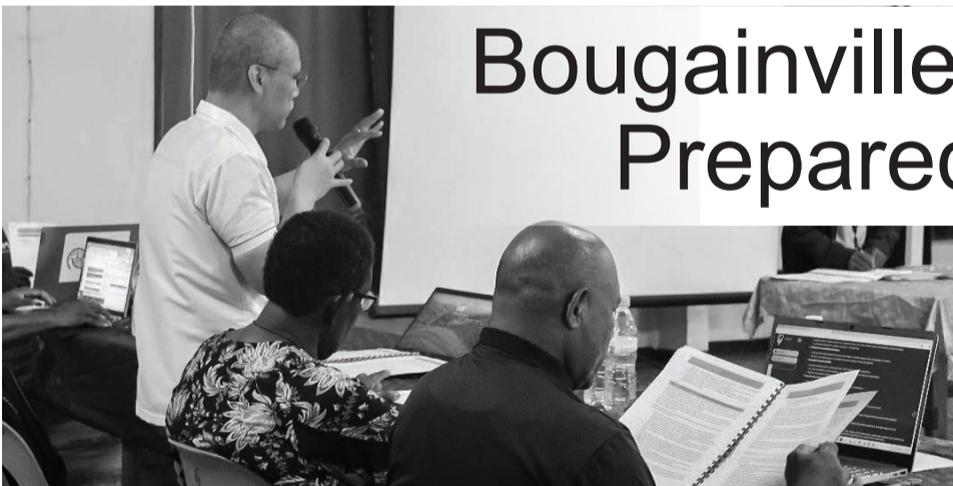
with us'.

'We have come as a team as you can see and a lot us women are very happy to have you here on this occasion on the inauguration day, we call Bougainville day,' she said.

Mrs Lanbong says it was pleasing to have Miss Bird of Paradise as a role model to be in a position to inspire young Bougainvillean youths.

'They (youths) will be listening and be able to take a lot just by listening to you as well,' added Lanbong.

She also encouraged Miss Hasola on the continuity of her journey as Miss Bird of Paradise.



Bougainville strengthens Emergency Preparedness and Resilience

The Bougainville Disaster Directorate hosted a consultative workshop in August to present and review its Strategic Plan for Emergency Management & Disaster Resilience 2025–2030.

Secretary for the Department of Community Government, Belinda-Maree Lanbong, in her opening remarks, highlighted Bougainville's vulnerability to natural disasters and stressed the importance of proactive

preparedness.

"To achieve significant development opportunities, build resilient communities and districts that understand disaster risks, investing in disaster preparedness through proper planning and capacity building are crucial," she said.

She also acknowledged the contributions of various stakeholders involved in developing the plan, with special

appreciation for the United Nations International Organization for Migration (UN IOM) as a key partner.

"We are grateful to the United Nations International Organization for Migration (UN IOM) for their continuous technical support since 2013, and to the National Disaster Centre for their ongoing support to Bougainville. Additionally, the office appreciates the contributions of individuals who have influenced the development of the disaster management plan," she added.

Director for Disaster and Emergency, Julius Nohu, noted that while the Bougainville Disaster Management Plan took several years to develop, it is now

close to completion.

"We are now at the stage where we are validating this key document, which has already been drafted, and that is the purpose of this workshop. The plan is called the 'Bougainville Strategic Plan for Emergency Management & Disaster Resilience 2025–2030.'

"We have now concluded the validation process, and the next step is to submit the document to the Bougainville Regional Disaster Management Committee (BRDMC), headed by the Chief Secretary, to endorse this key document for the Government of Bougainville ahead of its submission to the new Bougainville House of Representatives when it is formed in September," he said.



President Toruama and Deputy PM Rosso emphasizes aid reform for Bougainville

The Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) has called for a distinct and dynamic approach to development cooperation that recognizes Bougainville's unique challenges and history.

ABG President His Excellency Ishmael Toruama made this statement in his keynote address at the inaugural Bougainville Development Cooperation Conference in July.

President Toruama described the conference as a pivotal moment to reshape Bougainville's development agenda after decades of rebuilding from the devastation of a decade-long civil war.

"Bougainville is a unique region within Papua New Guinea, having endured three decades of restoration and nation-building following a devastating decade-long civil war that ravaged our public services, infrastructure, institutions, and economy," he said.

He stressed the severe regression caused by the conflict, which set the region back by four decades and isolated it from the nation's broader development.

