



THE BOUGAINVILLE BULLETIN

Our voice, Our image, Our place

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Bougainville progresses journey to independence through 'peace by peaceful means'



A dedication service was held at the Hahela Catholic Mission on August 30th to commemorate the anniversary of the signing of the Bougainville Peace Agreement.

the 20th Anniversary of the Bougainville Peace Agreement as the Cornerstone of our Independence Mission”.

President Toroama said the theme reflects the declaration by the government and the people of Bougainville to resolve the journey that has already begun.

“We have enjoyed twenty years of peace under the Bougainville Peace Agreement and the autonomous arrangements that created the ABG. The next five years are going to be critical as the ABG has declared its position to the National Government and we have set a timeline (2025 – 2027) for Bougainville’s final political settlement,” he said.

The President thanked the Prime Minister and the National Government for their continued commitment on the implementation of the BPA.

President Toroama also paid tribute to past and present leadership for their immense contribution to making Bougainville realize its ultimate political future and that is independence.

He further called on the people of Bougainville to support the government and to embrace the values that promote peace and progress.

The people of Bougainville have shown great resilience in maintaining their strong commitment to the implementation of the Bougainville Peace Agreement in the last twenty years.

Ishmael Toroama made this statement when commemorating the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Bougainville Peace Agreement in August.

“Our commitment has given credibility to the process espoused by the BPA by successfully

implementing the requirements of the BPA’s three main pillars, autonomy, weapons disposal and referendum,” Toroama said.

“We have achieved Autonomy, we have achieved Weapons Disposal and we have

successfully held a Referendum with an overwhelming 97.7 percent of Bougainvilleans who have opted for an Independent Sovereign State of Bougainville.”

This year’s celebration was held under the theme “Celebrating



Our voice, Our image, Our place

Editor's Desk

Hello Readers!

Welcome to Edition 18 of the Bougainville Bulletin.

Following the launch of the Independence-Ready Mission in April this year, the ABG had embarked on a region-wide drive which saw constituency-based launchings of the Independence-Ready initiative in the 33 constituencies.

Further progress has also been made between the Governments of Bougainville and Papua New Guinea, with two Joint Consultation Meetings in May and July respectively this year.

In the first Joint Consultation, the ABG President Hon. Ishmael Toroama presented the Bougainville position on independence to the National Government.

It was in the second Joint Consultation in July that the two governments jointly agreed to the Independence Timeline, where a final political settlement for Bougainville must be determined no earlier than 2025 and no later than 2027.

This in itself is a historic milestone for the people of Bougainville.

In this Edition, we bring to you all these updates, including the independence timeline, the Joint Statements agreed to by both governments and other updates on our Independence Mission. You can also read about the progress at the administrative level where the Bougainville Public Service has commenced realignment towards the creation of a One Budget, One Plan, One Performance Management System.

September 29 this year marked the first year of the Toroama-Nisira government since the inauguration in 2020. Within these first 12 months, much work has been done across all sectors of the government to begin laying the foundation for Bougainville's independence. We bring to you a summary of these government highlights in this Edition as well.

With COVID-19 and the new Delta Variant still on the rise in Bougainville and in other parts of the world, it is vital that we remind all our readers continue to practice the Niupela Pasin measures. Most importantly, remember to keep a safe distance from others in public places, mask up and wash hands frequently with soap and water or use a hand-sanitizer.

We wish our readers well and hope you enjoy this Edition.

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About the *Bougainville Bulletin*

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Joint Government Consultations (Enga)

Bougainville Independence: 'Not earlier than 2025, no later than 2027'

Bougainville and Papua New Guinea governments reached a milestone achievement in the agreement for Bougainville's political settlement to be determined 'not earlier than 2025 and no later than 2027'.

Bougainville President Ishmael Toroama and PNG Prime Minister James Marape, reached this joint agreement, among others during the second Joint Inter Government Consultation meeting in Wabag, Enga Province in July this year.

President Toroama described this agreement as a historical decision reached by both sides and thanked Prime Minister Marape for his leadership in the process.



President Ishmael Toroama and Prime Minister James Marape pose for a group photo with fellow members after the Joint Consultation in Wabag in July.

"I want to say thank you to you Prime Minister that we have made a historical decision today. We have agreed on the deferred date in our agreement. I will do my best to prepare Bougainville and to make Bougainville independence-ready. I know you will also do your best to make PNG ready to help Bougainville," he said.

The agreement for the determination of Bougainville's

political settlement is captured in a Joint Road Map that outlines a set of activities and tasks that must be jointly implemented between the periods of 2021 to 2027.

Chief among these tasks include the establishment of the Bougainville Constitutional Planning Commission to begin preparations to draft Bougainville's Independence Constitution.

Prime Minister James Marape reiterated that the consultation process is not a new creation in Bougainville's peace process; rather it is a part of the process that is clearly outlined in the 2001 Bougainville Peace Agreement.

"In the spirit of the 2001 peace agreement we felt the referendum, as a result of the 2001 peace agreement we are now engaged in this consultation", he said.

Prime Minister further assured the Bougainville President and the ABG Consultation Team that his government will do their best to ensure the agreements and decisions reached in the second consultation meeting will be progressed.

Nisira: People and Government must work together to build Bougainville's economy

Plans are underway to build Bougainville to become a vibrant, resilient and prosperous nation in the Pacific by 2030.

ABG Minister for Commerce, Trade and Industry Hon. Patrick Nisira, announced this recently in parliament, saying that his Ministry has progressed significant efforts under the Bougainville Economic Development Strategic Framework.

Minister Nisira said that his Ministry together with all economic sector agencies, has begun work to develop an economic model and an economic development strategy that provides a roadmap for all agencies to know their role in creating an enabling environment that supports Bougainville's economic growth.

Minister Nisira also announced that the Bougainville Executive Council has endorsed the

Bougainville Economic Quick Win Plan.

"The Bougainville Economic Quick Win Plan is the short term economic plan which will run for 3 years (2021 – 2023), whilst the medium and long term plans are being devised," Minister Nisira said.

"The approach of implementing the BEQWP as part of the short term plan will focus on thematic areas of investment that will have rates of return in the shortest time possible with less cost to implement," he said.

These include:

- **Agricultural projects (forestry, agriculture, fisheries, organic farming of high value crops and livestock farms)**
- **Mining projects such as Manetai limestone and small scale mining**

- **Projects that involve making land more available for economic development**
- **Transport improvement projects**
- **Infrastructure improvement including power supply (solar and hydro)**

Minister Nisira said that other projects under the quick win plan involves commercial projects that partner with investors to look at developing pre-existing industries or creating business opportunities in underdeveloped industries in the region.

"Some of these commercial projects will include Bougainville Water Bottling, Gold Refinery, Bougainville Savings and Loans, Bougainville Petroleum, Real Estate and Property Development

in Bougainville and in other parts of PNG, establishment of Special Economic Zones, tourism promotion and hubs," he said.

Meantime, the Economic Sector ministriesanddepartments in Bougainville will continue to progress and resolve any policy issues required to facilitate the implementation of these projects.

"All these initiatives are imperative for a sound foundation for future economic growth," he said.

Speaking on his Ministry's priorities over the remaining months of 2021, Minister Nisira explainedthatthekey focus will be on strengthening institutional capacity covering legislation, technical capacity and administration to ensure a full functioning governance system to regulate and monitor all

matters in the economic sector.

His Ministry will also continue to develop Bougainville's economic model, improve establishment and operationalization of regulatory bodies in the economic sector and progress implementation of the quick win plan to ensure the government is in the required financial position to support future larger investments.

Minister Nisira challenged and called on all sectors of Government, people and groups of Bougainville, to work with his Ministry and the Economic Sector to plan and raise Bougainville's economy.

"Let us raise the economic indicators that promises a Bougainville which is in a position to effectively and efficiently manage its own economic affairs as an independent nation," he said.



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SECRETARY

MR SHADRACH HIMATA

Bougainville Administration realigns priorities to implement independence-readiness

Greetings to all Bougainvilleans and also public servants across our region.

As Acting Chief Secretary of the Bougainville Public Service, I once again bring to you all an update on the work that the administration is progressing towards our independence-ready mission for Bougainville.

A series of workshops were held in the months of September to mid-October this year, spearheaded by my Office and the Department Heads of the Public Service through a whole-of-government approach.

The workshops commenced with the third quarter Performance Management Review for all Departments in the Bougainville Public Service. The Performance Management Review is an ongoing

process to measure progress towards implementation of the Bougainville Strategic Development Plan (BSDP) 2018-2022.

From the BSDP Review, a Public Service Independence-Readiness Induction workshop was held. The objective of the workshop was to form the whole-of-government Public Service Independence-ready Committee. This Committee will then lead the review of the current BSDP then craft out the Bougainville Independence Strategic Development Plan (BISDP) 2022-2026.

