



THE BOUGAINVILLE BULLETIN

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PUBLIC SERVICE BOSS IN SPOTLIGHT



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100 days focused on making good policies

In its first 100 days in office, the third House of the Autonomous Bougainville Government had implemented a number of initiatives to strengthen the Public Service machinery in preparation for Referendum.



The 100 days marked the time the 3rd House was sworn into office on June 15 and its activities up to to Sept 22 this year.

President Grand Chief Dr John Momis presented his ministerial address on September 29 to mark

the 100 days in office. Dr. Momis said that his department, the Department of the President and Bougainville Executive Council as the lead department of the government has the important responsibility to

coordinate the formulation of Government policies.

“My department is responsible for developing appropriate legislative framework and implementing government policies to ensure the smooth delivery of goods and services to the people,” President Momis said.

The government has already made permanent appointments to the Departments of Police, CIS and Law and Justice, Department of Community Development, Department of Personnel Management and Administrative Services, Department of Health, Department of Technical Services, Department of Community Government and the Department of Primary Industry.

The Senior Appointment’s Committee was not able to make permanent appointments to the remaining four departments including the newly created Department of Referendum, Peace and Reconciliation due to the lack of suitable candidates.

President Momis said the Planning and

Budgeting Framework of the ABG, which contains the Bougainville Peace Agreement, was the overarching roadmap that would guide Bougainville’s political and development policies.

He outlined the approved development priority sectors for the government.

- a) **Economic Development (28%),**
- b) **Social Sector (23%),**
- c) **Planning and Administration (13%),**
- d) **Law and Order (8%),**
- e) **Infrastructure (18%),**
- f) **Rural Development (10%).**

In other matters, President Momis announced that discussion on Bougainville’s Referendum would be the main issue of the coming Joint Supervisory Body (JSB) and to address the issues related to it.

Other proposed issues to be discussed at the JSB will the slow pace of the draw down of powers, tax revenue collections, the Special Intervention Fund as it draws to a close and other high impact development projects for Bougainville.

Acting appointments renewed

The Bougainville Senior Appointments Committee has renewed the acting appointments of several key positions in the Public Service.

These renewals were announced in the Bougainville Gazette number 68 for this year and published on November 16.

The renewals were effective on November 3 and would expire in four months time or unless substantive appointments are made.

These were Ms Brenda Tohiana (Secretary for Treasury and Finance),

Ms Mary Remi (Secretary for Education), Steven Burain (Secretary for Mineral and Energy Resources), Albert Kinani (Secretary for Economic Development) and Andrew Dovaro (Secretary for Lands, Physical Planning) and James Tanis, the acting Secretary for the Referendum, Veterans’ Affairs and Peace.

The other senior appointment that was renewed for another six months to be effective on December 7 is George Manu, acting Bougainville



Hello once again readers,

It is now 12 months since the Bougainville Bulletin commenced production as a Tabloid Newspaper to capture news and events in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

The journey has been challenging as well as rewarding as we tried to keep our readers informed on the progress that the Autonomous Bougainville Government is making in line with the Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA). We endeavour to feature stories in line with the spirit of the BPA under the broad pillars of Autonomy, Referendum and Weapons Disposal.

One important thing to highlight is that the Bougainville Peace Building Program (BPBP) is making inroads into bringing factions divided by the Bougainville Conflict to finally make peace. In this seventh and final edition for this year, we feature a story and pictures of the reconciliation ceremony of the Stone Wara drowning in Central Bougainville.

In addition, for the first time a workshop was held for the first time in November that brought together politicians and stakeholders to strategize on how to drive the awareness forward on the referendum issue. These two stories are indications of building blocks being set towards a unified Bougainville as the autonomous region seeks its political destiny in the upcoming Referendum proposed in 2019.

To date a total of nearly 200,000 copies of the Bougainville Bulletin has been printed and distributed throughout the entire length and breadth of the region and even across to neighbouring Solomon Islands.

Due to budget cuts, we will be printing only 20,000 copies of this edition. However, the Bougainville Bulletin has a Facebook Page and the soon- to -be launched ABG Website so we continue to promote the ABG's objectives online.

We are now at the end of the year and so the staff of the Bougainville Bulletin would like to wish all our readers a Very Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year 2016.

See you Next Year.

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 Bureau of Media and Communication: Editor Robert Aneisia. All articles are written and edited by Editorial Team.

We encourage stories from the public. To submit an article or letter for review, please contact the editor or send to:

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Women leaders urged to be vocal

Women leaders must not be afraid to speak out on issues that affect them.

The Country Representative for UN Women, Dr. Jeffery Buchanan, made the remarks at a diagnostic workshop for women leaders in Arawa in October.

The workshop was held from October 5-9 and brought together the women candidates to evaluate their effort in the last ABG general election and to plan ahead for future elections.

Dr Buchanan said democracy offered a platform to speak from and Bougainville has a strong democracy.

Bougainville achieved a milestone when 10 per cent of women who stood for the ABG elections were elected into Parliament this year. This include the first woman who emerged victorious in an open constituency and three women leaders elected for the reserve seats.

According to statistics from the UN Women Office, the 10 per cent representation was a standout figure ahead of Papua New Guinea with 2.7 per cent representation and 2 per cent from the Solomon Islands.

“You are at the point, you can put Bougainville on international level, be radical, don’t be afraid to speak out,” Buchanan encouraged the women.

An action plan to prepare the women for future elections was put together during the workshop and would be distributed to the women once it is documented properly.

The workshop was organised by the Bougainville Women Federation and funded by the UN Women Office.

Public Service boss in spotlight



Serious allegations of misconduct in office had been levelled against the Head of the Bougainville Public Service.

Minister for Public Service Raymond Masono had petitioned Chairman of the SAC President Chief Dr John Momis that these allegations against Chief Secretary Monovi Amani must be investigated.

Minster Masono did not specify the allegations but said if found guilty, Mr Amani should be dealt with accordingly.

“I delivered a petition to President Momis, in his capacity as Chair of the Bougainville Senior Appoints Committee,” Mr Masono said in a statement.

“My petition raised several allegations of misconduct in office against Mr Monovi Amani, Chief Secretary and Head of the Bougainville Public Service. I asked that these allegations be investigated and, if substantiated, that appropriate disciplinary action be taken against the officer concerned,” he said.

The Minister said under the Bougainville Constitution and the Bougainville Senior Appointments Act 2014, responsibility for dealing with disciplinary matters involving constitutional and senior officers rested with the Bougainville Senior Appointments Committee.

“This is to ensure that the process is fair and impartial and free of political interference. Where allegations of misconduct are raised against a senior officer, the Committee is required to follow strict procedures. If the Committee considers that the allegations should be investigated, it must appoint a Board of Inquiry to conduct the investigations and report back. If the Board is satisfied that misconduct had occurred, there are a range of punishment options available to the Committee, including removal from office,” Mr Masono said.

The Minister said he understood that the Senior Appointments Committee had provided Mr Amani with a copy of the petition and had invited him to respond to the allegation levelled against him.

“This is the first step. Mr Amani has not been suspended - there is no power to suspend at this stage. A senior officer

Bougainville takes stand against gender based violence

Human Rights groups and partners in Bougainville had mobilised to participate in the campaign against Gender Based Violence.

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence campaign was a global campaign that called for the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls.

The International Day of Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls is observed globally on November 25. The Activism will end with the observance of the Human Rights Day on December 10.

During the month of Activism in November, participating groups organised variety of activities that raised awareness about gender based violence as a Human Rights issue, Strengthened initiatives to end violence against women (EVAW); Provided a forum to develop and share strategies on EVAW, Demonstrated solidarity among global activists and partners and invited governments to address these issues.

The national theme for this year is: **Safe Homes to Safe Communities: Education for All.**

The UN Women office in Buka took the lead and mobilised key partners and planned activities to observe this event in in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (AROB).

AROB observed 20 days of Activism, that started with the International Children’s Day on November 20, November 25 - International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls, 29 November - International Women Rights Day, 1 December - World Health Day, 3 December International Day for People with disabilities, December 9, International Anti-Corruption Day and December 10- International Human Rights Day.

During this event, men and boys were encouraged to participate and acknowledge the importance of their role in eliminating gender - based violence. This year, the colour orange, had been chosen as the theme colour in the campaign against gender-based violence.

Business houses and individuals were encouraged to orange their offices and at the same time wore orange clothes to support the call to end gender-based violence.

Economic ministry created to identify revenue sources

A new Ministry of Economic Development has been created in the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) to fast track economic projects and activities.