"This has left us with nothing but the basics of human existence," President Toruama said, "and demands a distinctive and dynamic development cooperation approach from both the Government of Papua New Guinea and our development partners."

The President urged the PNG government and international donors to acknowledge Bougainville's specific needs and to provide targeted assistance under current governance arrangements to help prepare Bougainville for eventual nationhood.

"We are seeking the Government of Papua New Guinea and development partners to recognise Bougainville's unique development challenges as distinct from the rest of Papua New Guinea," he said.

President Toruama also highlighted the timing of the conference following recent moderation talks and the signing of the

Melanesian Agreement, which advance Bougainville's pursuit of independence. He welcomed emerging development partners in the spirit of "friends to all, enemies to none."

Supporting the President's vision, Papua New Guinea Deputy Prime Minister John Rosso committed to walking alongside Bougainville in shaping its future and improving aid effectiveness.

"Papua New Guinea must walk with the people of Bougainville as they carve out a self-determined future," Rosso said, calling for aid to be not only generous but also aligned and transformational.

He acknowledged the ongoing challenges of fragmented aid and coordination gaps, which he said represent obstacles to peace and self-reliance. Rosso proposed establishing a Bougainville Development Cooperation policy reflecting local ownership and international partnership.

"Bougainville's post referendum era calls for a new way of working — one that places its people, its institutions, and its priorities at the centre of our collective efforts," he said.

BDCC concludes with strong commitments and new direction

The inaugural Bougainville Development Cooperation Conference successfully concluded with a renewed foundation for stronger, better-coordinated partnerships between the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG), the Government of Papua New Guinea, and development partners.

The conference, held in July this year, brought together senior government leaders, international diplomatic missions, bilateral and multilateral partners, to align priorities and discuss a re-defined path for Bougainville's sustainable development.

Delivering the keynote closing address on behalf of the ABG President, Former Minister for Treasury and Finance Hon. Geraldine Paul expressed appreciation for the depth of engagement shown throughout the Conference.

"For Bougainville, this

conference is not only a platform to reflect on the support given over the past three decades but, more importantly, it is a turning point for redefining how we coordinate and align development assistance moving forward," she said.

She emphasized that the discussions had acknowledged Bougainville's unique history and the post-conflict priorities that set it apart from the rest of Papua New Guinea.

"I am pleased to note that we have reached mutual understanding to finalize the development of the Bougainville Development Cooperation Strategic Policy, with the formal establishment of an inter-government working group to lead this effort."

National Minister for Planning and Monitoring Sir Ano Pala commended the ABG's leadership and reaffirmed the National Government's

commitment to supporting Bougainville's aspirations.

"This conference has laid an important foundation. There is now a greater shared understanding of ABG's strategic priorities and challenges," Minister Pala said.

"The principles of strong coordination and inclusive partnerships are vital in advancing our shared vision of peace, prosperity, and self-reliance for Bougainville."

Bougainville Regional MP Hon. Peter Tsiamalili Jr. described the conference as timely and crucial, particularly given Bougainville's political and economic future.

"The relationship we form here must go beyond political discussions. It's about ensuring our development partners are not hesitant but fully engaged in supporting Bougainville on the ground," Tsiamalili said.

He also called for the inclusion

of an environment and climate sector within Bougainville's development framework and emphasized leveraging constitutional funds owed to Bougainville through innovative financial models to accelerate key infrastructure projects in the region.

The conference drew the participation of heads of diplomatic missions, the United Nations, European Union, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, the Philippines, South Korea, the Asian Development Bank, and the World Bank.

The outcomes of the conference will now inform the formalization of the Bougainville Development Cooperation Strategic Policy and the establishment of a Partnerships for Development Framework, marking a significant step in Bougainville's journey toward sustainable, inclusive development.

In pictures

Bougainville Development Cooperation Conference



ABG hosts first induction for Digital Transformation Officers

The Autonomous Bougainville Government through its Department of Infrastructure and Utilities, is hosted a two-day induction workshop in August for its Digital Transformation Officers.

Acting Deputy Secretary Operations, Mrs. Belinda Lanbong in opening the workshop, emphasized the importance of positioning Bougainville well in this digital age.

“Bougainville’s journey towards becoming a digitally empowered region has begun, and this induction is part of laying that foundation for a transformation that will shape how we, as a government, position ourselves in this digital age,” she said.

The ABG’s Digitization program commenced two years ago and is seen as a mechanism for improved coordination, transparency and accountability.



