



THE BOUGAINVILLE BULLETIN

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Momis on referendum questions

One of the most important issues in preparing for the referendum concerns the question or questions that will be put to Bougainvilleans when they vote.

The Bougainville Peace Agreement and the Papua New Guinea Constitution say the question or questions must be:

1. **Agreed between the two governments**
2. **Formulated to avoid a disputed or unclear result**
3. **Include a choice of independence for Bougainville.**

In his statement on the floor of the ABG Parliament in April, President Chief Dr John Momis said he believes that the time has now come to begin discussion around the question or questions.

"It will be absolutely essential that the process of discussion here is highly inclusive. It is vital that all major Bougainvillean interest groups are fully consulted before the ABG makes any decision on its position about the question or questions," he said.

"Only in this way will the process of deciding the question or questions be seen as credible and if we are to maintain support for progress with the referendum, especially the support of the international community, we must ensure that decisions

on all matters of major importance are made in a highly inclusive manner," he said.

"We are all aware that many Bougainvilleans with real interest in the referendum assume that there will be just one question, and that it will ask whether the voter supports independence, 'Yes' or 'No' but at this stage, because there has been no public consultation on the issues involved, we cannot say with certainty that all major groups support that approach, so we need widespread public consultation," he said.

President Momis said that it is only in this way we can avoid the accusation that what we advance just represents the views of the ABG leadership, or the ex-combatants, or other specific groups, instead, it will show that the position advanced reflects the views of the people.

Momis also revealed that

significant progress was made last year when the Joint Supervisory Body agreed to June 2019 as the 'target date' for the referendum, as well as a work program comprising 14 different aspects of preparations for holding the referendum.

"Work has continued since then, which resulted in the signing in late January of two important documents. One was an agreement between the two governments on establishing an independent body to conduct the referendum," Momis said.

This has seen the creation of the Bougainville Referendum Commission. The second document is a set of agreed administrative arrangements necessary for the operation of that commission.

Work has continued since then on development of a third document – namely the Charter setting out the organisational matters required

for establishing the Bougainville Referendum Commission.

"I will be relying on Minister Albert Punghau to keep up the pressure on the Secretary for our new Department of Peace Agreement Implementation and on the relevant National Government officials to ensure that the Charter is completed and signed as soon as possible, and the Commission established," the President said.

"For the Commission to actually begin operating it will also be essential that it is provided with the necessary funding, I am deeply concerned at reports that such funding has not been provided in the 2017 National Budget, and will be asking the new Minister to follow up with the National Minister for Bougainville Affairs as a matter of the greatest urgency," Momis added.





Our voice, Our image, Our place

Editor's Desk

Hello Readers,

After a short production break, we are happy to present to you Edition 10 of the Bougainville Bulletin. A lot of positive developments have happened throughout Bougainville and all these continue to shape Bougainville and prepare us for the approaching referendum in 2019.

Notable developments, such as the successful conduct of the first Community Government elections in April and the submission of mining licenses for three areas- Tore, Isina and Jaba - a positive step for the mining industry in Bougainville.

An exciting event to look forward to is the staging of the second Chocolate Festival in September this year. The first was a huge success where we also got to see promising changes in the quality of our Bougainville cocoa.

We also bring to you stories of major developments within the administration. The Second Progressive Report from the Chief Secretary shows the government's plans of cracking down on corruption and ensuring that we have an effective, accountable and transparent public service machinery.

We also have for you an update on referendum preparations. A major milestone was achieved with the establishment of the Bougainville Referendum Commission earlier this year, which is the independent body that will be responsible for the conduct of the referendum.

You will find in the center-spread of this edition, a Referendum Timeline Poster that shows Bougainville's journey towards deciding our future political status.

All these, plus other stories in this edition - which we trust will be informative.

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.

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The editor reserves the right to publish a story.

Infrastructure Development throughout the Autonomous Region of Bougainville

The Special Intervention Fund (SIF) has made a remarkable impact on the people of Bougainville. Numerous projects were rolled out under different development sectors starting in mid-2014 when the funds were initially released by the national government.

The portfolio of projects included road infrastructure upgrading, bridge re-construction, education infrastructure, law and justice infrastructure, health

facilities and infrastructure improvements. Below are some of the major projects implemented throughout the region. (Apart from these there remain on-going projects that are awaiting the release of the SIF funds to allow the completion of these important projects in Bougainville)

1. NBC Bougainville Upgrade

This project included studio renovations and upgrade which allows NBC

Bougainville to broadcast on the shortwave band to all parts of Bougainville.

2. Hospital Upgrades

Purchase and upgrade of medical equipment and facilities for the three major hospitals in Arawa, Buka and Buin. This high impact project will have a positive impact on the health and lives of the people of Bougainville.

3. Economic Development Program

This is mainly support to the Primary Industry sector. Eight

development activities have been mobilized under SIF: Cocoa, Coconut Products, Livestock, Food Crops, Marine Products, Coffee, Spices and Forestry.

4. Education Infrastructure

Construction of dormitories, classrooms, teachers' houses and upgrade of science laboratories in selected schools throughout Bougainville.

5. Buka Ring Road

30 kilometers construction

and sealing of the Buka Ring Road completed.

6. Bougainville Bridges Upgrade

Boku Bridge rehabilitated and re-opened for use. Re-construction of Suun River Bridge.

7. Economic Feeder Roads upgrade

18 feeder roads across Bougainville have completed scoping and contracts have been awarded, most are a work in progress and will continue into the year.

Ombudsman Commission branch opens in Bougainville



The people of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (ARoB) can now report an offense or issue their complaints against any employee or office of the public service, including the government, suspected of corruption.

The Australian Government, in partnership with the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) and the Ombudsman Commission Office of Papua New Guinea (OCPNG), made this significant achievement possible by establishing a branch office in Buka.

On Friday, 12 May, 2017, the Australian Government, Papua New Guinea Government and the Autonomous Bougainville Government launched the office of the

Ombudsman Commission for Bougainville- another successful story of autonomy achieved- in Bougainville's journey towards referendum on June 15, 2019.

The President Chief Dr John Momis, launched the opening of the office urging for all people to report or issue a complaint about corruption by any public servant, office or politician and the government to the Ombudsman Commission Office for Bougainville

Momis greatly

acknowledged the Chief of Ombudsman Commissioner for Papua New Guinea, Michael Dick for delivering the service to Bougainville.

Momis welcomed the service to administrate leadership code and to monitor services provided from the public service.

"Chief Ombudsman, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for giving us this service for the government to the people of Bougainville, to excel in good governance and to excel in upholding

principles of integrity and justice in our region."

"By establishing your presence in Bougainville, I believe that the capacity of the Office of the Ombudsman Commission to investigate complaints will be significantly enhanced. This is truly welcomed," Momis added.

President Momis said that: "With the signing of the Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA) and the establishment of the Bougainville Constitution, the ABG has committed principles of honesty, transparency and leadership."

President Momis also acknowledged the partnership with the Australian government and the national government.

Guest speakers who presented included the Australian High Commissioner, Counsellor Law & Justice Gina Wilson, Ombudsman Commissioner Michael Dick, and Hon Willie Masiu, Minister for Police, Corrective Services & Justice.

It is the ABG's desire per the Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA) to have a government that has a structure based on good governance. Autonomy, referendum and weapons disposal are other core pillars of the BPA, a legal peace agreement that forms the overall architecture of the government.

It is also an awareness of the progress the ABG has made in its continual efforts to draw down powers and functions from the Government of Papua New Guinea (GoPNG).

The opening of the office is made possible by a memorandum of understanding between the Ombudsman Commission and the Autonomous Bougainville Government, signed in June 2016.

The office is currently staffed by two officers- a regional manager and investigator- and work is underway to recruit more staff.

The office is located at Kubu in Buka and is already functioning.

ABG challenges for accountability

The Autonomous Bougainville Government has issued a challenge for a strong culture of accountability to be practiced from its Ministers and Members down to its public service.

President Chief Dr John Momis made the remark during the launch of the Departmental Corporate Plan on Friday, 2nd June when addressing senior public service employees.

"We must develop a culture that promotes excellence, rewards success and penalises those that do the wrong thing," Momis said. "I can no longer tolerate stories of corruption and fraud and I intend to take

action to convene an inquiry to investigate the many allegations that have been raised," he added.

Momis also made it clear that the outcomes of this investigation would not be treated lightly. Those found to have done wrong, no matter how senior or junior, would suffer the full weight of the law.

"Enough is enough. Things have to change. If they do not, then we are only destined for failure,"

Momis said.

Momis has also instructed the ABG Chief Secretary, Joseph Nobetau to take all necessary actions to address gaps in service delivery and inefficiencies in the public service.

The Chief Secretary on his part has been briefing regularly on issues that arise as a result of this drive to curb corruption.

"The Chief Secretary's primary aim is to enhance the professionalism of our

public service and to ensure that our senior leaders step up and take charge of their respective responsibilities. This has to happen if we are to change," Momis remarked.

The ABG Corporate Plans provide a roadmap of what agencies expect to achieve. "They are key accountability documents that will allow us as a government to demonstrate the work that we do", he added.

Momis said that there would be frequent, effective reporting and monitoring with these corporate plans and that all public servants were expected to perform exceptionally.

"I have therefore instructed the Chief Secretary to progress a new performance management framework so that this evaluation can occur," Momis stated.



ABG corporate plans launched

The Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) has launched its Departmental Corporate Plans to provide a strategic road map for the government that will benefit both the ABG and communities.

According to Joseph Nobetau, Chief Secretary of the ABG, the plan would form a key guideline in identifying the needs and priorities of the government and communities.

“Both the corporate and strategic plans seem to achieve one goal. That’s to provide a road map for the government”, said Nobetau.

As part of the planning process, each departmental secretary has been tasked to prepare and present their departmental plans to their respective ministers during the launch.