President Grand Chief Dr John Momis said that creating favourable economic conditions would jumpstart economic activities that would transform to economic growth and in turn provide the basis for the ABG to have fiscal self-reliance through its own taxes.

The President had already issued directives to the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Economic Development to start an inventory of resources, identify potential internal sources of revenue and determine the gap in the region of what it has and what could be achieved.

“Let us be realistic and practical this time. Let us learn to accept realities and work for solutions and alternatives. Let us stop dwelling on problems, but instead come up with solutions,” President Momis said.

“We all know that we have been denied what is constitutionally and legally ours on matters of funding. This government will continue to work through diplomatic channels and if necessary, the courts to demand what is due us,” the President added.

“With this in mind, we work on the premise and framework that at this time we have limited resources. The two ministries must also act on narrowing the gap, formulate policies and laws to raise revenue, implement policies and laws on control and proper fund management, increase savings mechanisms in our operation and define guarantees for our domestic and international investors.

“I must make it clear, here and now, that we need both those domestic and foreign investors. Domestic investors in Bougainville are already doing much.

We have significant local investment in large and small stores, in guest houses, in PMVs, in construction of buildings and roads and many other sectors,” the President said.

These local investors who have taken many risks since the conflict ended, need more support and encouragement and developing plans and mechanisms for the incentive they need must be a major focus of our new ministry.

“For the most part, foreign investors will be encouraged to operate in other sectors where domestic investors do not have the capacity.

“Fiscal self-reliance is a tall order at this point in time. Yet, I firmly believe that when we work together purposively and want it badly enough we can achieve it,” Momis said.

Progress on road works in Central B’vile

An Update on Ausaid funded road works in Bougainville

Work has commenced on a major project funded by the Australian Government to repair the roads in and around Arawa.

The works are part of a K11.6 million project being delivered by the Papua New Guinea – Australia Transport Sector Support Program (TSSP) that also includes resealing of the road to Rigu Bridge, just past Kieta Wharf.

Four local contractors have recently completed preparatory works and Dekenai, the contractor engaged to seal the road, is now fully mobilised on site. Sealing works are expected to be completed in early 2016.

Secretary of the Department of Technical Services, Mr Bernard Tzilu, was pleased to see the sealing works begin.

“It is vital that we work to bring these roads up to a safer and more reliable standard to provide an improved experience for all the road users of Arawa. The eight roads under repair in Arawa town connect people to the hospital, schools, police barracks, marketplace and local businesses in Central Bougainville,” he said.

Acting Australian High Commissioner, Ms Bronte Moules, highlighted the value of this project to the people of the local area.

“Working with and supporting the Autonomous Bougainville Government’s Department of Technical Services to maintain a safe and reliable road network is crucial for people across the region. Extending the works to Kieta Wharf improves integration of the transport network so that it can more efficiently connect people, goods and essential services and act as a catalyst for economic opportunity,” Ms Moules said.

The new road surface will help minimise future maintenance costs, improve comfort and make the town safer for pedestrians.

This project builds on other works delivered by TSSP in Bougainville, including the recent completion of sealing works between Tunuru and Morgan Junction at the entrance to Panguna.

Source: Australian High Commission - <http://png.embassy.gov.au/pmsb/home.html>

Growth in Wakunai District

Wakunai District in Central Bougainville has improved its Infrastructure development in the last 12 months when Mr. Peter Tengka appointed as a new executive Manager for Wakunai District. He works with District Development Authority under DSIP to fund health and Education Projects. More Projects are yet to be opened in the coming months. Pictured are first projects highlighted in wakunai District - Central Bougainville.



Haku MP seeks advice from elders



Haku Constituency Member has set the pace as the first leader in Bougainville to meet with his people and seek their advice and guidance on how to run the affairs of the people as their elected representative in Parliament.

Mr. Robert. Tulsa Tsika planned a Community Forum for the people of Haku this year at Lemankoa.

He used the forum as an avenue to get all leaders of the Haku Constituency to meet and plan development programs for the constituency while using the six major tasks issued by the President as a basis for development.

“I want to thank all

the leaders of Haku Constituency present here today for this forum as it is important for us as leaders to work together to support and achieve the six major tasks that the President Chief Dr John Momis made during his inauguration speech,” Mr. Robert Tulsa Tsika said.

This six major tasks included the following:

- 1) Unification
- 2) Improving the welfare of all Bougainvilleans by promoting appropriate Economic Development
- 3) Securing Bougainville’s future by full implementation of the three pillars of the Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA) – achieving full autonomy, preparing for referendum and achieving complete weapon disposal.
- 4) Promoting Good Governance, the Rule of Law and ending Corruption
- 5) Public Awareness and
- 6) Improve basic

services.

He stressed that as the Haku MP he has committed himself and the people of Haku to support the ABG to achieve these six major tasks as the way forward for Bougainville. He called on the Haku leaders to unite and work together.

Mr. Tsika explained that the forum was to prepare the people at the leadership level to take lead:

- In understanding the structure to implement the six major tasks,
- To understand the structure as leaders at every level to interact and coordinate the people to meet the tasks and
- To monitor and evaluate the leaders and the peoples performances in achieving the tasks.

The people were happy with the forum. Community leaders including chiefs and other representing various agencies and the 23 candidates that contested the ABG Election also attended.

Everyone was given the opportunity to express their

views on the forum and they thanked the member for organising such a forum which was the first of its kind and pledged to work with the Member to develop Haku.

The forum was also an opportunity for the former MP James Beani to present his report to the new MP and the people of Haku, however, Mr Beani did not attend so the first ABG MP in the first ABG House Januarius Tenevi made his presentation.

“This forum is the first of its kind and Haku contributed to establishing Peace in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville and so we should all help the new MP to develop Haku and Bougainville as a whole,” Mr Tenevi stressed.

Meanwhile, Mr. Tulsa Tsika thanked the leaders for their support and called on the chiefs and community leaders to work together with their community to identify their community needs and come up with a five year development plan to help develop Haku.

New health centre opens in Hagogohe

“Open the Health Centre today and use the Health Centre today,” Health Secretary Dr Pumpara, made the remarks at the opening of the Hagogohe Health Centre in early October.

He said that the new health facility had been funded by the Australian Government with co-funding from the Government of Papua New Guinea. The Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) had also appropriated the money to secure co-funding for the facility to see its completion and the people of Hagogohe should be thankful for such service.

The Centre is well

equipped with drugs and has outpatient facilities as well as wards for maternity, children and general admissions; however other basic necessities are yet to be set in place.

“There are three staff to look after the facility and the facility is equipped with drugs as well as wards to serve the maternity, children, general admissions and outpatient to serve the people of Hagogohe,

however, a Generator and an incinerator are yet to be bought,” Dr Pumpara said.

Dr Anthony Pumpara thanked the people of Hagogohe for standing in solidarity and for working together ensure the Health Centre was completed. He urged them to take ownership of the facility by looking after the property and respecting the staff so that they in turn would serve the people.

Meanwhile, the office of the Open Member for North revealed that Mr Lauti Atoi has made a commitment to buy a new ambulance for Hagogohe Health Centre.

Executive officer of the Member, Robert Tsira, who spoke on behalf of Member Atoi explained that the ambulance would be bought in Port Moresby and shipped to Bougainville once the funding was available.

Makis Constituency appeal for assistance

Makis Constituency is in urgent need of relief supplies and assistance following continuous rains and flooding in the area that has affected the people for almost four months.

This was according to the Member for Makis and Chairman for the Legislative Committee and Social Development Hon. John Vianney Kepas.

“My people for Makis Constituency are suffering as all food gardens are underwater, roads and infrastructure have been affected and so I am calling on the Government to assist as soon as possible,” he said.

Mr Kepas had reported the matter to the Government and also to the Provincial Disaster Office, however, the disaster office is yet to respond due to unavailability of funds.

“The Disaster Office has registered my report but are unable to help due to lack of funds,” he stressed.

He told the *Bougainville Bulletin* that the situation has affected the people and the children’s education. He appealed to the Government, Business Houses and NGOs to assist him.

“I am appealing to the Government, Business Houses, NGOs and Donor Partners to kindly assist my people,” he said.

Any persons or groups interested to assist the people of Makis can call the Member John Vianney Kepas on Mobile 7000-6243.

Meanwhile efforts to talk to the Provincial Disaster Office in regard to this report had been unsuccessful.

Hardliners call for other options for economic recovery

A Group calling themselves the Bougainville No-Go –Zone hardliners had challenged the Autonomous Bougainville Government to look at different alternatives to achieve economic recovery.

The group formed in Central Bougainville mid this year had stopped preparations on the Bel Kol with Bougainville Copper Limited (BCL). They have gained support in both the South and Northern regions.