“The commencement of the ABG Digitization Program has gained more focus into this area that many of us now are starting to recognize as being a key economic enabler and a driver of modern governance.”

She acknowledged the progress made since the program began, noting the challenges faced in this sector and how a 5-year ICT roadmap is being developed to advance this sector.

The ICT roadmap, expected

to be complete before December, is focused on key areas such as digital infrastructure development, capacity building, sectoral integration, ICT policies and governance and sustainability and scalability.

She called on the DTOs to not be just participants but the hands and minds that will make the digitization program a reality.

“You are not just participants – you are the drivers of this program, the hands and minds

that will ensure the ABG Digitization vision becomes a reality,” she said.

Also present at the Workshop was Secretary for the National Department of ICT, Steven Matainaho. He emphasized that ICT is a strategic enabler that drives the economy and connecting the Digitization Program with Bougainville Vision 2052 is the right step as ICT drives all the pillars of Vision 2052.

He congratulated ABG on the Bougainville Vision 2052 and for embracing digitization to drive that the economy, challenging the DTOs not to lose focus and the get the first steps right to embracing digitization in Bougainville.

“For ABG, it’s a greenfield, and an opportunity to get it right the first time, technology is an enabler and ICT will drive all the pillars of the Bougainville Vision 2052,” he said.

Bougainville unveils Energy vision and urban development plans

Bougainville has put forward a bold energy and infrastructure agenda as part of its pitch to global investors during PNG Resources Week 2025, outlining its long-term commitment to clean, affordable and community-led solutions.

Speaking on behalf of President Ishmael Toroama, ABG Chief Secretary Kearneth Nanei highlighted the Bougainville Energy Policy and Strategic Energy Action Plan 2023–2033 as a blueprint for sustainable energy development.

“We are prioritising solar mini-grids, hydro power, and the redevelopment of Loloho fuel depot, which has a storage capacity of 61 million litres,” Nanei said, noting that discussions are underway with potential fuel suppliers.

He also announced the establishment



of the Bougainville Power & Water Corporation Ltd to manage electricity and water services, and confirmed consultations with PNG Power to build

capacity for taking over Buka and Arawa grids.

Beyond energy, Nanei stressed the importance of land access and urban planning as enablers of economic growth. “We are prioritising proper urban development planning to free up land in key centres like Buka, Kokopau, Kieta, Toniva and Buin, with a strong focus on attracting private sector investment to drive infrastructure, economic growth, and job creation,” he said.

Closing his address, Nanei underscored that Bougainville’s approach is about peace through development. “The ABG is committed to ensuring that investments in Bougainville are carried out with integrity, accountability and mutual benefit,” he said.



A new 30-meter bailey bridge was officially opened to connect and serve the people of Siara Korepovi and the entire West Coast of Bougainville.

The Mo'ove Bridge was opened in July by the National Minister for Works and Highways Hon. Solen Mirism and the National Minister for Police and Regional Member for Bougainville Hon. Peter Tsiamalili Junior.

This 30-meters bailey bridge costs a total of K3.3million and was funded through the PSIP funds of the Regional Member for AROB and constructed by Raibro Construction Limited.

Speaking at the event, ABG Member for Selau Constituency Hon Paul Cheung described Mo'ove as a bridge that not only represents infrastructure but hope, access and progress to communities along the West Coast and a link to reach the unreachable, thanks to the Marape/Rosso Government.

"This bridge is more than just a lifeline – it connects us, not just physically but socially and



economically," Mr. Cheung said.

National Minister for Works and Highways Hon Solan Mirism commended the Raibro Construction Ltd for delivering quality infrastructure that will serve the people of Bougainville in the West Coast and looked forward to more such infrastructure be built.

"Marape/Rosso government has a vision for all of Papua New Guinea (PNG) to be connected by roads after 20 years through its Connect PNG Program and the Mo'ove Bridge is the first of many to come," he said.

"I look after all the roads on Connect PNG Program and under Connect PNG Program, we build roads to where people are but also open doors for economic opportunities," he said, adding

Mo'ove Bridge officially opened connecting West Coast of North Bougainville

that PNG Government has funded K400million on roads in Bougainville.

Regional Member for Bougainville and National Minister for Police Hon Peter Tsiamalili Junior, also acknowledged the Marape/Rosso government for delivering such vital services for the people of Bougainville and called on the citizens of the West Coast to take ownership of the bridge and guard it well.