As Chief Secretary, my Office will provide overall leadership to the Public Service Independence-Ready Committee and coordinate strategic input by all sectors. These key sectors include social, economic, law and justice, infrastructure and governance. So far, all

Sectors have been consulted through joint efforts by the Departments, Bougainville Strategic Research and Planning Secretariat, Bougainville Independence Mission Advisory Team and the Public Service Transformation Project team.

Through open collaboration, all sectors are now geared towards delivering Bougainville's independence no earlier than 2025 and no later than 2027.

To our public servants and community governments in the districts, I wish to inform you all here that following the sector consultations at the headquarter level; the Independence Committee Secretariat will support regional consultations from South and Central Bougainville, Nissan/Atolls and North Bougainville.

These consultations will be done in cooperation with the

Department of Community Government, Constituency Independence-Ready Committees, Community Governments, Office of the Vice Minister for Bougainville Affairs and Bougainville Regional Member and the three National Bougainville MPs for North, Central and South.

It is the intention of my Office to consult Bougainvilleans on mainland PNG, and build relationships with development partners. The ultimate goal of the Bougainville Independence Strategic Development Plan 2022-2026 is to guide a One Bougainville Plan, One Bougainville Budget and One Performance Management System – all geared towards Independence.

May God bless us all.

SHADRACH HIMATA
Acting Chief Secretary

New Ministers sworn in for Health, Police and Public Service



HON. JOSEPH MONA
Member for Lule Constituency
Minister for Public Service



HON. THOMAS TARI
Member for South
Bougainville Veterans
Minister for Health



**HON. EMMANUEL
CARLOS KAETAVARA**
Member for Baba Constituency
Minister for Police



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

HON. ISHMAEL TOROAMAPresident and Minister responsible for
Inter-Government Affairs, Media and Communication

My dear Bougainvilleans, welcome to my second column in the Bougainville Bulletin.

In my last update, I gave you an overall picture of my government's vision and the priorities under my Six Point Strategy.

Significant progress has been made by this Government since then.

Under Strategy 1: Political Control, we have made great strides following the Joint Consultation and Joint Supervisory Body meetings held so far.

In May we had the first Joint Consultation with the National Government in Kokopo, where I presented the Bougainville position to the Prime Minister. This position stated the year 2025 as the year for Declaration for Independence.

During the second Joint Consultation with the National Government in Wabag, both sides agreed for a political settlement for Bougainville to be determined 'no earlier than 2025 and no later than 2027'. A joint timeline that highlights key activities to be implemented by both governments was also approved.

My people of Bougainville, these decisions are remarkable milestones for us, and it places us all in a very crucial point in our history.

It shows the National Government and the

international community very clearly, that Bougainville will fiercely pursue its aspirations for full sovereign powers and independence from Papua New Guinea.

Having said that, each and every one of us now has an enormous responsibility to ensure we are ready.

As part of our efforts towards independence readiness, my government has placed particular emphasis on building Bougainville's economic capacity to generate internal revenue.

This is being done through the formulation of a macroeconomic model that will create stable economic environment that generates revenue, creates employment and establishes fiscal self-reliance.

Under this initiative, the Ministry and Department for Commerce, Trade & Industry has begun several high impact economic development projects.

Let me also provide you with some key updates on work progressed under our Bougainville Administration led by the Acting Chief Secretary.

Within the last eleven months of this government, several departments of the Bougainville Administration have begun work on development programs that give effect to my Six Point Strategy and the independence-ready

initiative.

These include:

1. Department of Commerce, Trade and Industry: Developing high impact projects and formulating macroeconomic plan.

2. Department of Law and Justice: Shaping Bougainville Justice project expansion of the infrastructure and human resource capacity programs.

3. Department of Technical Services: Expansion of transport sector programs (road sealing and upgrades) and introduction of electricity project under a Bougainville Utilities Company

4. Department of Health: Expansion of programs and continued management of COVID19 Pandemic

5. Department of Education: Introduction of self-sustaining initiatives for institutions through SMEs, MOU signing with the Vudal University

6. Department of Lands: Drawdown of powers and functions from the National Government and formation of the Bougainville Lands Board

7. Drawdown of Public Service powers

8. Environmental Impact Assessment of Panguna by Rio Tinto and BCL

I have instructed called on all Ministers and their departments to start creating innovative means to effect change in their respective areas of responsibility.

This call has also been extended to all the other Constituency Members. We no longer have the luxury to procrastinate. Both the leaders and our people must unite and work hard, and it is our duty as leaders to be at the forefront of this charge.

My people of Bougainville, by now you may all be aware of the government-led initiative called the Bougainville Independence Ready Mission program.

My government embarked on this program beginning in April this year, under what is called the Trident Strategy. The internal prong of the Trident Strategy is a critical one which requires all Bougainvilleans to work towards independence-readiness right at the family and ward levels across our 33 constituencies.

The Bougainville Independence-Ready Mission program is based on six benchmarks namely, Governance, Social Services, Rule of Law, Standard of Living, Economic Development and Human Resource

Development.

These are the key benchmarks that we must focus on internally to ensure we are independence-ready across all sectors.

The Bougainville Independence-Ready Mission calls for patriotism from every Bougainville to work together with the Government to prepare us all for independence.

All Bougainvilleans must get on-board this mission because it is a strategic mission of service, capacity and relationship building for Bougainville internally, nationally and internationally.

To date, all Constituencies have completed their launchings and inductions of the Mission. The next steps now are most critical for us all as this is where the real work begins – we must ensure we progress the constituency programs to meet the six benchmarks.

I want to make it clear again that Independence is our right and it is our destiny which we have earned through our blood, sweat and tears. My people, stand with me as your President and Government, and let us work together to achieve our ultimate goal.

I look forward to providing more updates of our independence mission in the next Edition.

God Bless us all.

Bougainville attains Land powers from National Government

Service delivery in the land sector in Bougainville has now been made easier following the full draw down of all powers and functions for Land Administration from the National Government to the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

President Toroama hailed the drawdown of powers as a momentous event in the history of Bougainville.

“I am pleased to acknowledge and bear witness to the successful working relationship between both governments to ensure Bougainville’s independent management of its own land affairs the Bougainville way,” Toroama said.

ABG Lands Minister Robert Hamal Sawa in his remarks during the drawdown and signing ceremony in Buka, stated that land is the foundation of any form of development in Bougainville, and the drawdown of land powers now allows Bougainville to now manage its own lands affairs.

He appealed to all

Bougainvilleans to work closely with his Department when dealing with any land issues going forward.

He said that state land in Bougainville is scarce so people must work together with the government to make available customary land to enable the government to develop and add value to it.

Minister Sawa further announced that his Department is also in the process of developing the Bougainville Lands Act.

“My department is working on the Lands Act - the act is a home-grown Lands Act that is being developed to address issues that are unique to Bougainville,” he said.

National Minister for Lands John Rosso, was also in attendance of this event in Buka. In his remarks, he described the event as a milestone achievement for both governments.

HesaidthattheMarape-Basil government is adamant that the national government must devolve as much powers as possible in line with the timelines and

agreements between both governments.

The signing ceremony included the devolution of powers and functions of land administration powers, and uplifting of moratorium on the land rentals in the region so ABG can start to collect rentals on the state leases throughout the region.

“This will greatly assist and enhance the ABG in its revenue collection methods. ABG will now have its first ever regional land board to be established. This is on top of the Physical Planning board which has already been established,” he said.

“With these powers now that we give to you, it makes you solely responsible and accountable for your own land.”

The event also saw the swearing in of the Land Board Members. The newly established Land Board for Bougainville will be chaired by Robert Critchley, with other members including Agnes Titus, Henry Stalei, Ralph Christan, Albert Nukuitu, Fr Patrick Baria and Clement Sipara.



ABG President Ishmael Toroama and National Lands Minister John Rosso signing the drawdown instruments in Buka.



ABG receives full HR powers

ABG Department of Personnel Management and Administrative Services witnessed the drawdown of remaining powers and functions from the National Department of Personnel Management in August this year.

This occasion marked the formal handover of the full transfer of remaining Human Resource Management functions to the Bougainville Public Service as part of fulfilling the Sharp Agreement signed by the two governments in February this year.

National Minister for the Department of Personnel Management Honorable Joe Sungi in delivering his keynote address at the occasion said he was privileged to witness the historic event and challenged the Bougainville Public Service to take ownership and deliver.

“This is another milestone achieved for Bougainville Public Service, however, it comes with its own responsibilities which you must take heed of. The full transfer of powers is like a vehicle given to you, I encourage you to use this powers

and functions to care for your public servants in Bougainville for prosperity in the public service journey,” he said.

The ABG Minister for Personnel Management and Administrative Services Honorable Emmanuel Carlos Kaetavara acknowledged the National Government for fulfilling the Sharp Agreement in finally transferring the powers and functions, however, it meant achieving greater efficiencies.

“The transfer of powers and functions means achieving greater efficiencies and I think we have no excuses when these powers are drawn down to us,” he said.

He added that with great power come greater responsibility and the Bougainville Public Service was now challenged that the transferred powers and functions are performed to expectations.