The hardliners were against the Bel Kol between the ABG and BCL as they said it would open the door for BCL to return and set up its office in Arawa. They claimed that this would open the floodgate for other companies to enter Bougainville.

The Hardliners also claimed the Bougainville Mining Law was a wolf in a sheepskin that was written in favour of BCL and multinational corporations by Adams & Smith law firm in England and Tony Regan an Australian advisor to the ABG on Bougainville.

“Momis/Nisira Government has sold Bougainville under this Law to the multinational corporations who will come and help themselves while we watch helplessly,” the group said in a statement.

The group claimed that the Mining Act also limits landowner rights, makes it easier for mining companies to get tenements. They alleged communities’ rights of

ownership, access and informed consent of people under the UN rights of indigenous people had been violated and mining companies could enter customary land not legally owned without any agreement.

The group said agriculture was as an alternative of economic recovery that the ABG could consider.

The self-proclaimed leader and chairman of the group, James Onartoo, who said that anyone who talked about mining on Bougainville touched the sore that would take years to heal.

The hardliners alleged that multinational corporations were only interested in the minerals in the mine. They alleged a plot was in place to mine the island right down to the sea level with plans to move the headquarters back to Cairns.

“That is the reason behind the resurrection of Hardliners in Bougainville,” Onartoo said.

“The war on Bougainville was fought with these basic guiding principles. To protect our land and environment, survival, culture and tradition, identity Future generation, future,

Independence and nation.”

The hardliners also claimed Bougainville was now under foreign control under the Peace Agreement which was a continuation of war under a “phony war mode” developed according to plan.

“That’s why Ausaid money has been used through programs after programs under the Peace Process which has been commercialized to lull the minds of people to forget their past and surrender their future, the group claims,” they claimed.

The group also claimed that the divide and rule tactic has been used on Bougainville to create disunity and infighting amongst Bougainvilleans.

While strongly opposing the Bel Kol and the establishment of BCL presence in Bougainville, the group demanded the following: among others.

- Amend sections of Mining Law that violates people’s rights.
- Bel Kol discussions on with PNG.
- Develop Agriculture instead of mining
- Discuss independence not mining
- Bring to the notice of politicians and mobilize other hardliners to back their cause.

Panguna losing appeal: Nisira

The Autonomous Bougainville Government is seriously considering a move away from Panguna following disgruntled sentiments by hardliners from Central Bougainville.

Vice President Patrick Nisira made this statement following calls by the a group calling themselves Central Bougainville Hardliners who opposed the Bel Kol process.

Mr Nisira said that the continuous opposition by certain groups in Central Bougainville was a clear indication that the people within the area did not welcome any efforts by the ABG to create peace and build a stable economy in Bougainville.

“From the very first House led by the late President Joseph Kabui to the current Momis/Nisira government, we have seen the need to build a sound and self-sustaining economy that will cater for development and services to all people on Bougainville,” Mr Nisira said.

He added that since its inception the ABG saw the need to reopen the Panguna mine and the Bel Kol was one process that the landowners requested and for the ABG to facilitate it.

“We have to remind ourselves that the mine was responsible for the death and destruction not only in Panguna or Central Bougainville for that matter, but its impact was felt throughout Bougainville and in some instances even worse than what was experienced in Panguna. Mr Nisira said.

Mr Nisira expressed dissatisfaction at the current trend that the people of

Central Bougainville had resorted to in relation to the Panguna Mine issue.

He said sometimes it would seem that they were agreeing to the government’s initiative but then the very same people would backtrack and stall the process.

“The rest of Bougainville cannot be continued to be held in ransom by a few persons who cannot seem to make up their minds, the ABG has spent a lot of time, money and resources on Panguna just to safe guard the rights of people in the area but this is still not appreciated,” he said.

“It is about time we come clear on what we want, let’s not waste each other’s time but come to a consensus that clearly expresses the views of all Bougainvilleans,” Mr Nisira said.

Since its establishment the ABG has been working hard in an effort to establish catalytic processes that work toward beginning to address the grievances and human rights of the people of Bougainville.

However the attitudes of a few people have always proved to be a stumbling block to the efforts of the ABG.

Mr Nisira indicated that if this attitude continued Panguna might not be considered after the Referendum as an option for economic development.

Mr Nisira said the ABG was already looking at other viable projects for economic development.



The graduates in the Diploma of Government (Management) pose with the course providers and program financiers after receiving their certificates.

Course enhances leadership skills

The Diploma of Government (management) was developed in 2012 to address the need for strengthened leadership and management skills within the law and justice sector.

The course is a partnership between Pacific Australia Law and Justice Program (PALJP), private provider IEA TAFE and the PNG law and justice sector.

A successful pilot of the course in Port Moresby graduated 21 officers. A second batch of 17 graduated in 2014

and a third batch of 25 in February this year.

In response to agency demand, a second course was run in Port Moresby this year and for the first time, a similar, course was run in Bougainville. These two graduated their students in November.

The Bougainville batch included 24 students (11 women) and represented the following agencies and organisations:

Department for Police, Corrective Services and Justice, Department for Community Development, Community Based

Corrections, Bougainville Police Service, Magisterial Services, National Judicial Staff Services, Public Solicitor’s Office and Correctional Services.

By the end of this year, the Diploma in Government (Management) course would have graduated over 100 graduates.

In addition to professional development, the course also contributes to strengthening sectoral collaboration and understanding, especially through officers’ sharing of their agencies’ roles and responsibilities.

Learning is key to progress



The Minister for Community Development, Josephine Getsi has said education was the backbone of any country.

She added that it was through education a person could bring change to the environment.

“Bougainville right now needs a lot of educated people to manage and guide the region as we prepare ourselves for referendum,” Minister Getsi said.

“In three years time, the people of Bougainville will be voting for their own political future and it is important that people are educated about this issue. It is a must that the human capital resource must be highly educated in order for Bougainville to prosper,” She added.

The Minister made the remarks in her address at the graduation of Early Childhood Teachers in

the Baubake Constituency in South Bougainville. A total of 224 teachers graduated from a two weeks training workshop that was conducted at Morou Village.

The other government Ministers that were present to witness this ceremony included the Minister for Community Government, Jacob Toohe and Minister assisting the President, Robert Tsika.

They told the audience that the government supported education as the number one priority.

The Ministers said their presence at the ceremony was an indication of the government’s commitment to provide education to the people of Bougainville.

Seasons Greetings

The staff of the Bureau of Public Affairs, Media and Communications would like to wish our valued readers a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year 2016.

The Bureau publishes the Bougainville Bulletin, engages with the community on Radio Ples Lain 98.6 and maintains the Autonomous Bougainville Government’s presence on online platforms

The Bougainville Bulletin goes into recess and we will be back in the New Year 2016



My Bougainville Story

Stori blong Milton Tukana na kirap blong Asikopan Recording Studio



Milton Tukana adding a touch of electric guitar to his latest recordings.

The story of Milton Tukana is one dedicated to music and “making good music” as he says. Milton grew up surrounded by artists. His uncle Albert Toro was the main character *Tukana* in the popular Bougainvillean movie *Tukana*. In addition, Milton’s father was the media director in this particular movie. It is no wonder, that he naturally found his niche as a musician.

One can say that he is a chip off the old block. Milton taught himself to play the guitar when he was only ten years old. He tried his hand at composing his own songs too. “I’d watch where the adults would leave the guitar after their music sessions and when they were out of sight I

would practise on my own,” he recalls with a smile, but it wasn’t until I was thirteen that I actually played in a real band.”

Milton played various instruments but he stuck to the keyboards. He played with various bands and even did some gigs with Bougainville’s famous Black Temple Band.

“My father played keyboards for the Black Temple band, so, when he was away or busy with something else, I would take his place on the black and white frets, Milton said in his studio at Manetai. This prompted the

Bougainville Bulletin to pop the

question. So when did you start the recording studio?

“After leaving school due to school fee problems, I used to spend time at Arawa with the boys at Taravang Studio. There I would watch Semmy the Sound Engineer at that time, working on tracks and you know the sound effects and stuff,” he said.

“Each time I returned from the studio, I would go over the tracks I heard on my PSR2100 keyboard and make my own versions of it. Then I thought this is easy! I should start recording people. And there it started, Milton chuckles: It hasn’t been as easy as it sounds though.”

In 2010 he spent time with Bernard Hanga at his Studio in Buka. There, Hanga influenced him to take up a short music course at Port Moresby. After Port Moresby he went back to Manetai and set up Asikopan Recording Studio (ARS).