Each plan has been finalized by identifying the key priorities of each department. “The challenge of the departments is to turn the plans into action. They must be used effectively as living documents,” said Nobetau.

The next step is for all departments to develop a system of monitoring to determine whether there is a need to change course, he added.

Nobetau said that as part of this process the departmental secretaries were expected to provide quarterly reports of the progress of each plan which

will form the basis for reporting to the government and the Bougainville Executive Council. This is an essential part to the accountability process, said Nobetau.

The Chief Secretary said that he would also be implementing a more effective analysis process where all staff, from secretaries to cleaners, would be delivering the outcomes of the corporate plans.

President Chief Dr John Momis was pleased about the accomplishment.

“As President I have constantly expressed the view that the public service must become more accountable and the finalization of the corporate plan is a first step in this process and I want to commend all department heads to comply with the directions to finalize plans by today.”

“The ABG is a young public service. What that means is that we are still in the process of establishing some of the critical systems and processes that are needed to enable the government to provide essential services to the people.”

“But I am optimistic

that things are improving and I have faith in all public servants to deliver on the expectation of the government and the people.”

“For too long departments have failed to deliver on the expectations of the government. This must change and as public servants, each of you must be part of that change. We must develop a culture that promotes excellence, rewards success and penalize those who do wrong.”

President Momis has also instructed all department secretaries to make available their corporate plans on the ABG website.

“I want to reiterate the challenge; you must act with integrity at all times. You must put the interest of the government above your own. You must not engage in corrupt activities or seek to make game from your privilege position and finally you must give 100% every day.”

“That is my challenge to you. Please do not let me down. The consequences of failure extend beyond just you, me and the government.”

Second chocolate festival

Bougainville will host its second Chocolate Festival in September, bringing together cocoa farmers with chocolate makers and buyers from around the world to taste Bougainville’s best beans.

Ms Li Peng Monroe and Mr Peter Channells of Australian chocolatier Jasper + Myrtle will be returning based on the success of last year’s festival. Ms Monroe said she is really looking forward to catching up with Suir cocoa farmer Martin Donatus Linnix and the many people she met last year.

“Bougainville is well-known for high quality cocoa beans and last year’s festival did a great job involving local cocoa farmers”, Ms Monroe said.

“A direct result of the festival was to meet Martin and get some of his gold medal winning cocoa beans. We now use his beans in an exclusive range of chocolate that bears the name of his fermentary – Nunu.

We were so impressed with the quality of Bougainville cocoa that we will be using it in our entire range.”

“Apart from the cocoa beans, we loved the beauty of Bougainville and the friendly people who generously shared their home and culture with us.”

Mr Linnix said last year’s festival led directly to exporting his

beans overseas for the first time.

“I thank the festival for opening the road for us to market our beans overseas.”

Bougainville’s Minister for Primary Industries, Hon Nicholas Darku said the festival helps farmers realise the value of their land.

“Bougainville is blessed with rich agricultural land and a history of producing premium quality, organic cocoa and copra,” Minister Darku said.

“We must use the ground we have to make money – for people’s pockets and for funding Bougainville’s future.”

“We are now inviting Bougainville cocoa farmers to submit their beans for participation in the festival’s chocolate competition which will be judged using international standards.”

“This is very exciting not just for the cocoa industry, but also for Bougainville as a whole,” said Darku.

The Bougainville Chocolate Festival will be held in Arawa on the 6th and 7th September and is supported by the Australian and New Zealand governments.

For more information contact the Department of Primary Industries or visit Facebook/bougainvillechocolatefestival or www.bougainvillechocolatefestival.com

ABG grants first mining licenses

Three landowners of mining areas in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville are the first groups to have lodged their applications to the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) for a Mining and Exploration license.

This significant achievement occurred on Tuesday, May 9th, 2017 at the Bel Isi Park in Buka town. The historic decision to accept applications for exploration licenses in mining signals the government has taken a huge step in its drive to develop the mining industry in Bougainville.

This follows the partial lifting of the Mining and Exploration Moratorium on Bougainville that allows the ABG to grant licenses to potential investors interested in developing the mining sector.

Mining had been the winning commodity for the region in the 1970s till the crisis broke in 1989 and, to date, the giant defunct Panguna mine remains closed.

Landowners, especially from Mt Tore, Isina and Jaba, were given the heads up to lodge their applications for mining and explorations to go ahead in their respective areas. They journeyed to Buka town to lodge their applications for their respective areas.

A former ex-combatant, General Sam Kauona, with his people from Isina took part in celebrating the achievement.

Kauono admitted that although in the past he was against the mining act and the ABG, he was overwhelmingly supportive of this move by the government.

Kauona exclaimed with excitement that all operations of the mine would come under the new Bougainville Mining Act.

"In 1989, all the economic activities came to a halt. But today the door has opened for all economic activities to be born and for prosperity to begin again," said Kauona.

A proud ABG President Chief Dr John Momis said the event is an historical occasion, marking the resetting of relations between the people of Bougainville and the mining sector.

"As we move towards the independence referendum in 2019 and continue our journey towards full autonomy and reconciliation, it is timely to reflect on the work that has been done and the progress that has been made," Momis said.

"Under the agreement, Bougainville must actively work towards achieving financial self-reliance. What that means is that we



must find ways to generate revenue and income so that we can meet the needs of all Bougainvilleans in the future," Momis said.

Momis added that mining and exploration is just one way that we can do this.

"But let me be clear, the announcement on 28 April, 2017, is not about revisiting the past. It is not about going back to doing things the old way which caused conflict and concern, it is about putting in place a cautious and sustainable process that allows Bougainville to embark on a new journey of partnership - a journey where landowners, the Government and mining and exploration companies work together to ensure that the interests of Bougainville are always at the forefront of any decisions on whether to embark upon new mining projects, or rehabilitate

existing mining sites," Momis said.

The decision to lift the moratorium allows the government to become more involved in these activities through regulation and the promotion of environmental protection and safety, ensuring that mining activities are undertaken responsibly and in accordance with the law.

For the government's part, the ABG's Department of Mineral and Energy Resources is ready to take this work forward.

Yet this will be a whole-of-government process involving many departments, including Lands, Physical Planning and the Environment, Economic Development, Justice, Personnel Management and Administration and the President and Bougainville Executive Council.

In making the decision to partially lift the moratorium, the Bougainville Executive Council has carefully considered the implications of development, the capacity of government to manage exploration applications and the needs of the people.

The strategic lifting of the moratorium in Tore, Isina and Jaba will play a critical part in enhancing Bougainville's economic future, without losing sight of the need for environmental protection and monitoring systems to regulate exploration activities.

"I believe in you and I have faith that all Bougainvilleans want to move forward in prosperity where sustainable economic development helps everyone and allows us to achieve our self-determination goals," Momis said.



President votes using supplementary roll

Senior statesman and President of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville Hon Chief Dr John Momis finally cast his vote for the 2017 National General Elections in Buka town.

The President, accompanied by

his wife, Lady Elizabeth visited the polling booth and both cast their vote. He expressed his disappointment, however, for not discovering his name on the common roll earlier which delayed him from exercising his democratic rights to vote.

Most people, like the President, were not able to cast their votes due to their names not been on the common roll.

This called for the use of the supplementary roll to make it possible for Bougainvilleans to cast their vote.

Updeit ikam long Dipatmen bilong Pis Agrimen Implimentesen

PIPOL YET LONG BOGENVIL I MAS MEKIM REFERENDUM I KAMAP PEACEFUL

Bogenvil Pis Agrimen em oli bin sainim wantaim bikipela luksave na respect. BPA i tok long dispela referendum bai kamap na tupela gavman, PNG na ABG i makim pinis target deit long 15 June 2019.

Referendum i no samting tupela gavman inap rausim long any kain process. Bikipela wok bilong yumi ol pipol bilong Bogenvil na gavman bilong Papua Niugini, em long mek sure dispela referendum i gat peaceful outcome. Em mean olsem, bihain long referendum ino ken gat pait. Bogenvil na Papua Niugini imas gohetim yet toktok long wanem kain future bai Bogenvil i kamap long en insaet long dispela process bilong referendum.

WOK KAMAP LONG RAUSIM MASKET

I gat ol bikipela wok ikamap pinis. Ol ex-combatants tu i gat bikipela sapot long dispela wok bilong rausim masket. Masket bai givim poret. Ol Mekamui long Panguna i sainim wanpela Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) wantaim Mekamui we Moses Pipiro igo pas long en. Ol i tokaut pinis olsem Panguna bai 'weapons free' by December 2018. Long Not Bogenvil tu ol veterans i sindaon pinis long Tsiroge na oli bin tokaut olsem wok bilong rausim masket i mas go het. Dispela ol wok kamap i no bikos UN i bosim yumi, i no bikos nesenol gavman i bosim yumi, tasol bikos yumi pipol bilong Bogenvil yumi save emi gutpela bilong Bogenvil.

Referendum em bai nonap kamap gut

sapos yumi no kliarim environment bilong holim dispela referendum. Olgeta masket imas raus, nogut bihain igat tingting suspisen na hevi.

REFERENDUM CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEES (RCC)

Mipela i kamapim ol Referendum Constituency Committee (RCC) bai pipol yet i take part na ownim dispela pis process.

Mipela bai nidim komuniti sapot. Mipela bai needim komuniti ownersip long wei bilong identifiyim masket na wei ol bai rekodim olsem na ol komuniti i kisim ownersip long rausim ol masket. As tingting bilong RCC em long lukim ol pipol long komuniti i take part long konsultasen bilong ol bikipela astingting bai kamap long referendum.