This drawdown of powers and functions is the second for this year since the Sharp agreement in February; the first was the drawdown of powers and functions from the National Department of Lands.

Australia announces support package for improved electricity in Bougainville

Communities in Buka and Arawa will soon see improved access to stable, clean and sustainable electricity.

This follows the announcement of upgrades to the PNG Power electricity grids in Buka and Arawa.

Australian High Commissioner to PNG Jon Philp officially announced this support package recently in Buka, in the presence of ABG Minister for Technical Services, Dr Joseph Swuamaru, senior management of PNG Power Limited and the Bougainville administration.

The electricity support package totaling K50million will be implemented over the next

eighteen months, and will see the immediate hire of new generators for Buka and Arawa to ensure stable power is provided for consumers.

“We will hire immediately in the next month or two months, new generators on a hire basis, for both Buka and Arawa to make sure you have the power you need now,” said High Commissioner Philp.

“Once those are installed, we will buy new generators for both Buka and Arawa to make sure there is sufficient power, to make sure it’s stable and it runs at all times,” he said.

In addition to this, a feasibility study will be conducted to look at

delivering long term solutions for the power needs in Bougainville. This will include further exploration into solar power.

ABG Minister for Technical Services Hon. Joseph Swuamaru acknowledged the ongoing support and partnership of the Australian government.

Minister Swuamaru highlighted that Bougainville continues to face significant challenges in its physical infrastructure, however Bougainville must ensure that it invests in developing its own resources to ensure that there is sustainability in donor-supported programs such as this for the energy sector.

“We should invest in developing our capabilities so that we sustain this support. That means investing in human resources, that means improving management,” he said.

Minister Swuamaru further explained that development of an Energy policy for Bougainville is currently underway and looks at technology-neutral options such as solar, hydro, wind, geothermal for the energy sector. He said that the Energy policy will promote a decentralized design of energy generation, transmission and distribution so that generation units can be set up right at the constituency and ward levels.



ICCC Commissioner Paul Ain (left) and ABG Vice President and Minister for Commerce, Trade and Industry Patrick Nisira after the MoU signing in Buka.

ABG and ICCC signs agreement for drawdown of powers

protect the consumers and deal with merges and acquisitions,” he explained.

“Consumer protection is a very big role we have in trying to protect the consumers from what the business community does. At the same time we try to meet in the middle and protect the consumers and make sure that the businesses does the right thing,” Commissioner Ain said.

While other provinces in PNG only receive the consumer protection functions from the ICCC, for Bougainville the MoU between both parties now paves way for all ICCC functions to be passed on to Bougainville over a period of time.

Under this MoU, the ABG’s Department of Commerce, Trade and Industry’s Business Development Officers can implement the following responsibilities of the ICCC which are:

- **Representing ICCC in any meetings in line with the ICCC’s roles, functions, powers and responsibilities**
- **Address consumer complaints and refer complaints to relevant government authorities and departments, should the complaints fall outside of ICCC’s jurisdiction**
- **Conduct monthly price surveillance on declared goods such as rice, flour and sugar; and**
- **Conduct awareness and dissemination of information on PMV and Taxi fares, monthly fuel prices, interim and permanent banned products to stakeholders, traders and the general public.**

The ICCC will facilitate training of these ABG officers covering areas such as what to do when dealing with consumer complaints and attending to price inspections of goods and services.

The Autonomous Bougainville Government and the Independent Consumer and Competition Commission signed a Memorandum of Understanding recently in Buka, which now marks the beginning of the drawdown of full powers from the consumer watchdog to the ABG.

The drawdown process falls under the SHARP Agreement signed by the Governments of Bougainville and Papua New Guinea in May this year.

ABG Vice President and Minister for Commerce, Trade and

Industry Hon. Patrick Nisira says this signing is a very significant occasion for Bougainville and marks the way forward for both governments to work together to protect consumer affairs in Bougainville.

“Our consumers in Bougainville deserve the best – without consumers we won’t have any business,” he said.

He said that this protection must cover pricing and also quality of goods and services offered by businesses in the region, among others.

Minister Nisira expressed his support of this process, saying

that going forward; his Department will work closely with the ICCC to ensure the MoU is implemented immediately and effectively.

ICCC Commissioner Paul Ain said that this signing was an important activity for the ICCC.

He explained that the ICCC was established as part of the reforms led by Late Sir Mekere Morauta when he was the Prime Minister, and is basically the bridge between consumers and businesses as well as the main regulator of the economic sector in PNG.

“Our core functions are to regulate the prices,



Vice President and Minister for Commerce, Trade and Industry Hon. Patrick Nisira.

Bougainville has the potential to become a strong local economy that is recognized nationally and internationally.

ABG Minister for Commerce, Trade and Industry Hon. Patrick Nisira said this when speaking on Trade and Investment in Bougainville during the August parliament session

in Buka.

Minister Nisira had recently announced that ‘Bougainville is Open for Business’ where he also explained the process involved for interested investors to follow when thinking of investing in Bougainville.

The Bougainville Inward Investment Board will be the authorized

ABG outlines plans on trade and investment in Bougainville

body to analyze all foreign investment applications into Bougainville.

“The Bougainville Inward Investment Board has been in operation since June and has had 2 meetings thus far, and has been processing more than 30 applications of interested investors.”

“This is the mechanism that the ABG and the Department of Commerce, Trade and Industry will administer to manage foreign and local businesses authorized to set up in Bougainville,” he explained.

Nisira assured the House that any companies

or investors who do not meet the required standards under the ABG’s Inward Investment Act will be disqualified and ordered to leave Bougainville.

He said that all past practices of businesses being established but fail to progress, will not be repeated under his watch.

“This government and my office will not allow such things or repetition to happen again as we are putting stringent measures to ensure that the government support and funding is not abused,” he emphasized.

ABG President Hon.

Ishmael Toroama gave his support for this saying that while Bougainville has enormous potential for economic growth, it needs credible investors to help develop its resources.

“I want to assure the people that my government will not politicize any investment on Bougainville but we will let the Bougainville Inward Investment Act of 2018 and the responsible agencies to govern and regulate all foreign investments in Bougainville,” Toroama said.

Bougainville cocoa among top 50 in international competition

A sample of Bougainville cocoa beans has been recognized among the top 50 in the world.

The samples are grown by the ABG Department of Primary Industries at its research station in Kubu, Buka, and were submitted to this year’s Cocoa of Excellence Competition in Paris where it was judged alongside

235 cocoa beans.

The samples were submitted by the Department’s Project Coordinator James Butubu and said that the results show clearly that the quality of cocoa in Bougainville is greatly improving.

He acknowledged the support from the Australian Center for International Agricultural

Research for in assisting to improve cocoa production and quality, market access and healthy living for smallholder farmers in Bougainville.

Mr Butubu also acknowledged the research and said the partnership has paved the way for Bougainville cocoa to be recognised globally, ultimately making cocoa

farming more profitable to smallholder farmers.

“This is the first time the Department of Primary Industries submitted samples to the competition under our own name with support from our partners. We look forward to the final judging in October,” Mr Butubu said.

Bougainville Tourism Promotion Authority to be established

Plans to establish the Bougainville Tourism Promotion Authority is underway.

ABG Minister for Commerce, Trade and Industry Hon. Patrick Nisira, announced this recently saying that tourism is a key focus area for his Ministry.

“Tourism development continues to be a focus area for my Ministry as it is a

quick-win sector,” he said.

Currently the Ministry is looking at merging the Directorate of Arts and Culture under the Department of Community Development, with Directorate of Tourism under the Department of Commerce, Trade and Industry to create the Bougainville Tourism Promotion Authority.

“To enable an effective

coordination of this sector, it is critical to have a tourism entity aligned and delivering on programs with other stakeholders,” he said.

Meanwhile, the Minister also announced that the Mona Festival will be held in September this year. This will follow the staging of the Siwai Tourism and Culture Show that was held in August at Panakei



in the Siwai District.

Minister Nisira said that it is anticipated that these two cultural events will be

turned into annual iconic events for Bougainville in the future.

Shaping Bougainville Justice project: A model for other sectors

The establishment of a unique law and justice system for Bougainville is underway following the endorsement of the Shaping Bougainville Justice model by the recent Joint Supervisory Body meeting in Wabag in July.

The Shaping ABG Secretary for Bougainville Justice program is a major

policy and legislative development project designed by the ABG to establish Bougainville’s own law and justice services, including the judiciary, justice administration, Ombudsman, police and corrective services.

The Shaping ABG Secretary for Bougainville Justice and Chairman of the Bougainville Law

and Justice Coordinating Mechanism Kearneth Nanei expressed his gratitude to the ABG’s technical team for their efforts so far in the process.

“The recent JSB endorsement of the Shaping Bougainville Justice project speaks highly of the excellent work done by the ABG’s technical

team in developing a comprehensive work plan for the establishment of Bougainville’s own law and justice services, in partnership with the National Coordinating Mechanism,” he said.