“I was influenced,” he recalls. “Bernard Hanga was the

person who pointed me in this direction. He influenced me into starting this studio.”

Milton has been recording for the past five years and he says, most of his clients come to him because of his music style.

Asikopan is the language spoken by the Eivo people of Eivo Torau constituency in Central Bougainville. When asked why he chose to call his studio that he says, “I want to make a name for my people in the music industry, and if this studio resonates a difference then I’m happy I’m part of it.”

With over thirty albums recorded from South to North Bougainville and another five yet to be released under his belt, ARS aims to promote originality and producing good quality music.

“I do all sorts of music from reggae to rock and Hip-hop to a bit of contemporary music but all in all, as the technical person I like to listen for styles that the recording artist brings in. It gives a difference to music each time, it rhymes with originality and I like being original from scratch,” he says.

“Through music, we inform, we educate and deliver messages to the masses. We express ourselves and in a way we make others feel

good too,” Milton said.

He went on to say, *“If we put the right message in the music we create, we can change our societies by doing the simple things we love, doing the best and that’s just what I want to do.”*

“I hate to say that piracy has robbed us of our hard work. We work hard to make good clean music but with technology these days, one cannot make money out of his songs. That’s a challenge not just for me but also for all musicians throughout PNG.

“Most artists who record under us cannot make good returns from sales. I have a heart for youths and would like to reduce my prices a bit but I have to sustain this little studio too. We are all affected here. Milton believes that the Internet is the best way to market songs these days. “If we can get assistance in this area, it would be a break through for us in the industry,” he says.

The studio charges K3000 for recording a full album and K500 for shooting and producing video clips.

Asikopan Recording Studio is located at Manetai opposite the Council of Elders Building. If you are interested in recording an album, you can contact Milton on 71863382.

With ARS, you won’t go wrong!

Picture: An artist recording in Askopan Recording Studio



Stori Piksa



in pictures



Bulletin Forum

Bulletin Forum

Cops urged to maintain relations with public



Police have been challenged to maintain relationship with the public at all times as they too were members of the public.

President Chief Dr Momis issued the challenge when he opened the weeklong Regional Police Commissioner’s conference in Buka.

“You must dedicate yourself to be one with the community and never above any one. Your uniform and your side arms are not your license to put yourself above the community. You have a collateral responsibility in your obligations to protect life and property,” Dr Momis said.

He urged the policemen

and women to recognize that the power to fulfill their functions and duties was dependent on public approval.

“In your training days, you have been drilled to wear your uniforms with pride, your demeanor and competence in public must draw the respect of the people you serve,” Dr Momis said.

The President reminded the Police that is was their responsibility to educate the public to observe the law.

“The Rule of Law

always prevails. People will follow the law if there is consistency in its application, implementation and enforcement. It cannot be selective. It cannot be discriminatory. It cannot be biased or prejudiced. You are called to minister to the needs of people of all walks of life. The rich and the poor, the old and the young, the firm and the inform, the learned and the illiterate are equally entitled to and assured the protection of the law,” President Dr. Momis said.

Acting appointments renewed

From page 1

Electoral Commissioner. Meanwhile, the Bougainville Senior Appointments Committee had appointed seven new Departmental Heads for the Bougainville Public Service earlier this year.

The new Departmental Heads are:

Justin Borgia (Secretary for Community Development)	Paul Kebori (Secretary for Personnel Management and Administrative Services)	Thomas Betitis (Secretary for Primary Industries)	Kearnneth Nanei (Secretary for Police, Corrective Services and Justice, and the Principal Legal Adviser)
Herbert Kimai (Secretary for Community Government)	Bernard Tzilu (Secretary for Technical Services)		
Clement Totavun			

President Dr John

Momis had said the appointments were made following a rigorous, transparent and merit-based process, as required by law.

He said the new Heads of Departments provided a mix of experience and new blood.

President Momis had said the new appointees would play a critical role in delivering strong and effective governance for Bougainville.

Take ownership of peace efforts: Siunai



The Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) has been making progress in uniting Bougainvilleans through peace and reconciliation ceremonies. It is contained in Momis five pillars of development that unification of . Bougainvilleans must be achieved before the Referendum could take place.

A Chief from Ramu Constituency - South Bougainville, Peter Slunai pictured said reconciliation had changed in context over time. It now has monetary value attached to it and it is the government that is initiating the reconciliations.

“We all have gone through various atrocities of different capacities in the Bougainville Crisis. It made us fight ourselves and even kill each other,” he said.

“Therefore, let us be patriotic and take ownership of the reconciliation program. As perpetrators, we must not wait for the government to fund money before we reconcile with our victims. it has to come from the heart.

“We have to initiate reconciliations with our fellow Bougainvilleans ourselves. Furthermore,

as victims let us not cry foul over money. if the perpetrators initiate a reconciliation process, then we have to accept the act of remorse and accept forgiveness.

“If we rely on government money, we will not achieve sustainable and lasting peace and thus, the ramifications will be faced in the long run,” Siunai said.

Chief Siunai also said another important aspect of reconciliation was weapons disposal.

“Once reconciled with our Victims or Perpetrators, we have to dispose all weapons we have in possession so that the reconciliations we undergo have something to show for.

“i commend the ABG on the fantastic work it has done in terms of reconciliation. I urge all Bougainvilleans to dispose weapons in the process of reconciliation so that it shows that we have let go of our past differences and hold back nothing as we endeavor into referendum and ultimately Independence.”

Chief Slunai said Bougainville could achieve its aspirations once it was united and weapons free.

Warring factions make peace in Siwai



“My greatest fear has always been disunity but today you have given me hope.”

- President Momis

Two warring factions exchanged gifts and signed an agreement to mark the end of feud and the start to the road to peace.

In a small but significant ceremony two warring factions put aside their differences and reconciled.

The ceremony took place at Katuku Primary School in Siwai, South Bougainville.

In the presence of President Dr John Momis, some of his ministers and Constituency members and a crowd of over 300

people, the Ramu faction said sorry to the Kopi for the wrongs done during the Bougainville Conflict

The people of Ramu Constituency had fought against their Kopi relatives during the Conflict that resulted in properties being damaged and lives lost.

In November, the two factions put their differences aside and reconciled.

The reconciliation had been possible through the tireless efforts of District Peace mediators under the

Bougainville Peace building Program (BPBP).

B P B P works together with leaders of different factions across Central and South Bougainville to create an environment that promotes lasting peace for Bougainvilleans.

In the Katuku ceremony, the former enemies shook hands, exchanged gifts and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to signify the start of peace.

The ABG Minister for Education and Member for Ramu Thomas Pataa’ku thanked his people for the effort to make peace.

He said that

reconciliation was vital if Bougainville was to achieve self-determination.

“I ask that we leave our past differences behind and take on this new era in unity,” he said.

He added that reconciliation set the foundation for peace for future generations.

Meanwhile, President Dr Momis also expressed his gratitude and said in his long political career, he had not seen anything like what had happened in Katuku.

“My greatest fear has always been disunity but today you have given me hope,” Momis said, “Hope rekindled to continue pursuing our dreams and aspirations.”

President Momis said

Bougainville could only fully implement autonomy in preparation for referendum on independence and achieve complete weapons disposal only if everyone was united.

“I commend Siwai leaders and people for leading the way in peace and reconciliations. You have set a precedence for our brothers and sisters from other districts to follow,” President Momis said.

Other leaders represented the Ex-Combatant and women’s group also expressed similar sentiments.

A major reconciliation ceremony for all Siwai people is being planned for a later date.

Directorate of Autonomy Implementation and Monitoring

Update and
Progressive
Status on the
Drawdown of
Powers and
Functions

Brief Background

Following the Inauguration of the Autonomous Bougainville Government in June 2005, the first notice for drawdown of powers and functions was served to the National Government on 08 June 2006 requesting transfer of Mining Powers and Functions.

Due to the newness and uniqueness of the Autonomy arrangements there were some uncertainty on drawdown processes and procedures which led to the delay of the transfer process. For transfer of Mining Powers and Functions 15 strategic steps were developed. The effectiveness or ineffectiveness of these steps remains quite controversial.

In 2010 under the 'Tanis Government' ABG assumed five Powers into the Community Development Department. These were later designated to appropriate departments. (e.g. Time Zone was assumed by Department of Economic Development from which

the 'Bougainville Standard Time' is derived in 2015) Subsequently in February 2011 seven additional MOUs were signed. The works MOU was signed in 2012.

By 2013 the First ABG Law: Physical Planning Act' (2013) was enacted. The ABG's legislations continued in the subsequent years: Education Act (2014), Mining Act (2015), Public Service Act (2014) and Public Finance Management Act (2014).