RIPOT BILONG UNITED NATIONS (UN) LONG OL MASKET

UN i pinisim pinis studies bilong em. Dipatmen bilong Pis Agrimen Implimentesen i lukim na kisim pinis report bilong em. Dispela ripot em Mr Clyde Paris i bin raitim. Clyde Paris i bin UN Weapons Advisor long taim bilong UN Ambassador Noel Sinclair. Taim Secretary Tanis bin kam insaet long kisim wok olsem secretary, emi bin kisim Clyde Paris kam bek gen. Clyde Paris bai kam bek gen bihain. Dispela UN weapons disposal advisor em bilong halivim yumi long givim teknikol sapot na ino long bosim yumi long rausim masket. Long dispela taim tu, ABG i raitim pinis ol Terms of References (TOR) na United Nations i oraitim pinis. UN Advisor hia bai guidim yumi tasol long inapim wokabout bilong

yumi long wokim dispela weapons disposal program. Long dispela kain wei, bai yumi wokim gut na kisim gutpela credibility bilong em. Na antap long en, yumi nau istap long proses long negotiatim wanem kain package UN bai givim sapot.

Long year 2003, UN Observer Mission (UNOMB) i bin go raon long Bogenvil long halivim ol ex paitman long bungim ol masket. Taim oli i bin mekim dispela wok, ol i bin save hamas masket ol i no bin rausim. Nau i gat bikipela nid long rausim ol dispela masket.

WOK KAMAP BILONG OTONOMI

Otonomi emi important part long dispela wok redi bilong referendum. Plenti man i save tok olsem otonomi em bilong nau na mipela bai wetim referendum. Nogat, dispela em ino stret.

Otonomi emi part bilong wokabaot bilong yumi long referendum. Em bilong redim yumi bambai yumi gat gavman bilong yumi yet. Dispela gavman tasol I ken wokim mama lo bilong yumi yet bilong redim ples bilong karim wanem kain laik pipol bai soim long referendum, wanem kain laik nesenol gavman na Bogenvil bai wanbel long en bihain long referendum na bihain long ratifikesen.

Aninit long otonomi, yumi wok long strongim na buildim gavman institusens. Dispela em long mekim sure olsem taim pipol mekim choice bilong ol pinis, na taim nesenol gavman na Bogenvil i tokaut pinis wanem kain risalt bilong referendum, bai yumi gat, strongpela gavman na gutpela sikuriti.

I gat plenti draw down long ol pawas na funksen

i kamap pinis. Yumi tu i kisim pinis over-arching pawas long draw down bilong otonomi. Plenti man i ting otonomi ino wok yet. Bogenvil nau istap wan hour pas long PNG, yumi gat palamen, yumi gat president, yumi gat mama lo bilong yumi yet, na yumi gat pawa long wokim lo long mining na lo bilong giraon

REFERENDUM WOK PLEN

Long inapim dispela target deit, tupela gavman oli bin agri long wanpela plan oli kolim long Referendum wok plen. Insaet long dispela wok plen, igat wok bilong strongim electrol proses, wok bilong strongim awareness, wok bilong strongim weapons disposal, wok bilong strongim toktok consultation namel long pipol bilong yumi na namel long tupela gavman. Igat toktok tu long strongim wok bilong ol meri long mek so ol meri igat vois, wok long lukautim na respektim ol disabilities, igat ol toktok tu bilong trensisen na tu ol sekuriti issues long post referendum period.

BOGENVIL REFERENDUM COMMISSION

Tupela elektrol komisena bilong Bougainville na Papua Niugini i wokim pinis wanpela wok long sanapim dispela namel bodi husat bai karim aut dispela wok bilong referendum. Nem bilong dispela namel bodi em Bogenvil Referendum Komisen. Insaet long dispela komisen, bai igat namel man bai chairman na em bai kam long narapela kantri o long yumi yet. Strongpela tingting long tupela gavman istap olsem bai imas kam long narapela kantri. Insaet

long referendum komisen tu, bai i gat sevenpela man. 1. Chairman 2. Tupela elektrol komisenas bilong PNG na Bougainville 3. Tupela nesenol gavman ofisas.

Bogenvil Eksektiv Kaunsil i makim pinis memba bilong Bogenvil o man husat bai sanap makim Bogenvil long dispela komisen.

Aninit long dispela komisen bai igat Secretariat. Secretariat bai igat ol save man long ronim ol wok bilong referendum na bai gat wanpela meri tu long sanap makim Bogenvil.

BOGENVIL REFERENDUM DIALOGUE PROJEKT

I gat wanpela grup i mekim Dialogue projekt bilong rereim referendum proses.

Dispela Dialogue Project em ol lain bilong Peace na Conflict Studies bilong Australia (PACSIA) imekim. PACSIA i engagim pipol long involve long tokaut long tingting bilong pipol long hamas krismas bai nap long vote na ol narapela issues moa long kisim gutpela ansa.

Yumi gat tu ol Pis na Diplomen Komitis. Bogenvil Pis Building Progam em wok wantaim Dipatmen bilong Pis Agrimen yet.

Nau yet mipela long dipatmen i mekim referendum wok i stap. Igat gutpela progress pinis. Ol liklik heve yumi gat long ol wanwan komunitis em yumi mas daunim yumi yet na wokim pasin sekhan na reconciliation.

Bikipela samting ol pipol i laikim long Bogenvil bihain long referendum em, i mas igat pis na bel isi long bihain taim. Bai inogat pait na dai i kamap gen long Bogenvil.

Referendum

East New Britain Governor supports ABG for referendum

Governor of East New Britain Province Hon Ereman Tobaining Jnr has called for Bougainvilleans to support the Autonomous Bougainville Government for referendum in 2019.

Hon Tobaining Jnr made the announcement to fellow Bougainvilleans living in the province during the Bougainville Day celebrations at Kokopo on Saturday, June 17th.

Upon welcoming the ABG President Hon John Momis, who was the invited guest to the province, Hon Tobaining Jnr said so much was happening for Bougainville in preparing for the 2019 referendum and that all Bougainvilleans in East New Britain and elsewhere should work together to support their Autonomous Bougainville Government.

"Today marks another important celebration showcasing our culture which is a sign of unity

after 12 years, especially for the leaders to unite and such occasion unites us," Tobaining said.

"We need to change our mindset if we want change and I believe this occasion will improve our relationship to work together to prepare for the referendum in 2019," he added.

Similar sentiments were shared by the President for Siluwit LLG Hon Boniface Garat who called on the Bougainville community to be in tune and up to date with what the ABG was going through.

"You should be aware of what is happening in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville and work together with your leaders to prepare for the

referendum," he said. "Unity is very important and seeing you all here witnessing this event, working together is the way forward."

The ABG President Hon Chief Dr. John Momis could not agree further.

"Bougainvilleans we are highly favored, and we alone can make referendum work for us if we stand and work together in unity," Momis said.

Hon President also reiterated the need for Bougainvilleans to work consistently and systematically to ensure that the three pillars of the Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA) are achieved in order for the referendum to take place in 2019.

The three pillars include weapons disposal, good governance and fiscal self-reliance, Momis added.

The Bougainville community were reminded of the referendum date set for June 15, 2019, and their right to vote. Further, it was stressed that the voting age be eighteen years and above and that the question asked would be straightforward, simply voting for independence or not.

Hon Chief Dr. John Momis thanked the organizing executives and the Bougainville community for staging a very successful celebration. He said that this unity by Bougainvilleans in East New Britain showed their co-operation and support

for each other and ABG.

The celebrations included a showcase of the diverse cultures of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, ranging from bamboo bands to the famous kahur dance uniting all Bougainvillean.

The President, his wife, Lady Elizabeth and ABG Minister for Economic Services, Hon Fidelis Semoso represented the ABG at the celebrations in East New Britain and departed with a last impression of how for the first time in twelve years, the Bougainville community had come together to celebrate the day. It was also the first successful event staged and witnessed by the President and his delegates.

Creation of Bougainville Referendum Commission

The Autonomous Bougainville Government continues to make headway in the lead up to the referendum by creating the Bougainville Referendum Commission (BRC).

The signing of the agreement for the BRC between the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) and the Government of Papua New Guinea (GoPNG) happened on January 24, 2017, in Port Moresby.

The ABG Delegation was led by the former Vice President Hon. Patrick Nisira and the Chief Secretary, Joseph Nobetau, with the GoPNG Chief Secretary, Isaac Lupari, the PNG Electoral Commissioner and all of Bougainville's National MP's present, with the exception of Louta Atoi.

The ABG's

former Minister for Peace Agreement Implementation, Patrick Nisira, said the signing of the agreement between the two governments signified an important step forward.

Mr. Nisira has given his assurance of the ABG's full support and respect of the independence of the commission.

However Nisira reminded those present at the signing that the independence of the BRC does not mean the commission works independent of the two governments.

"The two governments

would continue to play a crucial role on agreeing on the framework on important matters as the options available in the referendum, security and funding issues," he said.

The Bougainville Referendum Commission needed approximately K20 million for it to begin its operations.

The GoPNG Chief Secretary, Isaac Lupari said that the BRC remains a priority for the National Government. Funding for the entity will be sourced to cater for the BRC's operations.

The formation of the BRC as an independent

and impartial entity was agreed upon by the National Executive Council, the Bougainville Executive Council and the Attorney General.

As per the Bougainville Peace Agreement and the Constitution of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea Section, 340 (1(a)), the PNG Electoral Commission and the Bougainville Electoral Commission will be jointly responsible for the conduct of the referendum.

The GoPNG, ABG, PNG Electoral Commission and the Bougainville Electoral

Commission have entered into an agreement that implements joint responsibility through the establishment of an independent agency, the Bougainville Referendum Commission, which would carry out the referendum in Bougainville.

The second document to be signed is the Charter that will enable the BRC to operate as an independent inter-government agency that will supervise the referendum.

The Charter will be signed by the Governor General at a later date to allow for the BRC to become operational.