The first step under the endorsed work plan is the establishment of the Bougainville lower courts which will be equivalent

to the national district court and village courts.

“Establishing the Bougainville law and justice sector involves designing administrative structures for the new services but also developing the content for ABG legislation that will meet Bougainville’s specific law and order needs,” he said.

Eivo Torau takes ownership of development



support the government in this journey.

“CS facility was built on state land and we destroyed this important institution during the crisis so now it is our responsibility to ensure that we live up to this MoU we signed and look after this institution,” he said.

He thanked people for willingly giving back what belongs to the government and urged other constituencies to do the same for development purposes in Bougainville.

“Eivo-Torau we have done the right thing by returning the state land and in doing so, this will bring development into Bougainville and I call on other constituencies throughout Bougainville to do the same. How can we develop Bougainville and cry for independence when we cannot give our land to the government?” he challenged.

It has been thirty two years since the CS facility was destroyed and after nine months of negotiations, the reconciliation and signing of MOU to re-establish this facility finally happened.



Police Minister to introduce Bougainville Police Force Bill in next parliament

A new legislation titled the Bougainville Police Force Bill will be introduced in the next parliament sitting.

Former Minister for Police and Member for South Bougainville Veterans, Thomas Tari made the announcement when delivering his ministerial statement during the August session of the House.

“Mr Speaker in the next sitting of this House, I intend to introduce a bill called the Bougainville Police Forces Act. If passed; this Act will completely remove the application of the National Police Forces Act on Bougainville,” he said.

Key changes in this new Bill will include the structural relationship between the current Bougainville Police Service and the National Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary.

The Bill will also see changes to the current Bougainville Police Service from being a service-oriented support agency to being a strong, powerful and effective arm of government whose primary responsibility is the enforcement of law and order on Bougainville.

Tari said that law and order is a public concern especially in Bougainville’s quest for independence and the introduction of this Bill aims to address these concerns across all levels.

In debating the Ministerial Statement, other Members of the House spoke in support of this new Police Force Bill, saying that it is timely and that the government must ensure this new structure is provided with the capacity and funding support it requires to perform its functions effectively.

MARKING ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Upon the inauguration of the Fourth Bougainville House of Representatives, President Hon. Ishmael Toroama, announced his government’s Six Point Strategy which are:

- **Strategy 1: Political control of our destiny**
- **Strategy 2: Economic growth and control**
- **Strategy 3: Administrative control**
- **Strategy 4: Mobilizing private sector and civil society**
- **Strategy 5: Long term vision and planning**
- **Strategy 6: International relations**

Under these high level strategies, the Toroama-Nisira government in the past year has embarked on several activities that begin to lay the foundation for growth on the political, administrative and socioeconomic fronts. These achievements further reflect the Toroama-Nisira government’s bold commitment to the Bougainville Independence Mission.

1. STRATEGY 1: POLITICAL CONTROL OF OUR DESTINY

- 1.1. Joint Supervisory Body meeting (Arawa, February 2021)
- 1.2. Joint Consultation Body meeting (Kokopo, May 2021)
- 1.3. Joint Supervisory Body meeting (Wabag, July 2021)
- 1.4. Establishment of Constitutional Planning Committee (CPC)
- 1.5. Constituency-based Independence –ready Strategy
- 1.6. Public Service Independence-ready Strategy
- 1.7. Establishment of 4x Regional Development Authorities

2. STRATEGY 2: ECONOMIC GROWTH AND CONTROL

- 2.1. High impact economic projects
- 2.2. Transfer of K30million to ABG from Internal



Revenue Commission
2.3. SME Training conducted for first batch of trainees to be Trainers of Trainees
2.4. Completion of socio-economic baseline survey to provide basis for better economic intervention programs

2.5. Progress of tax-related matters including:

- Custom Import Duties
- Rural Development Initiative (consultations ongoing to reduce rate of corporate income tax)
- Payment of K40million BCL tax
- Customs duties and export levies owed to Bougainville
- Proposed amendments to Sales (Beer and Cigarettes) Act 2021
- Proposals for Road Users Tax and withholding taxes on landlords and hire car owners

2.6. Progress of mining sector related matters including:

- **Mining Sector Regulation (Tenement Administration)**
- **License approval process for Manetai Limestone underway**
- **Small Scale Mining Regulation (MoU with PNG Ports and NAC is being developed to monitor ports for illegal gold)**
- **Clan mobilization and clan leadership identification exercise for Panguna Mine Redevelopment**
- **Transfer of all Bougainville historical and geological resource data from National Government Mineral Resources Authority to Bougainville**

2.7. Progress in Land matters including:

- BEC approval of moratorium lifting and collection of lease rentals on properties in Bougainville
- ILG for Bana Special Economic Zone and Voluntary Customary Land Registration awareness completed with Phase 2 of the project underway for completion.
- Creation of new Bougainville Land Act

2.8. Progress in Primary Industries including:

- Memorandum of Understanding signed on Tonelei Agro-forestry



Project and dialogue with National Forest Authority (NFA) in motion
• Cocoa Levies transfer to ABG in discussion stage
• Construction of Bougainville Agriculture Regulation Authority (BACRA) building
• Draft Food Security policy under review
• Partnership with Kokonas Indastri Koperesen (KIK) established for joint collaborative activities field extension and capacity building
• Partnership with private sector and Bougainville Regional Member in E-Didiman project for Fresh Produce Markets and market access through land and shipping transportation
• Memorandum of Understanding with National Fisheries

Authority under review
• 18 farmers, teachers and school leavers from Bougainville graduated in the past 6months at the National Fisheries College, Kavieng.

3. STRATEGY 3: ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL

- 3.1. Administration support to the Joint Technical Team and Joint Supervisory Body meetings
- 3.2. Secretariat Support to BEC endorsed Ministerial Committees

- Foreign Affairs and International Trade Ministerial Committee
- Debt Servicing and Financing Ministerial Committee
- Constituency-based Independence Ministerial Committee
- COVID-19 Public Health Ministerial Committee

- 3.3. Establishment of Bougainville Strategic Research and Planning Secretariat
- 3.4. Transfer of outstanding National Public Service Powers
- 3.5. Drawdown of Lands Powers and Functions and establishment of Bougainville Lands Board
- 3.6. Creation of new Bougainville Land Act
- 3.7. Restoration of the Joint District Budget Priorities Committee
- 3.8. Strengthening and Shaping Bougainville Law and Justice system
- 3.9. Bougainville Police Service

- Medium to long term planning for the Bougainville Police Service underway with focus on increasing personnel in the 13 districts
- Recruitment of personnel underway to increase personnel to 1000
- Plans to incorporate the Community Auxiliary Police into the structure for proper coordination and control
- Work in progress to legislate to develop a Bougainville

Police Force Act and Bougainville Firearms Act with the aim to allow Bougainville to regulate, monitor and enforce law and order effectively in Bougainville

3.10. Education

- New Bougainville Education Board sworn in and in operation
- Bougainville Teaching Service Administration office established
- MoU signing between ABG Ministry for Education and the University of Natural Resources and Environment (Vudal)

3.11. Health

- Progressing necessary processes to operate as an independent entity from the National Department of Health
- Projects implemented through collaboration and funding from ABG, National Government and donor partners over the last 6 months including improvement of 2 health centers in North Bougainville, improvement of 1 health center in Central Bougainville, construction of isolation facility at Wakunai
- Completion of 2 health clinics at Wakunai and Tinputz respectively with support from DFAT
- Commenced construction of the Arawa School of Nursing 3-in-1 building and residential facility
- Commenced ongoing COVID-19 vaccination program for frontline health workers, essential workers and key partners in North, Central and South Bougainville
- Progressing plans to build a 250-bed referral hospital in Arawa
- Implementation of region-wide immunization program managed by the Catholic Health
- Installation of new solar direct drive (SDD) vaccine fridges in more than 20 health facilities to improve management and storage of vaccines
- Rollout of WASH program with support from World Vision

3.15. Disaster Emergency and Response

- Progressing with refurbishment and upgrading of its facilities that are essential to search and rescue operations

3.16. Office of the Bougainville Electoral Commissioner

- Conduct of the 2021 Community Government Elections
- Conduct of the 2021 By Election for Atolls Constituency



delayed nationally, the ABG is committed to ensure it happens in Bougainville as part of our independence-ready efforts)

3.13. Technical Services

- Register of government infrastructure and assets and improvements to Transport/ Fleet Management underway
- Civil Works Services to undergo growth and capacity building
- Bougainville Power Supply – to be managed under a Bougainville power entity who will manage fuel supply and other related costs of thermal power plant maintenance
- Information and Communication Technology MOU signed with the National Department of ICT to progress ICT services in Bougainville.

3.14. Media and Communication

- Proposed project to increase communications via radio improvement and infrastructure upgrade
- Increased engagement with government and people via whole-of-government approach to communications
- Progress underway for the drawdown and development of relevant policies for the Libraries and Archives Act.