"My first and foremost responsibility is to make sure that quality of life for my people of Bougainville must be my number one priority and today my people of Selau, Mahari, Kunua, Kereaka it is a privilege to witness the opening of this first bridge in the West Coast – this is our bridge, look after it," he said.

He thanked Minister Mirism for his leadership in the Ministry of Works and Highways for his push for development in underdeveloped areas of PNG. Tsiamalili further assured the Kereaka community that before the end of the year, the missing link connecting the West Coast will be addressed.

"Within this 50years of PNG

independence, all bridges within the West Coast will be completed up to Korepovi. I am not biased, I am giving back your money through the taxes you pay and I start with West Coast and onto the rest of Bougainville," he said.

The Mo'ove bridge project was designed and supervised by the National Department of Works and Highways through its office in Bougainville, supported by the ABG Department of Technical Services.

The National Minister for Works and Highways Hon Mirism announced that the Siara-Korepovi Road will soon be gazetted as a national highway, with paperwork currently underway for the construction and sealing of an additional 2.5 kilometres of road from Tonn to Chabai.

The celebration was witnessed by delegates from the National Department of Works and Highways, ABG Department of Technical Services, Selau Community Government Members, Chiefs, Bougainville Police Service, Raibro Construction Ltd and sub-contractors and the people of Selau, Mahari, Kunua and Kereaka.

ABG launches Green-Blue Economy Policy

The Autonomous Bougainville Government officially launched its Green-Blue Economy Policy, marking a milestone in Bougainville's journey towards sustainable development and environment protection.

ABG Minister for Lands, Physical Planning, Environment, Conservation and Climate Change described this launch as a visionary step.

"Today, we officially launch the Bougainville Blue Green Economy Policy, a bold and visionary step that lays out our collective commitment to a future where economic growth is harmonized with the conservation of our rich forest and marine ecosystem," he said.



Tumare said the Green and Blue Economy Policy is the region's response, a declarative response that Bougainville will walk the same path that others have walked, adding

that the foundation of this policy is built on three central key principles; sustainability, equitability and resilience.

Regional Member for Bougainville, Hon Peter Tsiamalili Junior, described the policy as a cutting edge policy for Bougainville's political and economic independence.

He also expressed his appreciation to the National Minister for Environment, Conservation and Climate Change Hon Simo Kilepa and Secretary Ms Deborah Sungi who were present in Buka to witness the launching.

The Bougainville Green-Blue Policy can be accessed on the official ABG website ([link: https://abg.gov.pg/government/departments/lands-planning-environment](https://abg.gov.pg/government/departments/lands-planning-environment))

ABG imposes tougher stance on fraudulent claims

The Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) has put a firm stand against false and fraudulent claims lodged with the Department of Finance and Treasury. Effective immediately, the ABG will enforce strict compliance mechanisms, rigorous verification processes, and swift disciplinary or legal action against anyone attempting to manipulate or undermine government accountability systems.

Chief Secretary and Head of Bougainville Public Service, Kearnneth Nanei, emphasized that these measures are essential to protect scarce public resources, uphold transparency and accountability, and restore public confidence in government financial management.

“The government will not tolerate fraudulent claims or intimidation tactics that

compromise accountability and due process,” Nanei stressed.

This follows a constructive meeting between the ABG, Ieta Chiefs, and peace claimants to address grievances surrounding halted peace and reconciliation payments, which had previously prompted threats against Finance and Treasury staff.

Secretary Stephanie Elizah, responsible for peace and reconciliation activities, expressed strong disappointment at being bypassed and not consulted, revealing that her signature had been forged on official documents to endorse claims she had not approved.

“I am extremely unhappy that I was not consulted, and even more alarmed that my signature was falsified to validate questionable claims. This is fraud, plain and simple, and it compromises both accountability and the credibility

of our peace process,” Ms. Elizah declared.

Through open dialogue, the ABG and Ieta Chiefs agreed that all outstanding peace claims will undergo a comprehensive compliance review following the 2025 ABG General Elections. The Department of Bougainville Independence Mission Implementation (DIMI), under Secretary Elizah, will engage directly with the 24 identified claimants to verify documents, disqualify fraudulent claims, and refer serious breaches for possible criminal prosecution.

Caretaker Secretary for Finance and Treasury, Ms. Petrina Hasunn, reaffirmed her department’s commitment to integrity and accountability, acknowledging previous weaknesses in verification and pledging closer coordination with other departments and

community leaders to prevent abuse.

The Ieta Chiefs pledged full support for due process, emphasizing their role in guiding youths and addressing community grievances. Chief Francis Kelele urged Ieta youths to refrain from forgery, threats, and intimidation, instead pursuing claims through proper ABG channels.