My Bougainville Story

A permanent place for Bougainvillean's stories



Tim Jones interviewing Mr Paul Nakara, the current Mayor of Arawa Town.

New Zealander Tim Jones is working at the Haus Stori, Arawa's library, for six months as an oral historian. The library, inspired by Lloyd Jones, author of *Mr Pip*, and largely funded by the efforts of New Zealanders contains a fine collection of books. What it has been lacking, until now, is a collection

of Bougainville's own stories.

Tim's project, funded through New Zealand VSA, involves asking people to put their own story on record at the library. When the VSA project finishes in September, recording equipment will be left at the Haus Stori so that interviews can continue.

The whole collection would be available for anyone to listen to.

"The oral history project has been a real privilege to work on" said Tim. "Being able simply to ask people to tell you about their lives, their families, their experiences is an honour. And people in Bougainville

of course have some amazing stories to tell."

Tim is keen to make sure the collection of stories comes from all walks of life: from village elders, to school students. He says: "Everyone has a story, from people who remember Arawa in the old days,

to those who lived through the crisis, to children who have no memory of it at all. We look back at stories, photographs and movies from long ago and they are very precious. I hope that some of the stories we are collecting in 2017 will be treasured by future generations as a record of

what Arawa is like at this important moment in its history."

There are no boundaries in this project: family stories, myths and legends, customs and rituals, cooking, gardening they are all great subjects. "The variety of stories that people have told me has been amazing" says Tim. "Grand stories from the past are of course wonderful, but sometimes everyday stories are even more interesting: dealing with transport, work or school, family and friends, every story is of value."

Tim can be contacted at timjonesorama@gmail.com

Ishmael spends more time on cocoa farming

Bougainville cocoa farmer Ishmael Toroama has a dream: "One day I'd like to be able to buy a bar of Amataa chocolate – with a focus on the flavor!" he says with a broad smile.

A former Chief of Defense of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army, Toroama was part of Bougainville's 10 year struggle to close the controversial Panguna copper and gold mine and gain independence from Papua New Guinea. Toroama's body bears the scars of many hard fought battles.

Now he's a leader of a different kind. In the prevailing period of peace since the 2001 signing of the Bougainville Peace Agreement, which he was a signatory to, Toroama has returned to what his family has done for generations and what used to do as a 16 year-old boy – grow large, juicy Bougainville cocoa beans.

His group, the Amataa Sustainable Cocoa Project, is part of an agricultural movement

to revive Bougainville's international reputation for producing good size beans with sweet flavor.

At his block near the recently re-opened international Aropa airport, Toroama points out the many varieties of plants he's working with, and a new large capacity cocoa dryer.

"We have a lot of different varieties growing, some which have been grown in Bougainville during the colonial plantation days and some newer varieties too,"

"It's about having the right plants for our conditions here, which can be swampy because of the low lying ground."

Toroama's Amataa group, together with 25 others, received a boost recently under the Commodity Support Facility grants scheme. Supported by the

Australian and New Zealand governments, the grants will be used to grow the quality and quantity of production with improved planting stock, technical advice and innovation and connection to overseas markets.

The assistance to re-energise Bougainville's once productive cocoa sector is a priority for Bougainville's government.

Minister for Primary Industries and Mineral Resources, Hon Nicholas Darku, said the funds would help farmers realise the value of their land.

"We are blessed with rich agricultural land and a history of producing premium quality, organic cocoa and copra", Minister Darku said.

"Bougainville must use the ground we have to make money – for people's pockets and

for government service delivery."

"This program will not only support farmers to increase production, but focus on quality and to linking to export markets such as Indonesia and Malaysia."

Minister Darku said cocoa was the obvious first choice for support from the broad-based Commodity Support Facility grants fund.

"We already have interest overseas in Bougainville cocoa. The government is planning the first export of 20 containers in May. So this is very exciting for the cocoa industry, but for Bougainville as a whole."

"We need to move from agriculture to agri-business and this program is connecting farmers straight to the manufacturer."

Toroama says restoring cocoa production in

his area serves another important purpose: a way of providing employment and teaching youths in the area the value of work for money.

"Young people need to sweat to see what is needed to make a living. This is something important our next generation must be taught.

"In that way, I see Bougainville as a chocolate maker of the future", Mr Toroama said.

Another grant recipient, Donatus Pan-Ula says he has had strong support from his community for the effort to rehabilitate old cocoa plantations.

"We have set up community work days for cocoa farming and other activities."

He says it is hard work, but it will bring money into people's pockets.

Enhancing Bougainville's revenue base

The Chief Secretary Joseph Nobetau has agreed to convene a Revenue and Tax Summit in Buka from 27 to 29 September 2017.

"The Summit, which was a key recommendation of the first independent review of autonomy that was conducted in October 2013 would allow us to critically assess our revenue raising capacity and examine how we can build our funding base for the future."

Mr Joseph Nobetau

The Chief Secretary aims to see that the Summit would be attended by leaders from both the ABG and National Government and would include presentations from subject matter experts who can help examine ways to increase the overall revenue intake.

Mr Nobetau said that information on the summit would be circulated soon and it is hoped that it will help as the Chief Secretary navigates this complex issue.

Mr Nobetau has established a committee

called Revenue Advisory Group within the ABG. This group, which is chaired by the Secretary for Treasury and Finance, is comprised of the Chief Collector of Taxes and critical portfolio secretaries.

The aim of the group is to review current revenue raising capacity and to consider options for future revenue raising initiatives.

The work of the group would support the Economic Development Sector Committee and allow for a more coordinated approach to economic development

more broadly, said Nobetau.

"Increased economic activity naturally leads to increased revenue collections for the Government."

"The challenge for us as a public service is to ensure we get the balance right with the different levers and settings at our disposal. The work of the Revenue Advisory Group would help us achieve this," he added.

(The full six month progressive report of the Chief Secretary is on page 19)

Momis toughens on corruption

The Autonomous Bougainville Government is not condoning the blatant misuse of public funds and the level of corruption within its bureaucracy.

ABG President Chief Dr John Momis made this statement in no apologetic terms as he addressed the Bougainville Economic Sectors Meeting on Monday, 8th May.

"There are investors who are willing to invest in Bougainville but our public service machinery has to be organised to cater for the needs of these investors. We have to be ready to offer those investors information on the political situation we are in, the economic climate that exists and other feasible ideas that entices the interests of would be investors," Momis said.

"With our meagre resources some people are so inconsiderate that they are misusing and stealing public funds instead of being productive and taking measures to generate revenue," Momis said.

It is with this in mind that the Autonomous Bougainville Government will set up an Anti-Corruption Task Force that deals with corrupt practices, he added.

Momis said that: "Bougainville is such a beautiful place with very hard working people and yet we allow corrupt practices by neglecting our duties to stop corrupt practices.

"I am now challenging those in the economic sector to refrain from these practices and utilise your expertise to generate revenue for the common good of the Bougainville people," Momis added.

Meanwhile the President has instructed the Bougainville Economic Sector Committee to look into alternative means of raising revenue compared to its current resources.

This would address issues of improved electrification services in government agencies and the general public, using alternative and renewable sources of electrification, such as wind, hydro and solar.

"As well as setting up a Commodities Board to facilitate issuance of export licenses and setting up a Price Control and Minimum Wage Board to look at the high cost of living."

Momis' directive also looked at consultations with Bank of South Pacific Management to improve their services and the possibility of inviting other banks and finance institutions on to Bougainville.

Another important issue would be to appoint a Chief Collector of Taxes to map all potential business enterprise in Bougainville, set targets in coordination with the ABG's finance and budget resources, as well as working out a mechanism to tax companies who pay their dues in Port Moresby, yet operate in Bougainville.

"We have the power to make all these happen so let us all work together and put aside our differences; let us unite and harness our talents to make Bougainville great again," Momis said.