4. STRATEGY 4: MOBILIZING PRIVATE SECTOR AND CIVIL SOCIETY

The private sector remains the driver of economic development in Bougainville. In the post-crisis period, local businesses took the risk to invest in our economy and some of them remain successful to this day. Through business regulation and policies, the Toroama-Nisira government is committed to creating a conducive environment for private sector led development that promotes investment confidence. Equally important are the civil societies who play a key role in nation-building and state-building. They play a critical role in mobilizing societies around common goals and interests. Some of these initiatives include:

- Health Partnerships – to support and manage partner projects in Bougainville. The Bougainville Health Department manages this under its Health Partnership Act 2017 and ensures that all health projects are aligned to the government priorities.
- Mining and Energy Resources – Learning from the Panguna experience, the ABG Mining Department is currently conducting stakeholder mapping of all landowners issues to form a holistic approach to greater benefit-sharing for Bougainville. Landowners remain the cornerstone and rightful owners of natural resources in Bougainville.
- Business Associations – the Associations are being strengthened across the three regions through established dialogue and partnerships. Whilst there is progress in government-business relations, work is being progressed to establish the right policies that promote and

facilitates incentives for local businesses in Bougainville.

5. STRATEGY 5: LONG TERM VISION AND PLANNING

- The Bougainville Strategic Research and Planning Secretariat (BSRPS) has been established to set the planning framework for Bougainville for the next 30 years.
- All sectors of the government are preparing plans to position Bougainville for nation and state building.
- All independence plans will reflect the Trident Strategy of independence at the local, national and international level.

6. STRATEGY 6: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- Partnership with National Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade A Memorandum of Understanding is being developed to guide capacity building in bilateral, multilateral, protocol and other related divisions within the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.
- Customs, Immigration and Quarantine Work is currently in progress for border surveillance with the Department of Community Government, the Bougainville Police Service and the Department of Health in the protection of border areas from any illegal activities happening across the boundaries of Bougainville.
- Bougainville Foreign Investment Policy A Foreign Investment Policy is currently being developed to assess and evaluate any foreign business interest and proposals into Bougainville.
- Development Partners A review and assessment of Development Partners in Bougainville is being done to look at the impact of the contributions of development partners to Bougainville over the years and ensure the priorities are geared towards preparing Bougainville for independence.

Carving – A dying art

The art of carving handicrafts is slowly dying out as modernization creeps into our society. This is according to an old carver, Michael Totovu, the last of the traditional carvers in the Lato area of South Bougainville.

In his late 70s, Michael wipes his face in the heat of the day, standing in front of his stall at the Siwai Cultural Show, addressing show goers, especially the youngsters telling them about each piece of art displayed and why it is important to preserve the art when the Bougainville Bulletin approach him.

We asked about his art work on display to which he smiles and tries to explain each piece and at that moment we learnt that he is one of the last remaining carvers in the Lato area.

Michael learnt the art from his father at a very young age, growing up he never had the luxury of modern toys, books, etc however, he was surrounded by nature and his father gave him the best toys carved from wood.

“Papa bilong mi isave sapim pisin long diwai na givim mi long pilai wantaim. Sampla taim emi sapim spia na mi save pilai wantaim ol,” he said.

And so began the journey of learning how to carve from his father. At that time, Michael’s father did not have proper modernized tools to carve but he made use of his simple knife and axe and above all, his imagination to carve out beautiful works of art.

“To carve out an artifact whether it is a carving of a bird, a human being or whatever objects – one must first of all picture an image, focus on the image and start carving out the artwork



that you desire. You have to fully concentrate on the image to carve it well,” Michael explained.

Intrigued by this we asked him how he comes up with the perfect image and what motivates him to carve the image and Michael explained that every piece of art must tell a story.

“Every piece of art tells a story – some pre-historic stories, legends and events are passed on to generations through singsings, storytelling, and written down in books, however, for us the carvers, our stories are captured in the art that we carve,” he said.

He explained that before he carves he must think of a story, whether it is a story about

pre-historic times, the second world war, a simple woman in a traditional attire carrying a basket and going to the garden and so forth. He must focus on one story and carve it out on the wood.

Michael has carved so many artifacts out of which he has sold smaller artifacts such as wooden spoons, axes and knives however, the bigger artifacts have not been sold.

The big artifacts include the carving of two native men carrying a patrol box and an expatriate known as the kiap in the early pre-independence days walking behind the carriers. As he explained earlier, the carving of the native men carrying a patrol box tells a story of the colonial era, whilst a carving of a woman wearing a grass skirt and a basket and the carving of a man with his dog and spears tells a story of everyday simple living of local people in the village.

When asked why they have not been sold, Michael explained that they were not for sale and he kept them for display in the hope that one day he would build a museum to put them on display to showcase them.

“I hope to build a museum one day to have these artifacts on display not only for public viewing but also to preserve our culture and pass on from generation to generation,” he said.

He added that such is only a big dream he has and this can become a reality if our leaders in the ABG and National Government can help the carvers to achieve them.

All things whether activities, events or projects have positive stories that also have challenges and Michael is no different as he shared that his biggest challenge

is not having a proper house or facility to carve out his crafts as well as proper tools.

“My biggest challenge is to have a proper building or facility to house my crafts and tools and a place where I can work on my arts,” he said.

When asked what message he would like to share to the public and the leaders, Michael called on the government of the day to assist the local carvers and provide a facility or local art school equipped with modern tools to teach the young generation of this important skills as their skills are slowly dying out.

“It is the responsibility of the government both at the National, ABG and Community Government level to contribute in preserving our cultures and traditions at all cost and I call on the leaders to support us in the community by building a museum or art school that can help us to display the arts we have and to help pass on the skills to the young people who attend by teaching them to carve,” Michael said.

He added that modernization and technology have crept into our society influencing our lifestyle and therefore called on everyone in the society and communities to encourage the younger generation to learn from their elders whilst they are still alive.

Chief Michael thanked the organizers of the Siwai Cultural show for giving him the opportunity to showcase his artifacts and hoped for similar shows to be done so that others like him would be able to attend.

If anyone is interested in purchasing an artifact, you can call Michael Totovu on his mobile number **7234 5648**



The Bougainville Bulletin Team met up with Bernard Manua from Oso in the Kopii Constituency, Siwai District. Bernard was one of the many local weavers who was at the recent Siwai Cultural Show held at the Panekei Mini Town in August this year. He is pictured selling baskets, food trays and placemats he made himself. Bernard says this skill of weaving was passed on to him from his elders in his village and he now uses this skill to weave baskets to sell and earn an income.



Raitaku Group at Siwai Cultural Show



Kyle Mingha (pictured right) is the Ward Member at the Maino Ward in Kopii Constituency, Siwai District. He registered his group with the Siwai Tourism Association called the Raitaku Group. Mr Mingha spoke to the Bougainville Bulletin team about their excitement to see the Siwai Cultural Show become an annual national

event, and called on the government to ensure roads are fixed to enable easy access by the public to such events. He says tourism has the potential to contribute greatly to Bougainville’s economy and events such as the Siwai Show enables people’s participation and contribution to building our economy in preparation for independence.



Public service inducted on Independence-ready Mission

A three-day workshop was held to inform and educate the Bougainville Public Service on the Bougainville Independence Readiness Mission.

The induction program is part of the overall Bougainville Independence Mission strategy to incorporate the public service into the independence-ready mission, following on from the completion of the Independence-ready induction program for the thirty-three constituencies in Bougainville.

ABG Minister for Bougainville Independence Mission Hon. Ezekiel Masatt, in his address to the public servants, told the Heads of Departments and other senior public servants, that the role of the public service in Bougainville is very different to that of the public service in PNG.

“Public servants in other provinces are not doing what we are doing; discharging on your core duties as public servants, trying to implement autonomy, and in the same way, start to put the foundations for that independence nation,” he said.

“This machinery is critical; you play just as much a critical role as the leadership,” Masatt said.

During the workshop, all Heads of Departments in the Bougainville Public Service affirmed their commitment to preparing the Bougainville Public Service for independence.

Further to this, all Departments have been tasked to establish their Independence-Ready Committees within their respective departments.

Following the induction workshop, all departments will review and finalize their sectorial independence plans that will ultimately create the overarching Bougainville Independence Strategic Development Plan 2022-2027.



Independence-ready constituency launches complete

The timeline for Bougainville’s independence has given momentum to the region’s independence preparations for political sovereignty through the constituency independence readiness initiative.

This follows the Autonomous Bougainville Government presenting Independence as its position during the first Joint Consultations with the National Government in May this year.

The timeline was then agreed to by the two governments during the second consultations in Enga Province in July this year.

The agreed timeline for a final political settlement for Bougainville was agreed to as ‘no earlier than 2025, and no later than 2027’.

So far the ABG has completed of all its Independence Readiness Mission Implementation for the thirty three constituencies on

Second Leaders Forum held to discuss next steps

The second Bougainville Leaders forum was convened in September at Malasang Village in the Tsalato Constituency, as part of the Autonomous Bougainville Government’s Independence Mission.