Chief Secretary Nanei confirmed that no further payments will be processed until the new ABG government is sworn in and the Bougainville Executive Council (BEC) is legally constituted to authorize disbursements. He also warned that disruptions to government operations and security threats will not be tolerated, and stronger measures are being put in place to prevent intimidation as a tactic to press claims.

ABG receives valuation rolls from National Department of Lands

The Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) has received four completed Valuation Rolls for Bougainville from the Office of the PNG Valuer General, within the National Department of Lands, Physical Planning and Urbanisation, during a handover ceremony in Buka in August.

Acting Deputy Secretary Operations, Mrs. Belinda Lanbong, accepted the documents on behalf of the ABG, describing the occasion as a significant milestone in Bougainville’s journey in institutional and economic development.

She acknowledged the Government of Papua New Guinea for its continued support, noting that this is the first time in Bougainville’s history that urban property values have been systematically recorded and endorsed in full compliance with the PNG Valuation Act.

“On behalf of the Chief Secretary and administration, we are happy and recognise that this occasion and the work that has come out of this over the years to bring us to this stage with completed valuation rolls for Bougainville’s key towns is a significant milestone for Bougainville. And we



thank the Government of PNG for having gazetted that on the 4th of August 2025, in accordance with the PNG Valuation Act 1967,” Mrs Lanbong said.

The Bougainville Valuation Rolls list the assessed value of land and property, particularly on statutory or government land. They are essential tools for land governance, urban planning, and financial transparency, enabling better revenue collection and service delivery.

National Valuer General, Mr. Suman Holis, commended the ABG for initiating the process and highlighted the significance of the achievement.

“Bougainville has again set a historic milestone in that it is the first region in the country to have four valuation rolls for four

towns – Buka, Buin, Arawa and Kieta/Toniva,” he said.

He added that the rolls can empower respective local authorities to collect revenue from the use of land, adding that this contributes to the provision of necessary services to people living within the boundaries of the declared physical planning areas.

ABG Lands Secretary, Mrs. Lynette Baratai-Pokas, emphasised that the valuation rolls are more than a bureaucratic requirement—they are a foundation for governance and sustainable urban development.

“These rolls hold equal weight for our broader land administration and responsibilities. We will rely on the accepted valuation rolls to help us set those appropriate land rentals for government owned and leased land, to guide our decisions on zoning, planning and sustainable urban development, resolve disputes and maintain transparency in land dealings, attract and regulate investment in a way that is fair to our people,” she said.

ABG signs Agreement to clear remnants of war



conflicts to protect lives and secure a safer livelihood.

The agreement outlines three key areas of activity in Bougainville:

- **Survey and clearance of UXO-contaminated areas** to locate, map, and safely remove unexploded ordnance, protecting communities from harm and preventing misuse.
- **Risk education initiatives** in schools and communities to raise awareness, reduce risk-taking behaviour, and strengthen public safety.
- **Capacity building and employment opportunities** for Bougainvilleans, including specialist training for the Bougainville Police Service, PNG Defence Force, and the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary, as well as contributing to national systems for UXO management.

The Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the ABG, The HALO Trust, and the United States Government for an unexploded ordnance (UXO) clearance project in Bougainville.

The MOA was signed in June this year, paving the way for The HALO Trust, acting under a grant of \$2.25 million (K9.2 million) from the U.S. Government, to implement a comprehensive UXO survey, clearance, and risk education program in Bougainville. The funding will also contribute to enhancing national tracking and reporting systems for UXO.

The partnership reaffirms ABG's commitment to ensuring the effective implementation of activities within Bougainville and recognizes the importance of removing dangerous remnants of past

ABG President Hon. Ishmael Toroama, in signing the agreement, expressed the government's gratitude and its recognition of the partnership's significance to Bougainville's peace, safety, and development.

"On behalf of the people of Bougainville, I extend our sincere gratitude to The HALO Trust and the United States Government for this important partnership. This initiative is more than just a clearance operation — it is an investment in the safety, wellbeing, and future of our people. By removing the deadly remnants of past conflicts, we are freeing our communities to live, work, and build their lives without fear," President Toroama said.

The ABG acknowledges the ongoing support of international partners in addressing post-conflict issues that continue to affect Bougainville's progress and looks forward to the successful delivery of this important project.

Also present at the signing was U.S. Ambassador to Papua New Guinea, Ann Marie Yastishock.