There are some MoUs yet to be signed and expected to be signed in the upcoming JSB meeting. These are Fisheries, Lands and Environment.

Consultative stage

- **Police and CIS: Consultations began in 2010 and still progressing.**
- **Agriculture marketing: Developing recommendations for Economic Development and DPI for merging Cocoa and Copra export laws to one Act. Proposed to be via 'Rapid Legislation'.**
- **Currently working on identifying law, personnel, capacity and assets for negotiations in drawdown.**
- **Establishment of Bougainville Public Service: intends to merge PNG's Public Service Commission and Teaching Service**

Commission to a single 'Bougainville Public Service Commission. (This is for 'Regulation Purposes' only. Initially it is intended to establish separate 'Teacher Registration and Licensing Authority' to assume the role of Teaching Service Commission as employer of teachers.

- **SOEs: (airports and ports corporation) mapping out how these can contribute to Bougainville's economy. (Revenue generation).**
- **There are potential issues with infrastructure repairs and landownership associated with these transfers.**

There are some challenges being faced in the draw down of powers.

This is because it is the first time to begin a process on Autonomy and no prior experiences to draw from. Other factors include the lack of resources, funding and manpower

The slowness in the draw down of powers has also been contributed to the slowness by the PNG Government in the timely release of funds.

Law and Justice launches Medium Term Plan

The Department of Police, Correctional Services and Justice achieved a significant milestone with the launching of their Mid-Term Development Plan (2016-2019) in November.

The launching took place at the Police Training Centre at Hutjena.

Minister for Police, Correctional Services and Justice Hon Willie Masiu, Minister for Public Service Raymond Masono, Law and Justice agencies and their donor partners witnessed the occasion.

The MTDP was a result of collaborated efforts put in by the department and their sector agencies with the aim of improving and expanding the law and justice services throughout Bougainville starting next year.

Secretary for Law and Justice sector in Bougainville, Kearneth Nanei said, "in developing the plan, the department engaged in regional consultations with people from North, Central and South Bougainville, getting their views as to how law and justice services in Bougainville should operate". Mr Nanei said similar consultations were carried out successfully with the national law and justice agencies.

"We also consulted with our national government law and justice agencies, it

was a very successful effort that all of us were able to come together to consolidate their plans throughout Papua New Guinea with the one that we are launching today for Bougainville," Mr Nanei said.

The MTDP is the framework by which all law and justice developments, infrastructure, capacity building and training would come under. It sets out the guidelines and objectives that need to be achieved over the next four to five years.

Apart from the launching of the MTDP, Mr Nanei commended his staff and other key stakeholders for other successful achievements by the department this year.

"As we have rolled out the programs of 2015 it is a very good story and we were able to launch Magisterial Services in Buin, put in place a Public Solicitor's office in Arawa. We are now working towards constructing a Panguna Police Station as well as the Mabiri Rehabilitation Centre is also coming up," he said.

Mr Nanei said with all these achievements and plans, the department together with their agencies and donor partners would continue to work together to ensure that Bougainvilleans had easy access to law and justice services throughout the region.

Wakunai witnesses first reconciliation rituals



A historic and moving reconciliation ceremony was held for the first time in Wakunai to put to rest the tragic events of the Stone Wara drowning that occurred two decades ago during the Bougainville conflict.

Combined resistant fighters from Teperoi and Barora villages in Wakunai district and Tarara village in Panguna district reconciled with the only survivor of the Stone Wara drowning in Wakunai in November.

This reconciliation ceremony was one of many cases that the Bougainville Peace Building Program (BPBP) facilitated. The BPBP is funded by the Australian Government through its Foreign Affairs Department in conjunction with the Wakunai district committee and the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

It is told that during the Bougainville conflict Papua New Guinea Defence Force (PNGDF) soldiers suspected some civilians to be informants of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army and were living in their care centre at Wakunai.

Acting upon intelligence from the Resistant Army, the PNGDF soldiers carried out a night raid on their own care centre at Wakunai beach. They captured

five suspected informants who were all from the Stone Wara area. They then took them out at sea, tied their hands and legs together and threw them into the ocean to drown.

Out of the five captured one was able to untie himself once overboard. He swam all night and reached the mainland in the early hours of the morning.

Mr. Anton Vokiara was the survivor of that fateful night. He is now a Paramount Chief in the Stone Wara area and also initiated this reconciliation ceremony. This ceremony was the first of its kind in the Wakunai district. Family members of the other victims also participated in the rituals.

The ceremony took place at the Rigu school field at Mabiri on November 18. The local member and ABG Mining Minister, Robin Wilson, witnessed the event.

The ABG Mobile FM Radio Radio Ples Lain 98.6 fm was also there to broadcast the ceremony enabling people who could not come to witness the event tune in and listened

to the ceremony on radio.

Mastermind of the perpetrators in that incident, Paul Akoitai, led the way to apologise and to ask for forgiveness. Mr Akoitai is a former resistance leader and currently the Veterans' representative.

Mr. Akoitai told. Mr Vokiara and the family members of the other victims that it was not easy to come out and ask for forgiveness but with the help of the Peace Building Program and the District Peace and Security Committee such occasions could take place.

Other perpetrator from Teperoi and Barora villages also came forward to ask for forgiveness.

Mr. Akoitai apologised told the people gathered that many atrocities during the crisis were done by themselves therefore all Bougainvilleans who took part in the fight or who were victims must come forward and end the crisis through such reconciliations.

In response Mr. Vokiara accepted Mr. Akoitai's apologies and said that for too long he has lived

Plans underway for BRA and PNGDF to reconcile

The Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) and the Papua New Guinea Defence Force (PNGDF) have embarked on setting differences aside in a proposed major reconciliation.

Both armies fought against each other in the Bougainville crisis about 20 years ago. Now with the region gearing up for referendum and possible independence from PNG, these former warring factions have decided to reconcile.

This has been an ongoing process coordinated by the Bougainville parliamentary referendum Committee. "The referendum is in our hands but we must be united to achieve independence" Committee chair, Joseph Watawi has said.

Reconciliation is vital for the future of Bougainville,"

Mr Watawi confirmed that both the PNGDF commander, Brigadier General Gilbert Toropo, and the former leader of the BRA, Sam Kauona, supported the proposed reconciliations.

"It is a must that this reconciliation takes place. Watai said. "I guess it is an act to ensure that the peace is sustained. It is part and parcel of the spirit and the letter of the Bougainville Peace Agreement," Watawi said.

with this trauma and that is why he came forward even though he was a victim, he initiated the gathering. He was thankful that the perpetrators also responded favourably.

The victims and the perpetrators came together shook hands then chewed betel nut and spitt into hole dug out from the earth which they then planted a coconut tree to mark the day of peace between both parties.

Executive Manager and the Chairman of the District Peace and Security committee, Mr. Peter Tengka acknowledged all parties for the unison in making this a reality. This was the first reconciliation ceremony to ever take

place in the Wakunai district after the crisis.

Mr. Tengka, in his address, told the victims and the perpetrators, that the Bougainville Peace Agreement talks about peace and reconciliation thus if there is no reconciliation there is no peace. Mr Tengka firmly assured the people that this ceremony is the right direction to referendum.

Mr. Tengka said there would be more reconciliations taking place in the Wakunai district. He also thanked the Peace building program and its funders the Australian government for taking the lead in funding reconciliation ceremonies.



Revitalising Village Courts in Bougainville

The Autonomous Bougainville Government continues its support to develop village courts in Bougainville. In their weekly radio program on NBC, Program Manager Village Courts, Ishmael Korake, said that attempts to revitalise and strengthen village courts in the region dates back to the 1990's. "According to the National Village Courts and Land Mediation Secretariat, Bougainville has some of the best functioning village courts in Papua New Guinea," he said. In 2012 the Bougainville Village Court Review, recommended changes to the number and location of village courts to improve their effectiveness and connection with government, informal and formal justice systems. Importantly, the review also said that village courts represented an arm of government that is the main representation of justice for over 97 percent of Bougainvilleans living in village communities. In 2014, the Bougainville Village Courts Steering Committee had agreed to conduct community consultations to find out community views on how to improve village courts. This was to involve communities in local decision-making processes for the government. Following this, many community consultations were held between March and April in Buka, Buin and Arawa with representatives from village courts and communities of all districts, as well as consultations with the decision makers in the Autonomous Bougainville Government. After these meetings, the village courts division made the following recommendations to government:

- That the village courts of Bougainville be downsized from the current 96 to 46 courts with 11 officials in each court, and the majority of village courts be aligned with their individual constituencies. The exceptions are the Atolls, Buin, Nissan, Kunua, Panguna and Torokina Districts, requiring special consideration due to the exceptional disadvantages faced by these communities making them vulnerable.
- That all village courts and customary justice authorities, leaders and chiefs participate in training programs on legal empowerment and fundamental human rights frameworks.
- As of 1 January 2015, implement the National Executive Council decision 285 of 2013 to increase allowance rates for Village Court Officials maintaining the differential rates for different positions to reflect the level of responsibility and duties of each position.