Bougainville leaders from the political level and civil society were in attendance at the forum including President Ishmael Toroama and members of his cabinet and the Bougainville administration.

A key topic of discussion at the forum was the ministerial statement which Prime Minister Hon. James Marape delivered in the National Parliament about Bougainville issues and responses to the statement by members of the National Parliament including the four Bougainville National MP’s.

The Prime Minister made it clear that the National Government will not agree to Bougainville’s political aspirations on independence however he urged National Government agencies to fast track the Sharp Agreement.

The Sharp Agreement dispenses much of the obstacles that have

delayed drawdown of powers and functions by the ABG from the National Government over the years.

In response to the Prime Minister, President Ishmael Toroama said that Bougainville will still remain steadfast in its course to attain political independence.

President Toroama said the ABG is committed to implementing the Bougainville Peace Agreement and the Sharp Agreement and other agreements signed with the Toroama government since its inception last September.

President Toroama said that the Joint Communique and the Sharp Agreement signed recently by both governments are essential in Bougainville’s journey to independence.


President Toroama told those present at the forum that despite the challenges faced by the ABG and Bougainville he has not lost sight of people’s aspirations for an independent Bougainville.

He continues to urge unity, hard work and the people’s commitment to supporting the government.

Bougainville.

All constituencies in Bougainville have now established their Constituency Independence-ready Committees to lead the preparation of the independence-ready process at the ward levels.

The launches signify each constituency’s commitment to mobilizing its resources to improve its socio-economic development according to their respective unique features, as Bougainville prepares for independence.



JOINT CONSULTATION MEETING

Joint Statements (Kokopo & Wabag)

On the Outcomes of the first Post-Referendum Consultations held at Kokopo, East New Britain

Whereas we acknowledge the requirements under s.342 of the Constitution for both the National Government and the Autonomous Bougainville Government to consult on the results of the Referendum.

Whereas we jointly recognize that the first post referendum consultations (first consultations) have been held from 18th – 19th May, 2021 here in Kokopo, East New Britain.

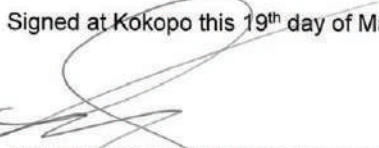
We jointly acknowledge that the results of the Bougainville Referendum have been tabled in the first consultations and that the Bougainville people have voted 97.7% in favour of Independence.

We jointly appreciate the positions of both Governments on the Referendum results and the road ahead of us.


We jointly direct the technical teams for both the National Government and the Autonomous Bougainville Government to:

- I. consult on the definition and process of ratification;
- II. identify Constitutional issues relating to the referendum result and the tabling of the consultation outcomes in the National Parliament;
- III. develop a Joint Roadmap on Post-Referendum Consultations; and
- IV. fully implement the Sharp Agreement as a matter of priority.

We jointly agree that the second Post-Referendum Consultations will be held in Wabag, Enga on the margins of the Joint Supervisory Body meeting in June 2021.



Hon. JAMES MARAPE, MP
Prime Minister
Government of Papua New Guinea





Hon. ISHMAEL TOROAMA, MHR
President
Autonomous Bougainville Government

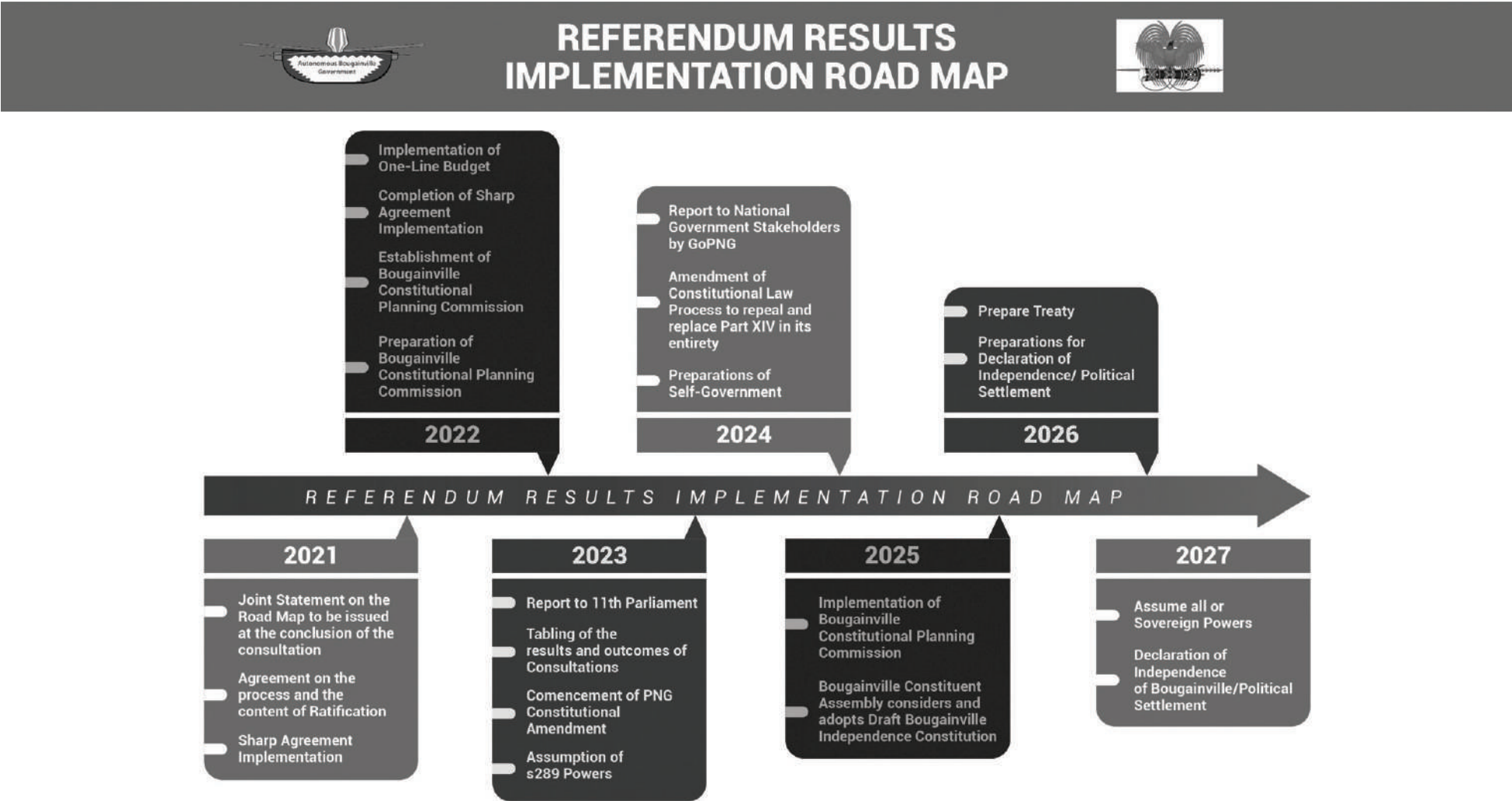
The Government of Papua New Guinea (National Government) and the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG):