ABG welcomes Sea Shepherd Global to Bougainville



The Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) officially welcomed the arrival of Sea Shepherd Global's vessel Allankay at Buka Port in June, marking the beginning of a partnership in marine protection and enforcement.

This visit follows the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in October 2024 between the ABG and Sea Shepherd Global, formalising a collaborative effort

to strengthen Bougainville's capacity to protect its marine resources.

ABG President His Excellency Ishmael Toroama led a delegation of Cabinet Ministers and senior government officials to witness the occasion.

In his address, President Toroama reflected on Bougainville's long-standing commitment to protecting its environment, dating back to the Bougainville Crisis.

"From 1988 to 1998, our people fought bravely for the protection of their land, and today we continue to stand tall in their honour," President Toroama said. "Bougainville may be small in size, but we stand with the international community, moving forward together to serve our people."

The President also acknowledged the significance of this partnership in the context of Bougainville's future

aspirations.

"It is much better that we can look to a thousand years ahead, but also look to this day as a platform that we can embark in preparing Bougainville towards gaining its sovereignty."

President Toroama extended his appreciation to Sea Shepherd Global Team Leader Peter Hammarstedt for bringing the Allankay and supporting Bougainville's marine enforcement efforts.

ABG endorses 20-year Bougainville Transport Master Plan

The Bougainville Executive Council (BEC) has officially endorsed a 20-year Bougainville Transport Master Plan, setting a clear path for the region's future infrastructure development.

As part of the endorsement, the BEC also approved the renaming of the Department of Technical Services to the Department of Infrastructure and Utilities (DIU).

ABG Chief Secretary Kearnneth Nanei said the new name signals a strategic realignment to better position the Department to lead the implementation of the Transport Master Plan towards nation-building.

Speaking on the Transport Master Plan, Mr Nanei said it is designed to guide the rehabilitation, improvement, and expansion of Bougainville's transport network over the next two decades.

"This Master Plan brings

together our goals and aspirations for transport in Bougainville and sets a clear direction for meeting both current and future needs," Mr Nanei said.

He explained that the Plan addresses several longstanding challenges, including limited funding, aging and deteriorating assets, weak inter-agency coordination, and risks from natural hazards such as volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and floods. It also builds on current and committed projects as a base for future capital investment and regular maintenance.

"This integrated approach ensures that both existing projects and new developments work together to build a transport system that is reliable, efficient, and sustainable for our people," Mr Nanei added.

Acting Secretary for the Department of Infrastructure and Utilities, Fiona Levi, said the Plan will be implemented in four

stages over 20 years, with a strong focus on improving access and connectivity, enabling economic growth, and strengthening climate resilience and disaster preparedness.

She added that a robust prioritization process—using multi-criteria analysis—has been built into the Plan to ensure maximum impact from investments in terms of connectivity, resilience, and economic return.

"The Bougainville Transport Master Plan is a critical enabler of our development ambitions, providing a framework for working strategically with the National Government and development partners," Ms Levi said.

The development of the Plan is aligned with Bougainville Vision 2052, the region's long-term development strategy. Following the launch of Vision 2052, all sectors of government have been

tasked with creating long-term plans to help achieve the Vision's goals.

Chief Secretary Nanei acknowledged the collaborative efforts involved in the Transport Master Plan's development and commended all stakeholders for their contributions.

"I want to sincerely thank all stakeholders – the Department of Infrastructure and Utilities, other government agencies, and our development partners who contributed to the development of this critical master plan. Your collaboration has made this possible," Mr Nanei said.

The endorsement of the Bougainville Transport Master Plan reflects the Executive Government's commitment to responsible, long-term infrastructure investment and economic development for the people of Bougainville.

ABG presents K1million to MAF to re-establish aviation services in Bougainville

The Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) presented a cheque of K1million to Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) to re-establish its aviation services in the region.

The cheque is part of the ABG's financial support toward MAF's Phase 1 infrastructure projects following the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the ABG and the MAF earlier this year.

Presenting the cheque on behalf of the ABG, Chief Secretary Kearnneth Nanei said the gesture symbolised the government's appreciation and ongoing partnership with MAF, following the signing of the MoU in which President His Excellency Ishmael Toroama committed K1 million in support, adding that this initiative aims to re-develop MAF as a third level airline in Bougainville.

The Chief Secretary further noted that the funding aligns with ABG's broader goals of accessibility and connectivity across the region as contained in the Bougainville Vision 2052, Bougainville Integrated Strategic Development Plan 2023-2027 and



the Bougainville Transport Master Plan.