"The ABG is more than ever, committed to ensuring greater participation of women in decision-making and their access to justice - particularly at the community level through the village court system," Mr Korake said.

Effective policing reduces crime: Momis

The real test of police efficiency was the absence of crime and disorder in communities," President Chief Dr Momis has said.

The real test of police efficiency was the absence of crime and disorder in communities," President Chief Dr Momis has said. The President made the remarks when he opened a week long Regional Police Commissioners conference in Buka. The conference was held from November 23-27. The theme was "Strategically Positioning the Royal Police Constabulary for Modernization". "To prevent crime and disorder you have to understand the community which empowered you to do the policing. Dr Momis said. "The breakdown in more and ethical fibers in families, in particular and society in general, often leads to crimes and disorders. When government turns a blind eye to address poverty, unemployment, corruption and immorality that is when crimes are committed and disorder to disturb the peace." Touching on the theme, President Dr Momis said strategy and positioning were two words often used by the military. "Strategy is the direction you want to take in order to gain advantage over enemy ground. Positioning likewise is a move that connotes choice of the best vantage point in order to win a battle," he said. "This conference is all about strategic positioning in a fast changing world. The advancement in technology in many ways had changed all over the world, crimes have become more sophisticated, law and justice have to keep up and step up on how to carry out justice and due process." This was the first time for a high powered police conference to be held in the Autonomous Region and as the host, the President encouraged the visitors to learn more about Bougainville. "Learn about our history and the bitter struggles we are going through and how it shaped our people and culture. When you go back to your respective posts you will carry with you a different mindset about Bougainville. You will see things from a different perspective." He said by bringing an important meeting to the island was indication that the Autonomous Region of Bougainville was a peaceful and safe place.

Government considers other revenue options

The Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) is looking at other options to boost the economy if Bougainville Copper Mine does not reopen.

These options would include the Fisheries and Agriculture sectors. Minister for Referendum, Veterans Affairs and Peace, Patrick Nisira has said the government was keen on reopening the Panguna Mine, but the final decision would be from the landowners. The reopening of the mine would mean more jobs for Bougainvilleans, boost the economy and other spin off benefits. The region needs to be able to sustain itself as it prepares for Referendum. The Vice President said although talks were in progress on the reopening of the Mine, it was unlikely that would happen during the time of the current Parliament. He said the government was now looking at Agriculture and Fisheries as alternative revenue income earners.

Rural Lock Up being built in Wakunai



A local company has been engaged to build a rural lock up in Wakunai. Project Supervisor, Martin Kakito said they were happy to have been given the contract. They had engaged youths in the district to work on the project. He added that it was good for the youths to contribute to development instead of being mere spectators. Executive Manager of Wakunai District, Peter Tengka and Terra Council Of Elders (COE) Chairman, Amos Tevaria were impressed with the progress of the project and skills of the local company. This project is evidence of government service reaching the people and to presence of law and justice sector in the community to deal with social issues in the Wakunai district.

Radio Ples Lain impacts communities

The Autonomous Bougainville Government Mobile FM Radio station broadcasting as 98.6fm Radio Ples Lain (RPL) has impacted communities with important government information.



The Bureau of Media and Communication manages the mobile radio. RPL rolled out the community outreach programs at Tinputz and Wakunai districts. The outreach broadcasts started in November in Tinputz. It would travel through selected districts in Central Bougainville and would conclude its programs at Buin Town in South Bougainville by mid-December. Team Leader of the broadcast outreach program Moses Tekuau said the aim of the community engagement was to relay important radio programs such as the government's position on referendum, the new Education Act, Code and Conduct of Public servants and the President's speech after taking office. The Bureau of Media and Communications produces the government programs for the 60/40 programs on NBC Bougainville, however, due to limited radio access coverage in many places in the region, the Mobile Radio is going into communities to relay these programs. Mr. Tekuau said *Radio Ples Lain* has impacted communities in the two districts they had broadcasted at. He said *Radio Ples Lain* gave an opportunity to leaders in the community government and district peace committees to inform people about the progress of their work. Leaders in Tinputz also used the broadcast to inform their people to refrain from supporting the Road block on the main highway created at Waropa in the Taonita Teop constituency. They told the people the road block at Waropa would only delay the flow of services and would also give wrong signals to the travelling public. In Asitavi mission station in Wakunai District the *Radio Ples Lain* broadcasts drew people to the main field to listen to the government programs. Many people came forward during the night broadcast to express their appreciation for the broadcasts. They expressed on air that these programs helped them to understand issues concerning the government's position on referendum.



UN Delegation visits

A high profile United Nations delegation visited Bougainville with a message that peace was a vital ingredient to move forward the agenda on Referendum.

Assistant Secretary General Miroslav Jenca said the delegation was on a mission to Papua New Guinea and Bougainville to spread the message of peace and prosperity.

On arrival in Buka Mr Jenca held closed door meetings with the President Dr Chief John Momis.

In a public address to the United Nations delegation the following day, President

Momis outlined factors affecting the Referendum on Bougainville and the major issues that must be overcome by the Autonomous Bougainville and Papua New Guinea Governments.

The President outlined these major issues for Bougainville as: Maintaining the Peace as a central need; More awareness on Referendum;

Technical support and Funding for the conduct of the on Referendum; Weapons disposal and good governance.

Dr Momis also said some issues to be sorted out with the PNG Government included: the date of the Referendum and the agency to conduct the Referendum vote; awareness and resources.

Awareness vital for Referendum

The Bougainville Referendum Committee visited Port Moresby recently to raise awareness on Referendum.

This year the committee included Joseph Watawi (Member for Selau, Thomas Tari (South Bougainville Former Combatants Representative), Ms. Marceline Kokiai (Central Bougainville Women's Representative) and Dominic Itta (Member for Kongara) and their officers.

They visited tertiary students in the nation's capital.

The purpose of their visit was to gauge views and opinions from students on the referendum on Bougainville.

The team did presentations on the progress Bougainville

has made so far and what needs to be done prior to referendum come 2019.

Mr Watawi said it was important for all to work together.

"The ABG has made considerable progress in terms of Governance, Law, and Services. The question here is: How effective is our progress in relation to the required benchmarks to ascertain referendum," Mr Watawi asked.

"It's time we step back and observe the implementation of the draw down of powers to ensure that they are effective by setting deadline for achieving the challenges before Referendum would

be a good start, he added.

Member Watawi encouraged the students to be positive contributors of the development process in the lead up to referendum.

"I say you are the mouthpiece of the government. In your communities when you go back, educate our people on referendum preparedness. The ball is in our court, he said.

He said it was important for awareness so people could be informed of important decisions and progress in relation to Referendum.

Bougainville steps up plans for Referendum

The Autonomous Bougainville Government is now switched on to full preparation mode as the date for referendum gradually approaches.

Part of these preparations was a workshop that the Department of Referendum, Veteran Affairs and Peace facilitated for the members of the Bougainville House of Representatives.

The main aim of the workshop was to prepare the politicians so that they would be able to speak the same messages when they carried out awarenesses on Referendum in their respective constituencies throughout Bougainville.

This would fulfill the theme of the workshop - 'People Owning Referendum through Elected Leadership'.

The two-day workshop from November 17 - 18 was held at the Malasang Women's Resource Centre provided the avenue for the MPs to critically and openly discuss important issues among themselves pertaining to the preparations of Bougainville's referendum. Some of the other issues also covered included the planning and administration for Referendum, Weapons Disposal and Good Governance.

Meanwhile the Minister for Finance, Albert Punghau reminded the group to work within the framework on the Bougainville Peace Agreement as it was the constitutional document that would guide Bougainville on its political aspirations.

President Chief Dr John Momis re-affirmed this statement saying that both the ABG and the national government are bounded by the peace agreement. He said Bougainville's dream of self-determination could

only be achieved if a process that has integrity is adopted.

"Bougainville is coming from a very privileged position, uniquely privileged. No other province in Papua New Guinea is poised at the same level as Bougainville. Only Bougainville in law has the right to be fully autonomous," Dr Momis said.

President Momis urged all members of the Bougainville House of Representatives to stand together in their decision-making that would give a favourable outcome that would be in the best interests of the people.