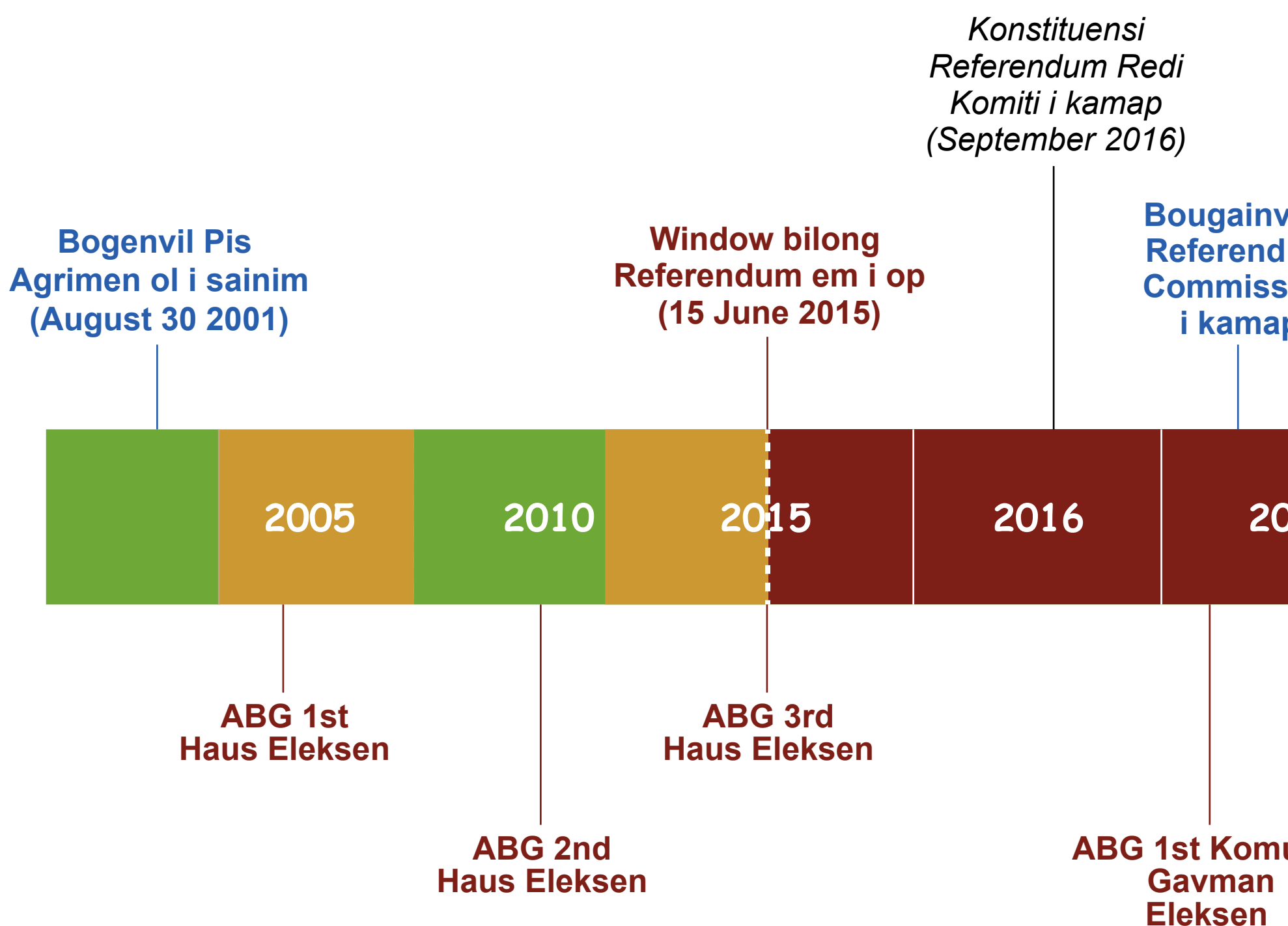


The Australian funded project to seal many of Buin's town roads is progressing very well. The safe, more reliable roads will better connect businesses and communities. Local residents are pleased at the employment opportunities and the reduction in dust around town.



REFERENDUM

Referendum



Bougainville Referendum Commission (BRC)

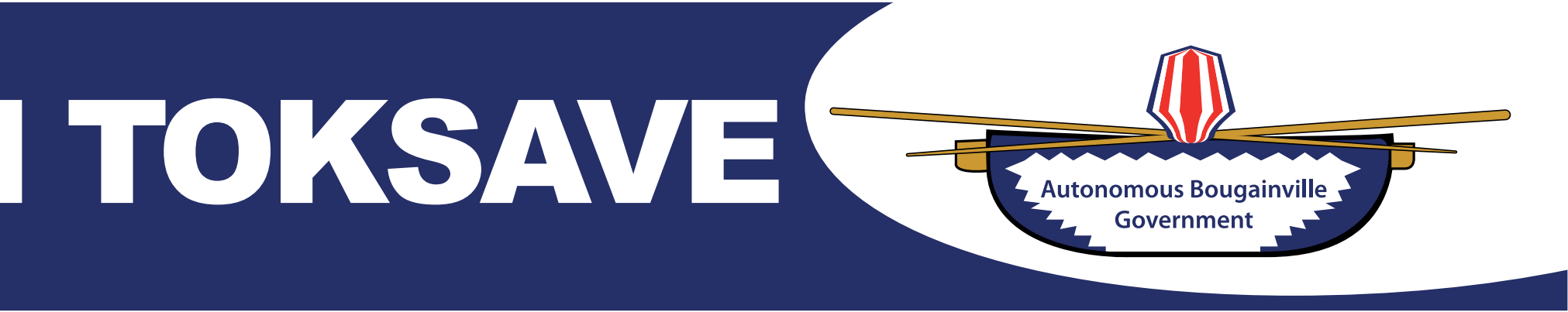
- Em ofis we bai go pas long karim aut wok bilong referendum

Constituency Referendum Ready Committees CRCC

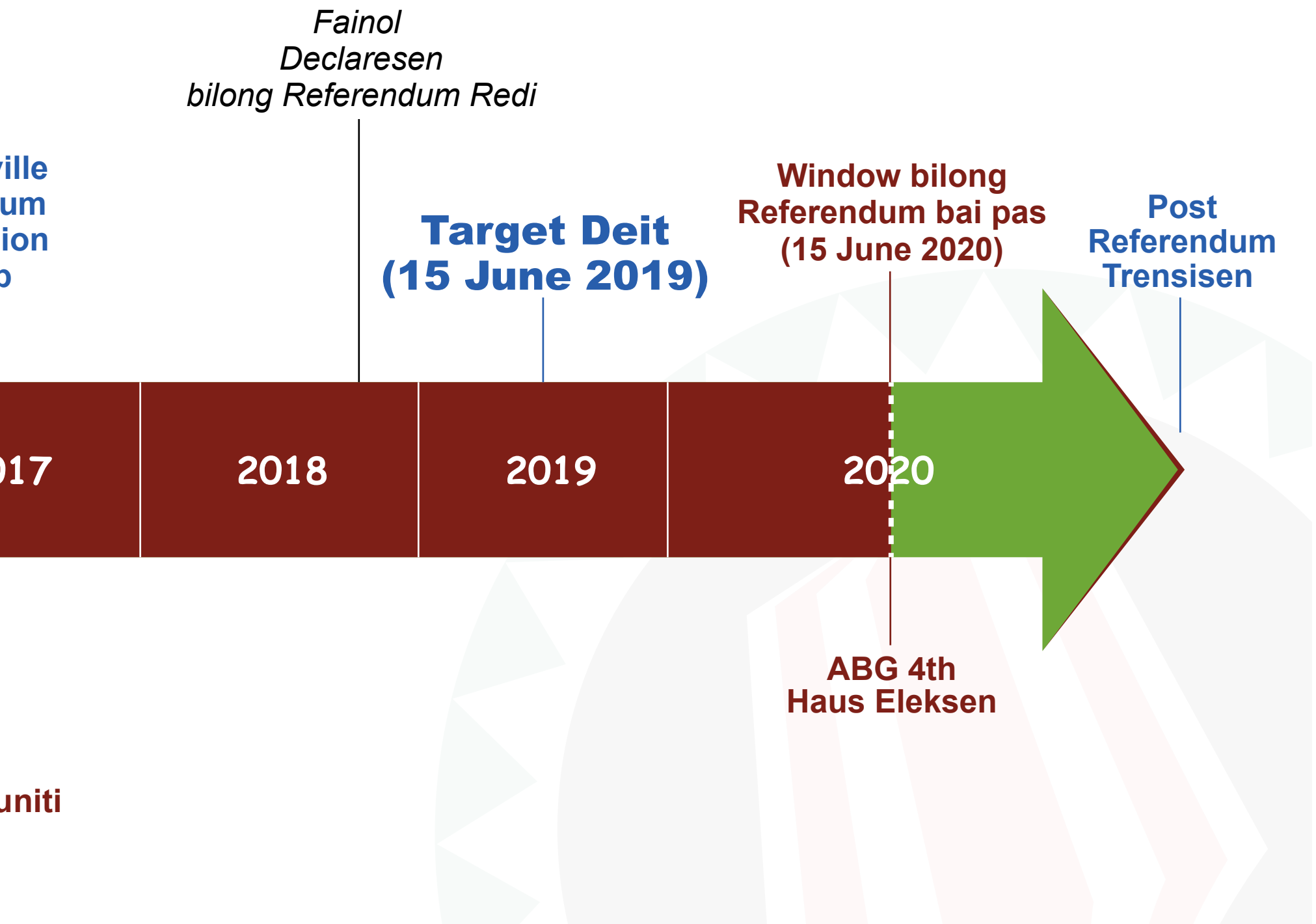
- Wok bilong dispela komiti em long karim aut ol awenes bilong referendum long ol wan wan konstituensi insait long Bogenvil. Konstituensi memba em i go pas long dispela komiti.

Long kisim mo

- Konstituensi M
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- Bogenvil Haus
- ABG Media na
- Bogenvil Asos



Timeline



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Memba
ng Pis Agrimen Implimentesen
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a Komunikesen
iesen President

www.abg.com.pg
Autonomous Bougainville Government
page on Facebook

KISIM SAVE NA RERE NAU

Reconciling for lasting peace and unity

Kunua District has been applauded for taking the lead in the peace building process by conducting a major reconciliation ceremony in March this year between ex-combatants and families of victims killed in the crisis.

Described as one of the biggest massacres in the Bougainville Crisis, it has now become a piece of history. The event was laid to rest with a small, peaceful reconciliation ceremony that healed many broken wounds.

More than a thousand people from Kunua and the surrounding districts, as well as ex-combatants from all three regions of north, central and south gathered at the ceremony to ask for forgiveness and reconciliation.

"Reconciliation is about forgiving each other and it brings peace and unity. Forgiveness starts a journey towards a new outcome and people of Kunua must be happy to reconcile as we prepare for Bougainville's political future", Member for Mahari Hon John Tabinaman said at the ceremony.

He thanked the people of Kunua, both civilians

and ex-combatants alike, for working together to reconcile and further stressed that Bougainvilleans alone would bring the peace and change the region wants.

Bougainville women leaders present at the ceremony called on women to work together with the youth to maintain peace in Bougainville.

Ms Ruth Spriggs, a Bougainvillean leader, educationist and human rights advocate challenged the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) to make decisions based on the history of Bougainville, adding that though Bougainville had a sad history it was also a good one.

"We have major challenges ahead and ABG must make decisions for Bougainville on the basis of our history", she said.

She also urged the ex-combatants to return to God and ask for forgiveness, so

that God could heal them as life begins and ends with God. "You all fought to protect your home, custom and culture and most importantly you protected a Bougainvillean and now is the time to reconcile and move forward."