"This is all aligned with these critical blueprints that within the next ten years we are required to open up the skies within Bougainville and re-access our airstrips in Nissan, Buin, Torokina, Oria and in mountainous communities," he said.

He acknowledged the services that MAF had provided during the pre-conflict days and said that it is not only a partnership with the government but with our churches and people of AROB who have been in

partnership with MAF during the Boug-Air days.

"We look forward to the partnership in building the hangar and eventually a taxi way, at least this will be a significant milestone for our partnership, and I see this as an enduring partnership," he said.

MAF Launch Team Director John Woodberry upon receiving the cheque today thanked the ABG for its support and also acknowledged Bishop Rev. Abraham Toroi and the Bougainville Christian Council of Churches who have been key partners in inviting MAF back to Bougainville.

"Your contribution to MAF is a gigantic first step to helping MAF establish again in Bougainville. "MAF has a history in Bougainville from 1968 to 1978 in helping launch Boug-Air and we have the heart to bring health, hope and healing to remote people in communities around Bougainville," he said.

MAF aims to launch its operations once the hangar is completed, staffed and an aircraft is based in Bougainville by early 2026.



NMSA hosts search and rescue workshop

A three-days' workshop on Maritime Search and Rescue Workshop initiated by the National Maritime and Safety Authority (NMSA) in partnership with ABG Directorate of Disaster and Emergency Response was held in Buka to enhance a uniformed approach in search and rescue coordination.

Themed, 'Enhancing inter-agency cooperation to improve Maritime Search and Rescue', the workshop brings together stakeholders to strengthen collaboration in maritime safety.

NMSA Maritime Search and Rescue Manager, Desmond Kopieng, says the

purpose of the workshop is basically to establish good working relationships with important key stakeholders in Bougainville.

"Bougainville as one of the important strategic location international border sharing between Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands," he said.

He says such is key when coordinating search and rescue especially on Bougainville waters, the key agency on the ground being Directorate of Disaster and Emergency Response, is the responsible agency on the ground.

'Providing the level of support in-terms of response and updates on weather and marine forecast especially on the maritime transport sector is an important role of the directorate,'

added Kopieng.

He said the workshop is also to strengthen the collaboration and cooperation with NMSA as the central rescue point of contact in the PNG region, and relevant key stakeholders for Bougainville, being the Disaster office.

Mr Kopieng further noted that one of the roles of the organisation is providing weather updates and marine forecasts for small craft operators in Bougainville, which are relayed through the directorate.

Mr Kopieng thanked the Directorate of Disaster and Emergency Response, ABG departments, the Red Cross, boat owners and operators, small craft associations and the Bougainville Fire Authority for their continued partnership.

AROB welcomes fire fighters

The Autonomous Region of Bougainville welcomed its first fire fighters back to the region following the completion of their training.

The team of twelve fire fighters consisting of four women and eight men were recruited in Bougainville following the restoration of fire services in AROB early this year and were sent to Port Moresby for ten weeks of intensive training.

Secretary for the ABG Department of Community Government Mrs Belinda Maree Lanbong who officiated at the welcome ceremony, congratulated and welcomed the team of firefighters on behalf of the administration.

"Your return today is a truly significant moment in Bougainville's journey towards self-determination. We are all incredibly proud to see you back after 10 long weeks of intensive training to become certified officers," Mrs. Lanbong said.

Fire services is a function of the Directorate of Disaster and Emergency under the ABG Department of Community Government and according to Secretary Lanbong the restoration



of fire services is a critical step in the ABG's drawdown of powers and functions from the National Government.

"Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) and the Papua New Guinea Fire Service, we have made remarkable progress. We now have a fire truck in Buka, six PNG firefighters who have been with us for over six months, and today, we welcome you—our first 12 Bougainvillean firefighters since the Bougainville Crisis. This is an extraordinary achievement for our region," she said.

Mrs. Lanbong explaining that a functioning fire service is

important for investor confidence, creating opportunities for businesses to insure their assets and encourages a stable environment for growth.

"This progress is a testament to the true partnership and collaboration between our Department of Community Government and the PNG Fire Service," she added.

National Member for North Bougainville Hon. Francesca Semoso was also present at the welcome ceremony and challenged the firefighters to serve with commitment and diligence as Bougainville depends on them to deliver this important service.