The acting Secretary for the Department of Referendum, Veteran Affairs and Peace, Mr James Tanis, reiterated this statement in one of his presentations.

Mr Tanis said it was now up to Bougainville to make decisions within the spirit of the Peace Agreement and fully implement Bougainville's commitments as stipulated in the BPA.

As part of its awareness plan, the Referendum Department has developed what it called the Trident Strategy approach that focuses on (a)Peace Building in Bougainville (b) Relationships and negotiation with the PNG government and (c) International Diplomacy. It also produced a calendar that captures all important programs and processes to take place before the proposed date of the referendum which is the first quarter of 2019.

RPNGC Police Commissioners' Conference



Commissioners get insights into Development Plan

POLICE Commissioners of Papua New Guinea were educated about the Medium Term Development Plan (MTDP2) and urged to align their strategy closely to Vision 2050.

At the start of the weeklong conference on 'Strategically Positioning the Royal PNG Constabulary for Modernization, the regional police commissioners were given the opportunity to learn about Bougainville's Public Service and administration. On the second day, they were given an insight into the PNG Medium Term Development Plan (MTDP 2) 2016-2017. It was an eye-opener presentation.

Assistant Secretary for Planning Division, Department of National Planning & Monitoring, Michael Kumung presented the MTDP2.

His presentation

stimulated discussions from conference participants on how the Police Force could incorporate the knowledge gained into a strategic plan.

Mr Kumung said the MTDP2 was the second revised version of the plan, formed under the leadership of the Prime Minister Peter O'Neill government.

He said that that there were 16 priority areas under the Medium Term Development Plan 2 and included the following areas:

Planning and Monitoring; Financing; Implementation and Procurement; National Infrastructure; Education; Health; Law and Justice; Land and Housing;

SME; Agriculture; Provincial District & LLG Empowerment; Public Sector Reform; Legislative Reform; LNG Project & Sovereign Wealth Fund; State Own Enterprises and Strategic Assets.

The MTDP2 (2016-2017) acts as a policy framework aimed at improving the standards of living and achieving goals set at improving the economy of the country.

Mr Kumung said as it is the road map for PNG's Development, the Law and Justice Sector and the Police force were important and partial to the MTDP and so the strategies must be aligned very closely to the

plan.

He stressed that it crucial to have a law and justice sector that was strong so that it would also reflect on the economy as well.

Mr. Kumung highlighted on the important role the law and justice sector played in nation building and how it was important to secure a positive economy growth and development. He acknowledged the challenges of addressing crime in PNG a but anticipated that it was a target of the MTDP to reduce the crime rate in 2017 by per cent or more.

One of the issues that was inevitable and a challenge was the scarcity of resources

when addressing economy development.

Mr Kumung challenged the law and justice sector including the RPNGC Police to have a strategic plan that was sustainable and aligned closely to the vision 2015.

He said prior to the MTDP2, one of its core targets was to encourage sustainability. One of the ways that the law enforcers could encourage more on was peace building.

Mr Kumung also revealed at the conference that by the year 2030, there would be a system that would register birth records and provide legal identity for all.



ARoB cocoa rated as world's best



Wellington Chocolate Factory (WCF) has rated Bougainville Cocoa as the World's greatest chocolate after having created samples of the chocolate bar from cocoa beans picked at Tinputz last year.

Harry Davidson, the Founder and Manager of the WCF revealed this at Tinputz recently on his second visit to the area, offering to purchase cocoa beans direct from Tinputz to transport to New Zealand where the beans will be processed into fine chocolate bars, a finished product from Bougainville.

"My partner and I decided to use Tinputz cocoa to create chocolate bars after meeting up with local farmers last year and we are amazed at how rich the product has turned out to

be," Mr. Davidson stressed.

This was the second trip for Mr Davidson into Tinputz and with the dream of using the Tinputz or Bougainville cocoa beans to make chocolate bars. He looked forward to taking back twelve tonnes of cocoa beans on his return trip.

James Rutana, a long time cocoa farmer in Tinputz and well known to the WCF founder and Manager welcomed the WCF's move to purchase cocoa beans to produce Bougainville chocolate and stressed that it was the best business deal offered to small cocoa farmers who have struggled for a long time.

"The business deal you have offered to process Bougainville cocoa into a finished product a finest chocolate is the best deal for the small cocoa farmers

in Tinputz and Bougainville as a whole because we have been missing out on good and better prices that the market could offer," he said.

Mr Rutana further stressed that Tinputz although a small district was famous for growing and producing sixty per cent of Bougainville's cocoa and with the business deal offered, he was sure and positive Tinputz will produce 200,000 tonnes per year to be sold to WCF.

He called on the people of Tinputz and Bougainville especially the cocoa farmers to stand with him and accept the offer as this would mean more money for the people and boost the economy of Autonomous Bougainville Government.

"At current market price and what the WCF is offering, we will earn



K2.8 billion per year if we concentrate on Cocoa," Mr Rutana stressed.

He added that if ABG could support the farmers, they can produce 200,000 tonnes and earn K2.8 billion and then be able to pay a ten per cent tax of K280 million to ABG on top of what ABG gets from the National Government budget of K300 million."

"If we can concentrate on cocoa and give that much money from our own source, sweat and work to the ABG every year, who needs mining," Mr Rutana challenged.

Mr Davidson further explained that at WCF they were mindful of what they are customers eat and so as much as possible they encourage the use of organically grown cocoa and the use of sustainable transport to help in the transportation and producing of healthy chocolate bars.

"In this trip, our purpose is to promote Bougainville cocoa and sustainable sea transport so that our customers know where their food comes from and how they were produced," he said.

Mr Davidson and his team flew into Fiji from New Zealand and sailed on a large canoe from Fiji to Bougainville and onto Tinputz. The large canoe known as the "Uto Ni Yalo" is made from wood, fibre and ropes and travels using the solar energy from the sun and the wind.

The large canoe had sailed into Tinputz and the crew together with Mr Davidson and his partners from Wellington Chocolate Factory spent several days with the cocoa farmers from Tinputz and other surrounding areas, including Arawa and Panguna before sailing off twelve tonnes of cocoa tonnes of cocoa beans.

Meanwhile, Ursula Ratova a women's representative in Tinputz thanked the WCF for choosing Tinputz cocoa to make these chocolates as it would give the people an opportunity to sell their cocoa beans to a well-known factory and encourage them to produce more as they will be earning a better living to sustain themselves within their communities and families.

The Bougainville Peace Building Program



A program spearheading Peace building, reconciliation and promoting security and unification across Bougainville.



The Bougainville Peace Building Program (BPBP) is an initiative of the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG), which was established in 2013 by the Bougainville Executive Council.

With the primary objective to facilitate peace building in Bougainville's ongoing reconciliation process as outlined under the ABG's priority of unifying all Bougainvilleans, the BPBP works together with Different faction leaders, Chiefs, youths and

communities across South and Central Bougainville to create an environment that promotes lasting and sustainable peace for all Bougainvilleans.

The BPBP aligns its work with the Bougainville Peace Agreement to pave the way for immediate restoration of government functions and service deliver as well as rehabilitation of people and communities.

The BPBP consists of five components that are tailored to create social, economic and environmental stability

through peace and security. The components include: Program coordination that overseas the overall management of the peace building activities of the program; Conflict mediation, resolution and reconciliation support the resolution of high profile residual Bougainville crisis related conflicts.

The current focus is on Central and South Bougainville.

All this is implemented through seven District Peace and Reconciliation



Committees (DPSC). The BPBP has so far reunited more than 10 000 people across 50 communities in South and Central Bougainville in the last three years.

Component three involves community mapping, data collection and analysis. This component would be followed by component four which focuses on social and economic development to ensure peace is sustained.

Component five set sights on at other peace building initiatives that have been initiated. This component supports peace building initiatives that individuals and or communities take ownership of.