Ms Spriggs further challenged the women of Bougainville to stand together and work together to fight for freedom.

For the ex-combatants, organising and participating in such ceremonies is a step forward in seeking forgiveness and reuniting with civilians so that peace will prevail before the referendum in 2019.

"We are witnessing a big occasion today and I urge you all not to forget your history," Philip Takau, Vice President of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) stressed. He apologised to the public at Kunua for the wrongs they



committed and asked for forgiveness on behalf of the ex-combatants.

Mr Takau further challenged the people and ABG to identify what the three pillars of the Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA) were based on and if good governance existed within the communities and ABG.

Another outspoken veteran leader, Ishmael Toroama, acknowledged the people of Kunua for staging the reconciliation ceremony, as well as the

ex-combatants throughout the region for supporting this move. He called on the ABG to work together with the ex-combatants and the people of Bougainville to prepared for the referendum and independence in 2019.

"You (ABG) must do your part and we must meet you halfway across the bridge," he said.

This reconciliation ceremony is the first stage and the second stage will be conducted later this year.

All stronghold factions unite to work towards 2019 referendum

All factions that have broken away from the Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) to form their own groups have joined together in arms to reconcile their differences.

This historic reconciliation was a move towards uniting all to work together toward Bougainville's referendum in 2019.

On Friday, 7th May the former Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA), Me'ekamui Government of Unity (MGU), Twin Kingdom Factions and the Me'ekamui Defence

Force (MDF) signed an understanding to work together to pursue peace leading to the Bougainville referendum.

The meeting was conducted under the theme: 'Re-Unifying Bougainville for a free and fair referendum.'

The factions met for four days at the Goro Homes Village Resort in Arawa to

recall the events that took place in Roreinang from the 25th - 27th of September, 1997, which triggered the split in the BRA to different factions.

Those present at the meeting recalled the events of the 'Roreinang Coup,' especially:

- Gun fired in front of Francis Ona, Joseph Kabui, Sam Kauona,

David Sisito, Jonathan Ngati, Andrew Miriki, Jacob Aroku, Bernard Tunim and David Onavui

- Letter to Francis Ona from the BRA Commanders demanding him not to engage in activities that could jeopardise the ongoing Burnham Peace Talks

- Letter from Francis Ona terminating

BRA Commanders and Bougainville Interim Government (BIG) Members

- Split between Francis Ona and Joseph Kabui

- Split between BRA Company Commanders and 'A' Company.

The ex-combatants present at the meeting acknowledged their split

Reconciliation: The traditional way

As Bougainville prepares for the referendum in 2019, communities throughout the region also race against time and money to see that reconciliations are conducted between civilians and veterans for peace to prevail.

Money has increasingly been seen as a major issue to assist reconciliation ceremonies and many required money to assist with logistics, food and other items, whilst other reconciliations are yet to be conducted due to lack of funding.

However, Makis Constituency in Buin, South Bougainville has taken a bolder stand to do away with this trend of using money to reconcile.

Honourable John Vianney Kepas, ABG Member for Makis

Constituency, has taken the lead to change the mindset of his people to reconcile amongst themselves without the use of money.

Mr Kepas began this change with awareness based on three principles: upholding the customs of the society, the church and the government and its Constitution.

He used this as a basis to get people to reconcile and ask for forgiveness spiritually through the heart instead of waiting for funding assistance.

"After identifying crisis victims and offenders within Makis Constituency, I formed a committee to conduct retreats for ex-combatants and youths to help them understand the spiritual side of reconciliations before actually conducting the reconciliations", Mr

Kepas revealed.

The retreat was based on two topics: Healing of Memories and Healing of Marriages, in which they targeted the ex-combatants, youths and families to understand the love of God in their lives, to accept each other and forgive and reconcile each other with the love and peace of Christ.

"I wanted people to see and understand that money cannot buy forgiveness. If we relied on money to say sorry and ask for forgiveness, will God forgive us later? Will He (God) judge us for wanting or accepting money in order to ask another's forgiveness? These are the questions and challenges I asked my people to reflect on and the result has been positive", he said.

After the retreat,

victims and offenders, with their families, attended a reconciliation mass in the churches and openly shook hands in public followed by exchange of food between both parties, upholding their local customs and traditions of reconciling and accepting one another.

The Member added that he had only used about K1, 000 from his funds to conduct the retreats leading up to the reconciliation mass.

So far 44 high impact reconciliations in Makis Constituency have been conducted on nine Sundays using this approach and the people have changed their attitudes towards the use of money to reconcile.

"The first and second House of Representatives had problems in conducting

reconciliations due to money and learning from this experience, I have urged my people take this approach in conducting reconciliations in my constituency," Mr Kepas said.

"My constituency is 98 per cent weapons-free. Unification is paramount to my people and we should be 'referendum-ready' by the end of 2017", he said.

The Member called on his fellow colleagues to take ownership of the reconciliations in their respective constituencies.

Reconciliations for other constituencies are still continuing and it is hoped that this approach by the Makis Constituency should set the pace for others to follow.



Former BRA factions members (ex-combatants), women's reps and ABG representatives standing together to show their unification in working towards a peaceful process to referendum.

and recognised the limited time they had available before the appointed date of Bougainville's referendum on June 15th, 2019, thus working together was a top priority.

The signed understanding was to reaffirm their commitment to pursue peace by all means and make aware the importance of the unification process.

It was also a commitment

to continue, to the best of their ability, to resolve the issues that arose from the 'Roreinang Coup' and further commit themselves to work in partnership with the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) and the Bougainville Peace Building Program (BPBP) in the lead up to the referendum and beyond.

The parties agreed that between May 15th and 17th,

2017, they will reconcile their differences in major reconciliation ceremonies to be held at Roreinang, Panguna and Arawa.

The understanding was signed by Philip Miriori - Former Secretary, Supreme National Council (SNC), Ishmael Toroama - Former BRA Chief of Defence, Gunther Using - Twin Kingdom, Sam Kauona - Former General, BRA,



Former BRA General, Sam Kauona (L) and former BRA 'A' Company Commander MDF General, Moses Pipiro shaking hands after signing the understanding to work together towards referendum.

Moses Pipiro - Former BRA 'A' Company Commander, MDF General, Co-Chairman, Roreinang Coup Committee, and David Sisito - Former BIG Defence Minister and was witnessed by Honourable Thomas Tari - Member House of Representatives (MHR), Veterans Member for South Bougainville, Honourable Noah Doko -

MHR, Veterans Member for Central Bougainville, Honourable Ben Malatan - MHR, Veterans Member for North Bougainville, Honourable Albert Punghau, MHR, Minister for Bougainville Peace Agreement Implementation and James Tanis - Secretary Department of Bougainville Peace Agreement Implementation.



Komuniti Gavman eleksen updeit

Fespla komuniti gavman eleksen long Bogenvil emi bin wanpela pisful na suksesful eleksen we emi pinis insait long taim we Bogenvil eksektiv kaunsil ibin markim.

Sekretari bilong komuniti gavman Wesley Kenneth tok dispela emi fespela elesen we emi kamap behain long gavman ibin pasim komuniti gavman act long mun June 2016. “Mipela i hamamas wantaim outkam bilong dispela eleksen na tok tenk yu long sapot ol man meri i soim long mekim so olsem dispela eleksen emi kamap gut,” Mr Kenneth i tok.

Emi tok tu olsem ol proses we i stap insait long komuniti gavman act emi niupela na emi impoten olsem olgeta forty-sevenpela komuniti gavman insait long Bogenvil.

Dipatmen bilong komuniti gavman emi wok nau wantaim ofis bilong Bogenvil elektoral komisena long rere long komuniti gavman eleksen bilong fopela urban komuniti gavman

bilong Buka, Kokopau, Arawa na Buin.

Dispela tu bai nidim bikpela sapot na halivim bilong ol pipol na mekim so olsem dispela eleksen bai kamap gut wantaim nogat bikpela hevi.

Bougainville's new second level of government launched

The Autonomous Bougainville Government has launched its new second level of government called the Community Government.

Community Government recognises the strength of the people and communities to identify and plan their own development activities.

Minister for Community Government, Hon Jacob Tooke, said he was proud to see the Bougainville Community Government Act 2016 come to life.

“The Community Government system should be a source of pride for all Bougainvilleans. It is a unique expression of our culture, development aspirations and traditional authority structures”, said Minister Tooke.

“Community Government provides equal voice and political representation for men and women, recognises the role of traditional leaders

and brings government decision-making back to people.”

Under the Act, Bougainville has been divided into four urban areas (Buka, Kokopau, Arawa and Buin) and 43 rural Community Government areas. These would be further divided into 424 Wards.

During the community government elections, people in each Ward vote for one man and one woman to represent them at their Community Government as Ward Representatives.

The Minister said the new Community Government was a direct result of the autonomy arrangements under the Bougainville Peace Agreement, whereby Bougainville could create laws that fulfilled the unique

identity and aspirations of its people.

“The Council of Elders structure was established after the crisis to rebuild peace and security - however they were not empowered to drive development and service delivery at the village level.”

“The new Act addresses these issues and creates a second level of government that is truly Bougainville, that helps people come together to plan, coordinate and carry out development activities and assist service government service delivery,” said Tooke.

The Community Government Act would replace the Council of Elders after the first Community Government elections as conducted by the Office of the Bougainville Electoral

Commissioner.

The Minister said it was his hope to that the Act would empower people to take part in the development of their community, initiate economic activities and improve education, health and other service delivery.

The Department of Community Government has launched an awareness campaign for officials going out to all Wards to provide information and materials about the new laws.