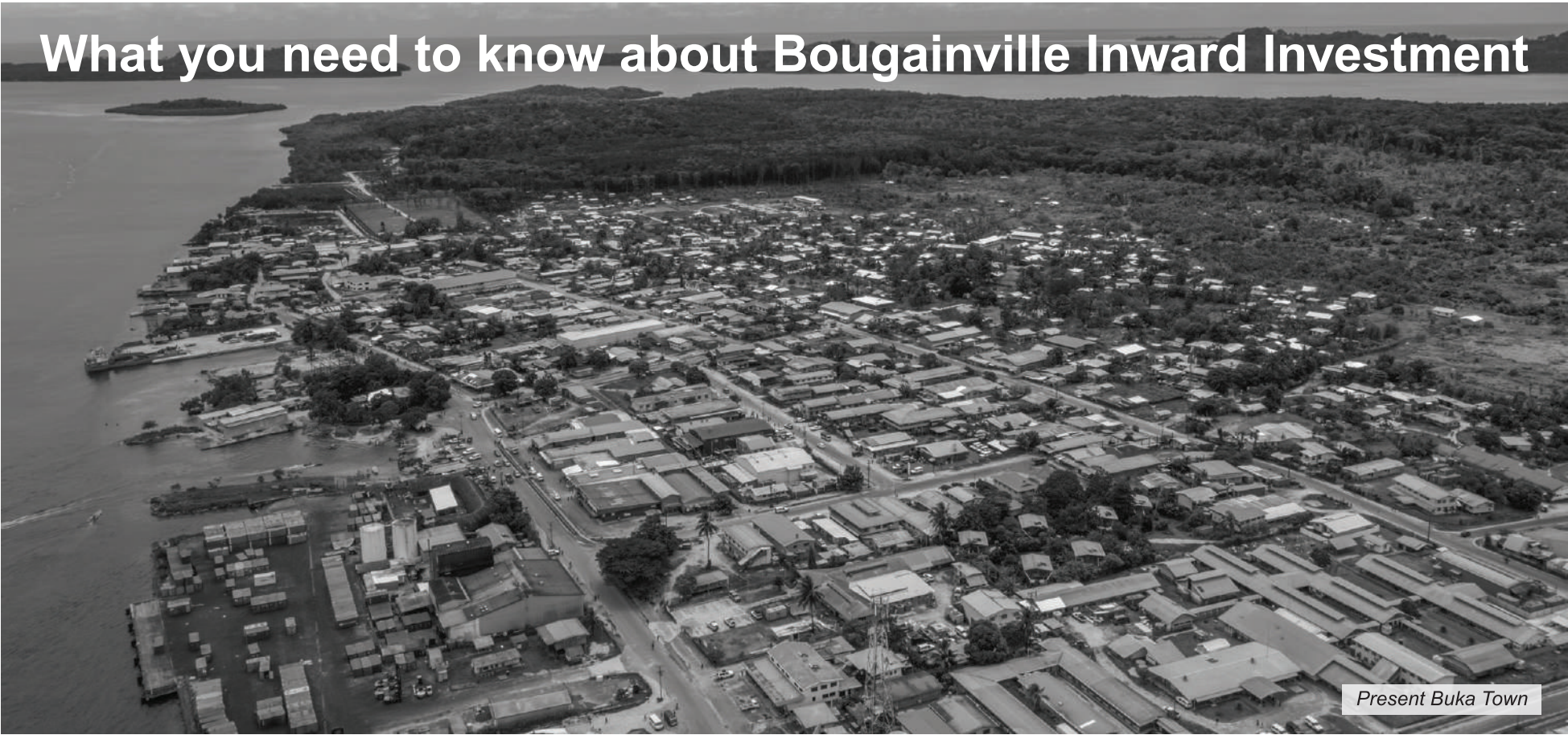
- (i) Acknowledge the requirements of s. 342 of the National Constitution for both the National Government and the Autonomous Bougainville Government to consult on the results of the Referendum;
- (ii) Acknowledge that the first consultation was held on 18th and 19th May, 2021 at Kokopo, East New Britain Province, and that the Referendum results of 97.7% choice for separate independence was tabled at this consultation;
- (iii) Acknowledge that the Bougainville Independence Consultation Team tabled in the Kokopo Consultation, the Year “2025” as the year for the Declaration of Bougainville’s Independence;
- (iv) Acknowledge that the Kokopo Consultations agreed to consult on a joint roadmap in the second consultation;
- (v) Acknowledge that the second consultation was held in Wabag on 6th of July 2021;
- (vi) Consulted on the joint roadmap that will guide the post referendum process;
- (vii) Acknowledge that the process needs to be agreed upon to decide the final political settlement.

We agree to:

- Continue to consult and develop clarity on establishing the constitutional and parliamentary pathway for the tabling of the results of the Referendum, the outcome of the consultation to give effect to the results of the Referendum and the outcome of the Consultations, and the pathway consequential to the outcome of the National Parliament’s decision.
- Take all actions necessary to process an end point which is the culmination of all the activities that flows from the constitutional amendments give effect to the National Parliament’s decision.
- Take immediate actions which are focused on the full implementation of the Bougainville Peace Agreement subject to the National Constitution, with a focus on completing outstanding tasks under the pillars of the Bougainville Peace Agreement, including the implementation of the Sharp Agreement to support the economic growth of Bougainville to ensure that Bougainville is in a position to effectively and efficiently manage its own economic affairs in preparation for a political settlement.
- Allow the National Government to undertake national consultations across Papua New Guinea on the outcome of the Referendum, noting that the constitutional amendments which would have been set in motion by the signing of this Statement will need to be enacted to give effect to Bougainville’s final political status.
- Determine a political settlement no earlier than 2025 and no later than 2027 guided by an agreed joint road map which is annexed to this Statement.







Present Buka Town

ABOUT THE BOARD

The Bougainville Inward Investment Board (the Board) provides oversight to the Department in relation to the inward investment framework and makes recommendations to the Bougainville Executive Council and the Minister. Our vision is Economic prosperity for all Bougainvilleans

Our goals

- To enable Bougainville’s economic prosperity through investment and trade approaches.
- To promote foreign direct investment and joint ventures.

Responsibilities

- Ensuring that proposed

investment is consistent with the principles of “responsible investment”

- Giving policy advice to the Minister, and implementing any policy directives relating to inward investment
- Making other recommendations to the Minister that concern sustainable economic development in Bougainville
- Making decisions on inward investment applications when the value of the investment or the income received each year is below K10 million
- Making recommendations to the Bougainville Executive Council on applications for inward investment that exceeds these thresholds.

The Board composition

- The Secretary (who is the Chair of the Board), ex officio;
- Five persons appointed by the Bougainville Executive Council by notice in the Bougainville Gazette, made on the recommendation of the Minister, at least 2 of whom must be women; and
- The Principal Legal Adviser, ex officio. The term of each Board member is three years from the date of appointment.

ABOUT THE ACT

Introduction

The Bougainville Inward Investment (Amendment) Act 2018 establishes a framework for screening, approving and monitoring investment by external investors into Bougainville. It is an integral component of Bougainville’s broader economic and social development strategy, and has been designed to contribute to the following:

- Responsible inward investment into Bougainville;

- An accountable government sector; and
- A vibrant and productive private sector.

Purpose

The purposes of this Act are to:

1. Enable inward investment and other specified business activities in Bougainville; and
2. Ensure that all inward investment and certain other specified business activities carried on, or into effect in Bougainville, are consistent with the principles of responsible investment, by:

- enshrining the principles of responsible investment; and
- establishing a process for licensing inward investment and specified business activities to ensure that they are consistent with the principles of responsible investment; and
- imposing conditions on inward investment and specified business activities to ensure that they will be carried out

consistently with the principles of responsible investment; and

- monitoring inward investment and specified business activities to ensure they are being carried out consistently with the principles of responsible investment.

Definitions

‘Bougainvillean’ means a Bougainvillean as provided for under Section 7 of the Bougainville Constitution, but does not include: a) a person who is not a citizen; or b) a person who has become a citizen under Section 67 (Citizenship by naturalisation) of the National Constitution.

‘Business’ means any activity which is carried on by any person, whether or not for a pecuniary profit, and involves or is intended to involve the supply of goods or services to any other person for a consideration; and includes any such activity carried on in the form of a business, trade, manufacture, profession, vocation, association, or club.

MISCELLANEOUS

Regulations

The Bougainville Executive Council may make Regulations for all or any matter which may be prescribed under this Act.

Prosecutions

1. The Principal Legal Adviser may prosecute an offence under this Act in the name of the Autonomous Bougainville Government.
2. An action under this Act must be commenced in the National Court.
3. The National Court may, in an action brought under this Act

a) award costs against any party or claimant other than the Autonomous Bougainville Government, which costs may be recovered from the party or claimant as a debt; and

b) on application by the Principal Legal Adviser, order an external enterprise to cease the activity in the location the subject of the action until further order.

4. An order under Subsection (3)(b) must be subject to the condition

that the Autonomous Bougainville Government is not liable for any loss of income or profit that may be incurred by the enterprise as a consequence of that order.

5. A fine imposed against an external enterprise as a result of an action under this Act must be paid to the Autonomous Bougainville Government and may be recovered from the external enterprise as a debt.

Offences & Penalties

- Undertaking investment or business without license (K10–100,000)
- Undertaking investment or business under reserved activity (K10–100,000)
- Failing to comply with the terms and conditions of a license (K10–100,000)
- Failing to comply with the act in other respect: Up to K25,000 (with provision for daily of K2,500 following conviction if the breach remains remedied)
- Failing to furnish information when required: K1,000 –K10,000
- Making false statement: K1m
- In addition, upon conviction a Court may also order that a

license issued under the act is revoked.

Board Responsible Investment

Criteria

- Transparent and robust
- Bougainville laws and local customs are respected
- Landowners rights and interest are upheld
- The natural environment is protected
- The business structure are fair and allow opportunities for Bougainvilleans to participate
- Profit to contribute to the economic development of Bougainville

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who must apply for a License?

Any external enterprise seeking to make an inward investment or carry out a specified business activity on Bougainville.

When does the amended Act commence?

1. From the date of commencement of the amending Act, no external enterprise shall begin to undertake inward investment, or carry



Kieta Wharf

on a specified business activity, unless that external enterprise holds a license.

2. Any external enterprise that has already commenced inward investment or that is carrying on a specific business activity shall make an application for a license within six months of the date of commencement of the amending Act.

What are ‘reserved’ activities?

Licensing shall not be granted to an external enterprise to undertake a reserved activity, unless it is undertaken primarily for a charitable purpose:

- Agriculture, forestry and fishing, manufacturing
- Water supply, sewage, waste management and remediation activities
- Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motor accommodation and food activities
- Administrative and support service activities
- Arts, entertainment and recreation

What are the application fees?