The BPBP, despite its achievements, still faces major challenges in implementing its programs. The main challenges relates to weapons disposal and program ownership in relation to peace and reconciliation. The BPBP sees this as a challenge to the implementation of the Bougainville Peace agreement and its key priorities of:

- **Reunification for all Bougainvilleans**
- **Law and Order**
- **Social and Economic Development**

Weapons Issues and Referendum

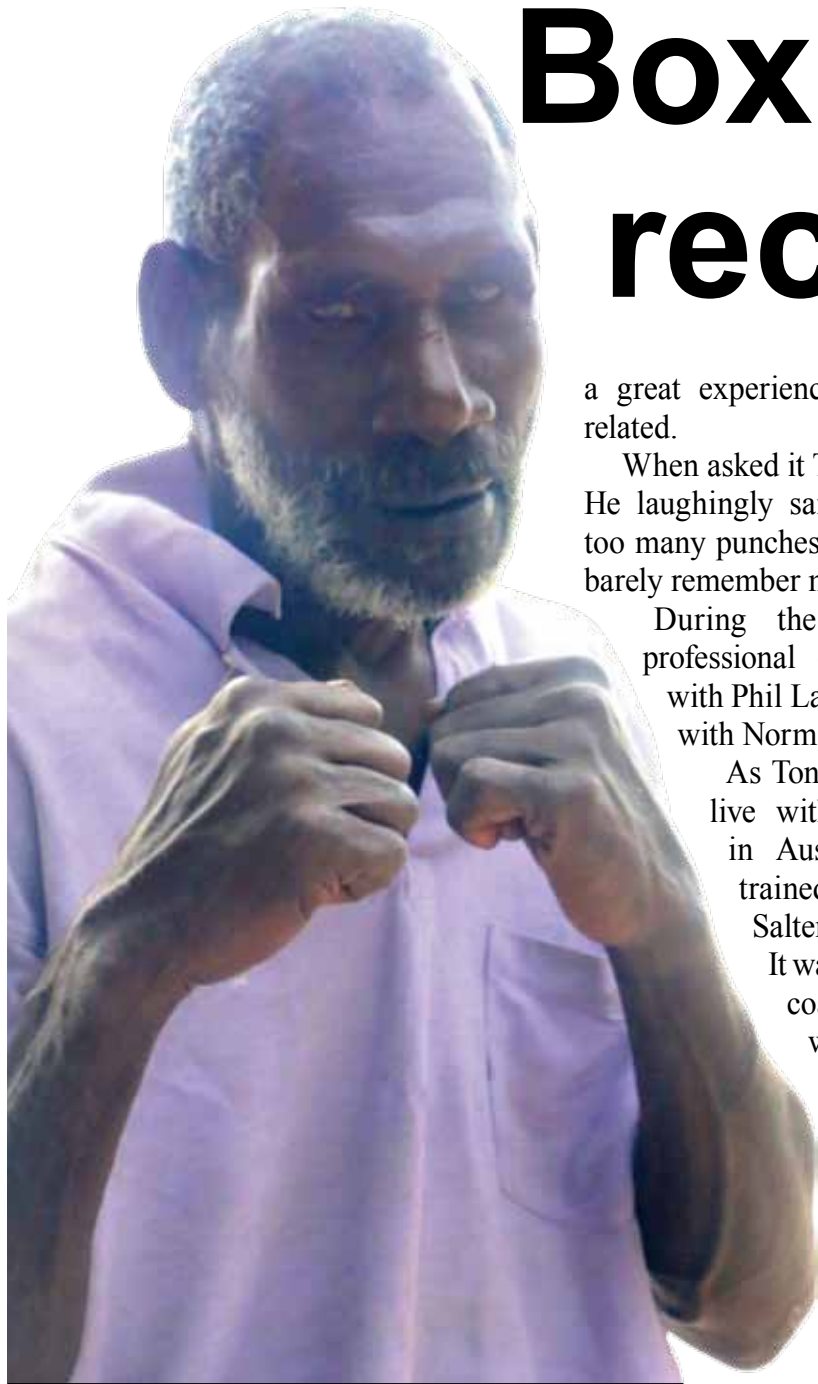
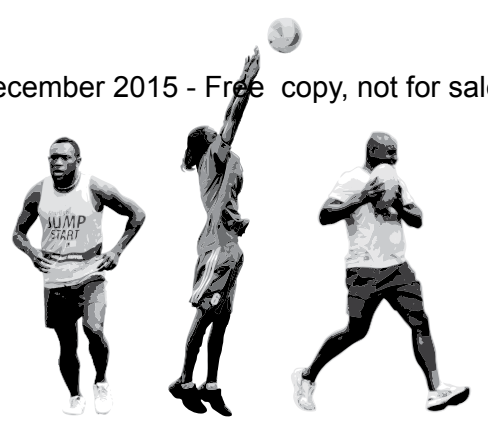
The BPBP has been working closely with the new ABG Department of Referendum, Veteran Affairs and Peace to Provide strategic support to the relevant policies and program areas as well as manage the referendum process.

The Program also works closely with all stakeholders of the Bougainville Peace Agreement across the region to drive information awareness and strengthening peace building initiatives in the community.

The BPBP aims to ensure that all Bougainvilleans live in a weapons free, peaceful and harmonious society where they can make well informed decisions without due influence or fear for a safer and better Bougainville for the future.

It is, therefore, important that we take ownership of peace building initiatives, reconciliation and work together to end conflicts from the Bougainville crisis using our traditional conflict resolution methods.

All weapons should be disposed off as we prepare for referendum and our long sought independence ahead.



Boxing legend Aba recalls glory days

a great experience for me,” Tony related.

When asked it Tony remembered He laughingly said: “I have taken too many punches to the head I can barely remember much.”

During the height of his professional career he parted with Phil Laris and teamed up with Norman Salter.

As Tony puts, he used to live with Salter’s family in Australia. There he trained and fought under Salter’s watchful eyes.

It was under Norman’s coaching that Tony won fights against Ceddy McGrady and Francis Bale in 1978.

Salter took him in and they stuck together till Norman’s death in 1985.

Back in PNG, Tony was having money issues. He did odd jobs to sustain himself but this was not enough as the shifts he took did not bring in much money and he had to train everyday.

He asked his new manager Patrick Mavi if he could get paid more.

“I’m the one fighting in the ring and making money,” he said, “I want my money.”

When this did not eventuate, it ended in a physical confrontation

with Patrick. Tony got arrested and charged for punching Patrick. He was later released on good behavior bond.

Then later that year, he was called in for a rematch with New Zealand’s “stevai”. He wanted to carry Bougainville flag into this fight. However, his coach insisted that he carry the Papua New Guinean Flag, so he pulled out.

“I quit boxing because I wasn’t getting the treatment I deserved for the work I did,” Tony said.

The patriotism he carried showed in his move to retire from active boxing.

“Sapos ol tok orait lo me karim Bougainville flag, em aste yet me go” (If they said I could carry the Bougainville flag, I would have been in the ring immediately).

Tony now trains youths on boxing and occasionally coaches the Bougainvillean boxing squad team 2.

He says boxing in PNG and Bougainville had dropped in standards because the coaches were not experienced.

“It would make all the difference if we have former professional boxers mentoring our aspiring young boxer. I congratulate Martin Benny for the good job he has been doing.

“Boxing today is too straight forward and too predictable in a fighter. We have to teach different combinations, Jabs, hooks and blocks with the same hand and to counter attack and defend in awkward positions. When combined with Fitness, stamina, aggression and Technique, you are unpredictable.”

Tony Retired in 1985 and lives in his Beloved Rorovana Village - Central Bougainville. A place with beautiful sun kissed beached and scenic ocean views.

When asked what the greatest challenge he faced as a boxer,



Tony said: *“It’s the fact that I couldn’t help myself but burning to get back in the ring and make myself count”.*

“I had my jaw broken twice. Once by Jonny Sumrise and the second was by Jeff Malcolm. The referee Trevor Christian had to stop the fight on the 7th round when I sustained a fracture jaw. I lost to Jeff.

“In the fight with Jonny Summise, however, I beat Jonny on points. He was much more experienced and fast too. I had to play my cards well. I took advantage of my left and changed attacking positions. This made me unpredictable and gave me the upper hand in the final bout.

“I would love to see our youths take up this sport and make a name for him or her self. If we have good equipment and commitment from our boxers, we can do it,” Tony said.

The Bougainville Bulletin had the opportunity to meet one of Bougainville’s greatest sons of Boxing in Rorovana recently.

He is Tony Aba, a name once known in the boxing fraternity and still remembered.

A late starter in the Sport, Tony began boxing in 1972 aged 17, following in his older brother John Aba’s footsteps.

In an interview he recalled going down to Loloho with the other village boys to spar. During the height of development during Bougainville Copper Limited’s presence on the island, Loloho had a well equipped gym.

“From Loloho, we

started traveling to Arawa and Panguna to box. It was exciting in those days especially with the influx of outsiders coming in to work for Bougainville Copper Limited (BCL) we had good competitions from them too,” Tony said.

“John and I made it our hobby to spar everyday. Since John was my senior, he would teach me moves he learnt and I worked hard on perfecting them.

Following in John’s footsteps, Tony turned pro. “I was coached by Phil Laris when I made my professional debut against Anthony Fotia in 1977. After this win, I remember travelling abroad twice every month to box. It was