The awareness contained information on the functions of Community Government that included:

- Keep track of community data (births, deaths, population etc)
- Identify and prioritise development needs of people for district planning

- Assist, administer or implement projects resulting from district planning

- Coordinate with ABG to monitor government service delivery

- Encourage the development of business, commerce, industry and tourism in its area

- Encourage initiatives for improving quality of life of its people and represent interests of its people to the wider community

- Establish community mining license reserve and relating to community licenses and tenements

- Carry out or provide assistance for projects funded from other sources.

Government tunes in to people

Government research conducted across Bougainville has laid the foundation for more targeted public awareness.

The Autonomous Bougainville Government has released a report on people's access to media and communication channels to better target awareness activities on the peace agreement and upcoming referendum.

The report is based on a survey of over 1,000 people across Bougainville. It found that the varying, but generally low access to government information required new approaches with greater attention to presentation of information.

The report recommended tapping into new channels people are using, such as mobile phone and video, but a general need to focus on the content of information with clear, simple and consistently repeated messages, designed with the target audience in mind - whether they be youth, women or people of different levels of literacy.

The survey was

an initiative of the Bureau of Media and Communications and was conducted by the Centre for Social and Creative Media at the University of Goroka.

Chief Secretary Joseph Nobetau thanked Bougainvilleans for their participation in the survey and assured them that the government was listening to their voice.

"This survey has gone down to the grassroots level to find out why awareness of the BPA and government remains low," Nobetau said.

"It has found the penetration of traditional media: radio, newspapers and television, and newer internet channels is very low, especially outside Buka and Awara. This creates a major challenge for a government to communicate with its people."

The research showed there was still confusion about key aspects of the Bougainville Peace Agreement.

People said they wanted the government to come down to their level, invest in radio, but also suggested new ideas like using mobile phones for information dissemination.

Mr Nobetau said while the survey showed there is a lot of work to do to prepare people for the referendum, it also gave many good ideas about how to do things better.

"The lack of a good understanding of the Peace Agreement is evidence that we cannot rely on using the same old awareness approaches of the past. We must look at presenting information more clearly, more consistently, more often and use a variety of different ways to get a two-way flow of information happening. This will create greater impact and greater understanding."

The head of the Bureau of Media and Communications Adriana Schmidt, said they were

already responding to the findings.

"We are currently working with the Department of Peace Agreement Implementation to prepare multi-media information kits for our Members of Parliament, producing video and investigating mobile-phone based awareness," Ms Schmidt said.

"With this report, the government has listened to the views of people and we are now better placed to plan and implement improved awareness."

The Chief Secretary called upon all government agencies and communication partners to use the report to improve engagement with community.

"The task ahead is to better target our awareness campaigns and we will continue to survey and measure our activities in this regard."

The *Bougainville Audience Study* asked people about their access

to radio, mobile phone, TV, newspaper and the internet, their most trusted sources of information, and preferred ways of receiving government news. The research also asked people about their level of understanding of the three pillars of the Bougainville Peace Agreement: weapons disposal, autonomy and referendum, and other issues.

The survey was an initiative of the Bureau of Media and Communications, conducted by Centre for Social and Creative Media, University of Goroka, with funding support from the governments of Papua New Guinea, Bougainville, Australia and New Zealand. Over 1,114 people were surveyed, and 200 in-depth interviews conducted.

The *Bougainville Audience Study* can be downloaded at www.abg.gov.pg/reports

Reporting process for the ABG

Since the inception of the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) there have been numerous development plans that have not reached fruition.

Despite many of these plans being very detailed they were unable to reach a successful end. They lacked further development due to incapacitation issues in the Bougainville Administration.

Chief Secretary to the ABG, Joseph Nobetau, said that he has reviewed many of these plans at the beginning of this year and came to a conclusion that though plans were well formed, they lacked action after their development.

"This problem is not unique only to Bougainville and I do not want to detract from the important work many of our dedicated public servants have undertaken in the past," Nobetau said.

"Rather, I see the need for the Bougainville public service to build on that former planning work in undertaking new corporate and strategic planning so that we can measure and assess our success," he said.

Nobetau further stated

that it was not enough to develop a plan itself. Rather, the public service needed to move past the development stage to the implementation phase, to prove its worth to the government and the people of Bougainville.

Mr Nobetau also revealed that in the coming months a new formal reporting process to the government will be implemented that allows the administration to measure and assess the success of the public

service in meeting key corporate and strategic planning goals.

As it stands, the reporting process will be divided into four key quadrants: Budget and Financial Management; Civil Society, Peace and Law and Order; Social Services and Economic Development, Growth and Infrastructure.

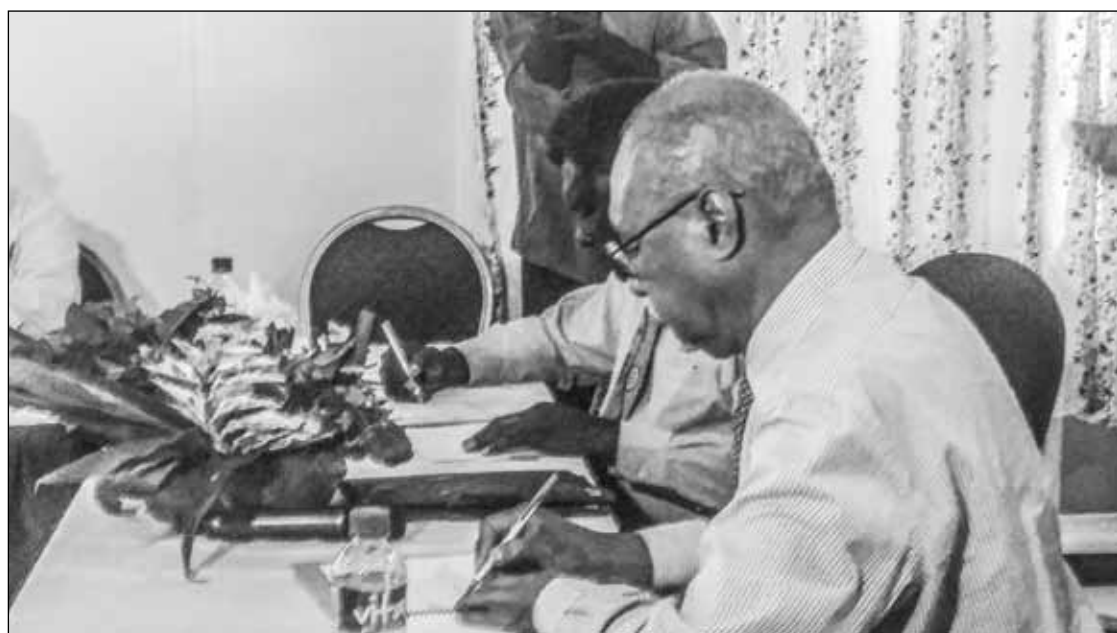
The aim of the reporting process will be to document activities and actions that seek to address and meet

the priorities of the government. It will also act as a monitoring and evaluation mechanism that allows for improvement.

"I firmly believe that 2017 will be a year of transformation for the public service and I ask all Bougainville public servants to join with me as we embark on this exciting journey to make Bougainville the Black Pearl of the Pacific as she truly is," Nobetau encouraged.

Over-arching framework for the transfer of functions and powers

The National Government of Papua New Guinea with the Autonomous Bougainville Government have signed a joint Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to fast track the transfer of powers and functions to Bougainville.



National Minister for Public Service Honorable Sir Puka Temu and his counterpart ABG Minister for Public Service Honorable Robert Hamal Sawa signing the MOU.

The Minister for Public Service Sir Puka Temu and the Bougainville Minister for Public Service Hon Robert Hamal Sawa were pleased to announce the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in Buka on the 20th March, 2017 between the National and Bougainville Government titled: **“The Over-Arching Framework For The Transfer Of Functions And Powers From The National Government To The Autonomous Bougainville Government Pursuant To The Bougainville Peace Agreement.”** The signing further signified the undiminished commitment by the National Government and Bougainville for the transfer of National Government powers and functions to the Bougainville Government in fulfillment of the Peace Agreement, as expressively desired by the Prime Minister and President of Bougainville.

According to the Ministers, the MOU will provide greater control over the coordination and prioritization of the drawdown of National Government powers and functions through a Joint Technical Working Group in order to bring the joint responsibility of the powers and functions and the National Government to provide financial and staffing support to the ABG on request of the ABG.

The Key elements of the MOU are:

- **A commitment to enabling transfer**
- **Joint planning for a smooth transition, sometimes including transfer in stages that are linked to staged capacity development with the ABG**
- **Joint capacity building to ensure that the ABG officers are capable of undertaking their new roles**

• **Full budget planning and funding to enable the ABG to implement the new powers and functions**

• **Transfer of assets and land etc in operational order.**

It is expected that the MOU will strengthen the further development of National government powers and functions to Bougainville by eliminating the adhoc arrangements of the past and speeding up the further development of government institutions on Bougainville leading up to referendum in 2019.

The ministers further direct all state entities to place ABG on their priority list of activities under in accordance with arrangements of the overarching umbrella to ensure that this happens before the referendum in 2019.

“I’m With Nature” is the theme of this year’s World Environment Day, which was celebrated globally on June 5th

The day is a chance to raise awareness about different environmental issues that face the world today and encourage everyone to do their part in preserving our natural world.

At Malasang Elementary School, students found a creative and interactive way to celebrate the day by transforming their classrooms into different natural environments.

The activities, which took place over two days, were organised by a committee comprising

Ms Deborah Arikui, Ms Chantal Galaua and Ms Regina Otto, who are all teachers at the school.

Various habitats were decided upon and then assigned to each of the seventeen classes, which range from grade three up to grade eight. The students learnt all about their environment, and then ventured out into nature to collect materials for their classrooms.

The students worked together to design and recreate their chosen habitat within their classrooms. Desks and

chairs were moved aside to make room for plants, coral reefs, a winding riverbed, a life size pond with real fish, a copra plantation, a garden with different local vegetables and even a traditional highlands hut. Accompanying the built environments were posters with important facts about the different natural phenomena.