"Congratulations to the young

men and women fire fighters who have returned home – you were chosen to serve as firefighters and you are the first since the crisis, so respect your uniforms and badges and serve Bougainville well," she said.

Secretary Lanbong acknowledged Hon. Semoso's continued support and that of the government of PNG in restoring vital services across Bougainville. She further challenged the firefighters to serve Bougainville with commitment and pride as the real work has only begun.

ABG Department of Community Government will continue to work to extend this service to Arawa and Buin, in partnership with all stakeholders.



BULLETIN Sports



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Sports profile

CALISTA MANEO
"AKA CARLY"



Age	: 22 year's old
Sport	: Soccer
Player Position:	Striker / Flank
Region	: North Bougainville
Home town	: Buka

Twenty-two year, uprising soccer talent from Bougainville is currently in Suva, Fiji, this month (July), with the PNG's Senior Women's National Team to compete for the Nations

Cup.

The twenty-three women squad finished second at the finals after being outwitted by their Solomon Island counterpart.

Before, travelling to Fiji, Maneo had also travelled to Tahiti with the national squad for the Club Championship finishing in May.

The national squad finished second place after entering the finals to compete with ten New Zealand, who proved to be a stronger side.

Calista Maneo who plays for the Allies Football Club (AFC) was scouted to assist and support team Hekari Football Club to form and participate in the National team to play in Tahiti.

'Training under the Hekari Club is rigorous and tough;



it includes fitness and gym workouts, adding 'diet and nutrition follows strict fitness and workout regime,' she added.

She is currently attached with AFC but recently scouted by Hekari Football Club (HFC) to assist in the Club Championship games in Tahiti.

This is not her first time to attend competitions overseas:

- 2022 attended the World Cup Qualifier in Auckland;
- 2023 attended the South Pacific Games in Solomon Islands.

Hekari National Club runs a tough fitness regime and involves rigorous training, however, the management and coaches are well managed and disciplined.

Calista plays in a striker position and flank at times.

Her advice to other upcoming female talent in Bougainville, 'as a young Bougainvillean woman, if you believe in what you are doing don't give up, no matter how hard it is. No matter what it takes to make you become a better player,' she said.

She said her father and first coach was her true supporter in her becoming a professional soccer player.

'My inspiration and motivation comes from my two small brothers, no matter how sad or depressed or fatigued I get, they're the reason why I can wake-up and start a new day,' added Calista.

The club championship is an annual event.

PETRONELLA NOKENOKE



Age	: 29 year's old
Sport	: Boxing
Region	: North Bougainville
Home town	: Buin

Dubbed as PNG and Pacific women's 63 kilogramme champion, Petronella Nokenoke from South Bougainville is a professional female boxer.

She has had a fair share of exposure and experience of fighting in tournaments in the country and overseas.

Nokenoke recently took

part in the 7th Kokoda Cup Challenge in Port Moresby in April.

The PNG Boxing union announced the commencement of the 2025 Kokoda Cup Challenge held at the Lamana Gold Club Arena.

The tournament hosts a total of five local fights, two women fights and three for men and introduces two international fights; with a total of seven men and two women.

During the Kokoda fight in April, Nokenoke fought against opponent Leontine Kevin, however, under the 66kg due to no opponent within her category.

Kevin won the fight by an anonymous decision.

Last year 2023, the PNG Boxing Federation selected Nokenoke to be involved in Team PNG to participate in the South Pacific Games in Solomon Islands.

Her top performance yet earned a gold medal during this fight.

She continues to be a force to be reckoned with in other fights as well, securing her spot as a national fighter under the 63kg division, earning her as a four-time national title holder.

She says she has become accustomed to preparing for fights and is now used to it.

'Whether you like it or not you do not have a choice,' said Nokenoke.

Nokenoke highlighted from her experience and exposure there are a few opportunities back in Bougainville in terms of being able to travel to attend such fights.

'In my career she has missed out on a lot of these fights due to the lack of opportunities available at that time,' she expressed.

PNG Boxing Federation

is currently supporting and training her to participate in her preparations for the upcoming fights.

Nokenoke says she is a living testimony that hard work, commitment, and perseverance can earn you a spot in the international scene against other professional fighters.

She now resides in Port Moresby and has started a self-defence class which he teaches children, on how to defend themselves.

Nokenoke is the Pacific light welter weight champion in which she claimed the title at the 2023 Pacific Games in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

And she also won the light welterweight national title last November at the PNGBU's championships in Port Moresby.

She is expected to also attend the Oceania Championships in Port Moresby.