Form B registration fee: K5,000.00

Variation license fee: K3,000.00

What is the criteria for granting a license?

In considering whether to grant a license to make an inward investment to carry on a specific business activity, the Board:

- Must determine whether the requirements in Section 34 are met
- May consult with any other person or persons, as they think appropriate
- Must grant a license if satisfied that the requirements in Section 34 are met, and
- Must decline to grant a license if not satisfied that the requirements in Section 34 are met.

Requirements for application for license

An application for a license under this part must satisfy all of the following:

- be in writing
- be on a standard form made available by the Secretary from time to time
- address each of the factors outlined in section 35 and section 36
- be signed by each applicant, and any other party to the application
- be sent to the Secretary
- be accompanied by the relevant fee, unless this has already been paid.



Consort at Buka Wharf



Cocoa nursery at Solos, Buka, Peit Constituency

New COVID-19 measures for Bougainville

Regional Pandemic Controller for Bougainville and Health Secretary Clement Totavun, has announced new measures for Bougainville in response to the rise in the COVID-19 and Delta Variant transmission across other parts of the country.

Apart from the mandatory COVID-19 ‘Niupela Pasin’ measures of social distancing, wearing of face masks and frequent hand washing or use of hand sanitizers, new measures were also issued on travelling passengers into Bougainville from other provinces.

Mr Totavun explained that under the new measures all inbound passengers arriving in Bougainville through the airports and seaports must have a valid reason for travel, which includes:

- Persons returning to their usual residence;
- Essential business travel;
- Seeking medical assistance and medivac;
- Emergency transport, but not limited to repatriation of deceased persons.



Health Secretary and Regional Pandemic Controller - Clement Totavun.

- Students returning to their usual place of residence or returning to their educational institution (one-way tickets to be issued);

All inbound passengers are also required to produce a valid negative test result for COVID-19 and this must be presented to quarantine officials upon arrival in Bougainville.

“A rapid diagnostic test (RDT) or GeneXpert test must be done in the province of departure within 48 – 72 hours prior to boarding a flight to Bougainville,” he explained.

These COVID-19 tests are now a mandatory requirement for travelling into Bougainville, regardless of a person’s vaccination status.

Other measures included the adoption of mandatory wearing of face masks in the following places:

- Premises or any portion thereof which are used as a place of business for the sale or offering for sale of goods or services, and includes a mall or similar structure which contains multiple places of business;
- Health facilities;
- Sporting facilities;
- Churches, mosques, synagogues, temples, or other places of worship;
- Community centres including indoor recreational facilities;
- Libraries, art

- galleries, museums, zoos, and other similar facilities;
- Convention centres, arenas, stadiums, and other event spaces; and
- Government facilities.

Speaking on the vaccination program, Secretary Totavun said that the Health Department has already begun the region-wide vaccination in Bougainville and this includes advocacy sessions in the communities about the COVID-19 vaccine.

“Vaccines are safe; they provide a good level of protection from the COVID-19 virus. I encourage our people who are 18 years and above to visit our hospitals and health facilities in the region and get the vaccine that is now available,” he said.

Currently, the Johnson and Johnson vaccine and AstraZeneca vaccine is being administered in hospitals across Bougainville.

Covid Vaccine Champions

“I encourage public servants to get the jab. Health is your responsibility. Your individual responsibility contributes to collective responsibility of health in our region of Bougainville. Take the jab!” Hon. Emmanuel Carlos Kaetavara Member for Baba and Minister for Police.



“If you care about yourself, if you care about your family, if you care about your community and your country, you must get a test. Go to the health facility, get tested, know your status and get the vaccine.

Be vaccinated, and protect yourself, protect your family, protect your community and protect our country.” Clement Totavun, Secretary for Health and Bougainville Regional Pandemic Controller

B’ville youth camp promotes community leadership



Group shot of all participants and facilitators after the training

Bougainvillean youth leaders have come together to learn from political and community leaders about speaking up on youth issues within government and community.

The Bougainville Youth Federation (BYF) engaged Transparency International PNG (TIPNG) to deliver the training to 48 youth leaders from secondary schools and youth associations around Bougainville.

The camp gave youth leaders new skills to get involved in community governance and work

people to talk with leaders from all walks of life.

“The knowledge gained at this camp will enhance the role of young people in our communities.

“As young people, we must now take the challenge to go back into our communities and share what we have learnt and be an active member of our communities,” Mr Tebora said.

In his keynote speech, Director Medley Koito, from the Department of Community Affairs spoke about the importance of youth participation in communities and that the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) in partnership with Australia was supporting many initiatives to develop youths and communities throughout Bougainville.

A question and answer session with Hon.



Director Medley Koito (right) hands over certificate to BYF Chair Augustine Tebora as Bougainville Partnership's Isabel Koredong looks on.

Amanda Masono and film director Llane Munau went on until late in the evening and participants were left ‘buzzing’ from the experience. TIPNG facilitators said both sessions were “some of the best ever”.

Invited guests during the closing of the camp also included Edmund Bikinaa of the Bougainville Partnership and Arawa Town Mayor

and Urban Council Chair Augustine Barkson.

The five-day Active Civic Engagement program was held at Tunuru mission station in Arawa and facilitated by TIPNG in partnership with the Bougainville Youth Federation, the Autonomous Bougainville Government Department of Community Development and the Australian Government.

TVET Trade-skills Expo 2021

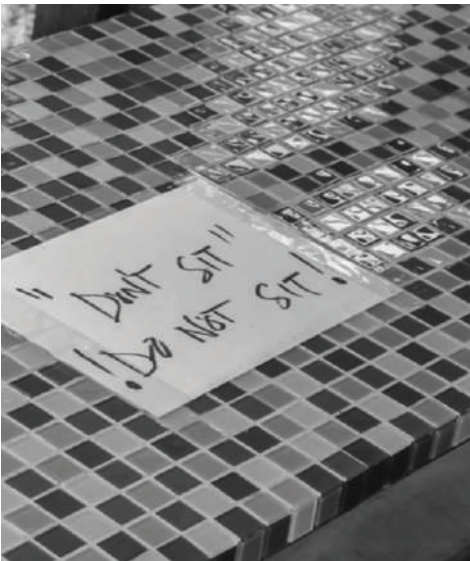
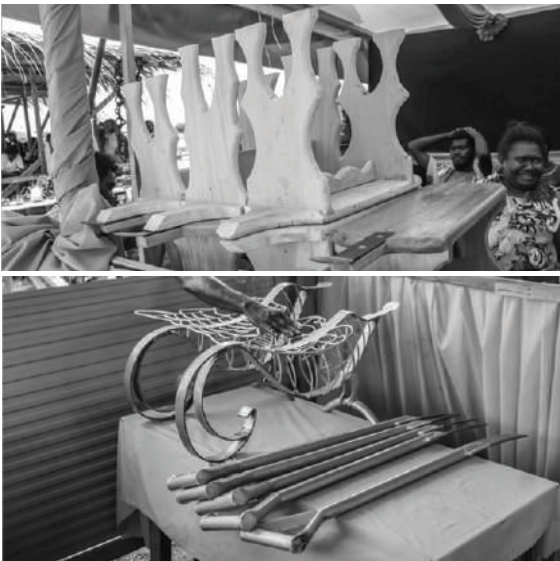
Vocational schools in Bougainville held a three-day expo in Buka.

The aim of the expo was to provide an opportunity to inform the public on the technical and trade courses available at the various technical institutions in Bougainville, encourage enrolment and promote the significance of technical and life skills training.

The expo was also a way of

promoting self-reliance in preparation towards Bougainville’s independence-ready process, to produce the skilled human capacity that Bougainville will need in the future.

Seven vocational schools across Bougainville participated in the expo including Buin STC, Koromira Technical Vocational School, Tunuru Technical Vocational School, Bishop Wade Technical Secondary.





Works Department in Buka receives timely support for bi-annual games



DOW Buka staff receiving the uniforms from RAIBRO

The National Department of Works office in Buka received a timely donation of sporting uniforms for use in the bi-annual NGI Region Works Games in Manus in September.

The donation was made by RAIBRO Construction Ltd, a road construction company currently based in Bougainville and engaged in a number of road works programs, including the

sealing and upgrade of the famous John Teosin Highway (Buka Ring Road). Provincial Works Manager for Bougainville Michael Matsi thanked RAIBRO for the initiative and

support. He explained that the NGI DoW Games is usually staged in September to coincide with the national independence celebrations and the last games were held in Kimbe, West New

Britain in 2019. “We never attended the Kimbe games in 2019 because of funding constraints and this time we want to get there in Manus and lobby for the next games to be hosted in AROB,” he said.

STAY SAFE ON AND OFF THE FIELD



Stay home if you are sick



Bring your own equipment and gear (if possible)



Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your elbow.



Wash your hands or use sanitizer before and after events and sharing equipments.



Tell a coach or staff member if you don't feel well.