The students all had the opportunity to visit other classrooms to see what their peers had created. The activities for World Environment



Day are part of the national curriculum and schools throughout the island also held their own Environment Day events.

The Unity Library, in Buka, also contributed to the celebrations by holding a poster competition with the

theme *Mi stap wantaim nature.*

For the month of July, people are being encouraged to bring their own bag when shopping. This reduces the need for plastic bags, which pose a threat to both marine life and the environment.

Momis on BPA

President Grand Chief Dr John Momis has announced a new realignment of the ministry responsible for implementing the Bougainville Peace Agreement early this year.



Momis said that the new ministry, which will be responsible for all referendum information, is the Ministry for Peace Agreement Implementation headed by the new minister, Albert Punghau.

Albert Punghau has replaced Patrick Nisira, who resigned in order to contest the national elections in Papua New Guinea.

The Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA) - jointly created on August 30, 2001, between the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) and the Government of Papua New Guinea (GoPNG) - is still being ignored by the GoPNG as a peace winning solution to the Bougainville crisis.

Despite the countless efforts of the first and second governments of AROB to gain a solid commitment from the GoPNG to fast implement key pillars of the BPA- autonomy, referendum and good governance- ABG still struggles with funding that is becoming an inevitable impediment.

Since the first government in 2005, ABG still has yet

to draw down many important powers from the national government.

"The peace agreement, as we already know, the national government has broken many times," Momis said.

Regardless of the many challenges faced by ABG when confronting the national government to commit, Momis is calling for the people of Bougainville to follow the laws of the BPA and leave the final judgment to the peace building organization, the United Nations and the international communities to make their own assessment.

The key pillars of the BPA are autonomy, referendum, weapons disposal and good governance.

The PNG Constitution recognizes Bougainville as the only region in Papua New Guinea to have a government that has an autonomous power, making the region more powerful than the provincial governments.

The PNG Constitution also recognizes the right for a referendum to take place in the region. However, the United Nations has reported that the region is not ready for June 15, 2019 come the vote for Bougainville's political future.

This was revealed by Momis, who confirmed that Bougainville was

not ready but he is optimistic about the future and urged for every Bougainvillian to be ready.

Momis urged for weapons disposal to be effective before the referendum date. As the period becomes very sensitive, the President is calling for everyone to commit their lives and remove their weapons, proving they are moving ahead and working together in peace and unity.

"We are the only autonomous region of Papua New Guinea. That gives us a great advantage. The Constitution recognizes this. Whether the current government recognizes this or not, it doesn't matter."

Momis also urged for 'Good Governance' to prevail and the rule of law be practiced and maintained.

It is the President's dream to see the government return back to what it used to be like when it was the North Solomon Provincial Government and a model region before the crisis.

ABG is still trying to set up a task force to clean up corruption, he added.

Momis reiterated that the outcome of the referendum would be a final negotiation between both governments, having in mind that peace and stability were essential for a successful outcome.

Resealed road better connects Arawa to Kieta Port

A formal ceremony was held on Tuesday 21st of March to celebrate the completion of a project to reseal the road from Arawa town to Kieta Port, laying the foundation for greater economic activity in the region.



The K8.6 million project was delivered as part of Australia's long-running partnership with the Autonomous Bougainville Government to help maintain Bougainville's road network. It complements the recent K4.7 million project to seal a number of town roads in Arawa.

The new surface and upgraded drainage has made the road safer and more reliable whilst improving connections between people and essential services. The resealed road has reduced travel times, better connecting local businesses to and from Arawa town and the local port and airport.

Secretary of Bougainville's Department of Technical Services, Bernard Tzilu, was very pleased with the improvements to the road delivered by the project.

"This project typifies the success of our long-term partnership with Australia to maintain Bougainville's trunk road network. The project has improved the safety and comfort of travel whilst

providing an economic boost to the region. Projects such as this also provide important employment opportunities for local residents."

A high quality transport network in Bougainville acts as a catalyst for growth in the local economy, enabling businesses to expand whilst reducing vehicle operating costs.

Australia's Deputy High Commissioner, Bronte Moules, cut the ribbon at the community celebration and congratulated the Autonomous Bougainville Government on its achievement.

"This project has enabled better connections to health and education facilities as well as improving access to market for local copra and cocoa growers. The road improvements are part of Australia's long-term commitment to support the maintenance of Bougainville's vital transport network."

Australia's support for this project is delivered through the Papua New Guinea - Australia Transport Sector Support Program.

Bougainville youth Initiative – Youth in districts receive assistance



The districts of Atolls, Buin, Buka Urban, Kieta, Panguna, Torokina, Kunua and Nissan have received assistance through the Bougainville Youth Initiative, a Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) funded program.

Funds have been allocated towards their District Youth Associations, ranging between K10,000 to K30,000 according to their work plans.

All thirteen District Youth Associations with the three Urban Youth Associations will receive a total of K100,000 each that will go towards establishing themselves and delivering their programs in their respective districts.

The grant agreements were signed in April this year and with all compliance requirements met by the Associations, funds are now rolling out with a priority on governance.

There are three main areas they will be working on. These cover governance, economic and social/spiritual sectors. Activities include, procuring basic office equipment to enable working, awareness raising in the district on the benefits of affiliating

with them, financial management training for their members and the Peace Marathon.

More than thirty youth executives were given a chance to review their three-year-old plans and a compliance workshop was carried out to prepare them late last year which lead to their funds released this month.

In her speech to the youth during the grant signing ceremony, the Acting Secretary to the Department for Community Development Ms Mana Kakarauts, told the youth:

“This is the opportunity given to you and you must prove to our donor partners that you will manage and carry out what you would like to achieve with good governance principles, as future leaders of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville”.

She also thanked the Government of Australia and its people for the support given to implement the Youth

Policy, saying that formulating the policy was easy however; the implementation of it was a huge challenge.

Pillar 3 of the Papua New Guinea Governance Facility in Arawa is managing two related youth projects. Firstly, the Bougainville Districts Youth Association project, in partnership with the Bougainville Youth Foundation and the ABG Department for Community Development. Secondly, the DFAT supported Bougainville Youth Initiative implemented by a network of international and local NGOs, also in collaboration with the ABG Department for Community Development.

Other districts will receive their assistance after going through the same process. This includes the Bougainville Youth Foundation, which is the umbrella body for the District Youth Associations.

ABG recognises Bougainville women

Bougainville women are proud women who have adapted to sweeping changes in gender parity that has revolutionized Papua New Guinea society.

Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) President Chief Dr John Momis has made this statement in commemoration of the International Women’s Day celebrated early this year.

“I congratulate the women of Bougainville for their tireless efforts in Bougainville not just as mothers but also as leaders,” he said.

“Their continued efforts must be lauded as we strive to create a new socio-economic political order that is free from oppression and subjugation of one’s creed or gender orientation,” he said.

President Momis challenged the women to take heed of this year’s International Women’s Day theme, “Be Bold for Change”, as Bougainville embarks on the very important journey to its ultimate political future.

“The traditional role of women in most parts of Bougainville has always been custodians of the land, providing a safety net to society and keepers of the peace. This role has not changed; women still play a vital role in contemporary Bougainville today,” Momis said.

“I am also proud to say today that a new role that Bougainville women have assumed is one that has redefined their roles in Bougainville and that is of a peace maker,” he added.

He said it was through the determination and sheer will of brave Bougainville women that they stood up and called for peace during the bloody war on

Bougainville.

This call echoed throughout the whole island and the response was the ensuing cease fire and eventual peace that followed.

Through the negotiations for peace in Bougainville, to the formative years of the Autonomous Bougainville Government, women have played a pivotal role in the progress and development of the region.

“The ABG recognises women as an important stakeholder and that is why our policies have always encouraged equal participation of women in important decisions that affect Bougainville’s future,” Momis said.

The most important step that the ABG has made in fostering women’s parity in Bougainville was the creation of three regional women’s seats in the Bougainville House of Representatives.

Apart from the equal opportunity to contest the constituency seats, Bougainville women still have a voice and guaranteed representation in the ABG through three reserved seats for women.

He said women must now be the catalyst that encourages unity. A unity that starts from the home and flows out to society as a whole.

“Bougainville must no longer be a place where men and women are considered separately. There are no longer men nor women but only a people. A united people of Bougainville is what we must now project,” Momis said.

Second progressive report



Office of the Chief Secretary



A key priority of the Chief Secretary has been to continue the process of enhancing public service capacity and accountability whilst at the same time progressing a number of critical policy and programme related reforms.

The following list is a summary of key issues and activities during the reporting period and also forecasts key activities over the coming months.

1. Enhancing Financial Accountability

- Steps have been taken to ensure effective management and a more direct control of public service finances.

2. Addressing Corruption

- President Momis requested Head of the RPNGC fraud squad assistance to help rid Bougainville public service corruption.
- Minister for Treasury and Finance progressing anti-corruption reforms.
- Fraudulent public service payment claims directed to Secretary for Finance and the Internal Auditor for investigation.

3. Enhancing our Revenue Base

“Bougainville is open for business and that we welcome new investment, but that any such investment must be lawful, responsible and benefit all Bougainvilleans.”

-Chief Secretary Joseph Nobetau

- New Bougainville Mining Act and partial

lifting of the Mining Moratorium.

- Work to sensitively re-open Panguna mine is well advanced.
- Established ABG Revenue Advisory Group.
- Bougainville Revenue and Tax Summit to be held 27-29 September 2017.
- Progressed talks with national Chief Secretary for fairer fisheries revenue based on the size of the catch within Bougainville waters
- Finalised Memorandum of Understanding to govern regulation and presence of non-citizens in Bougainville with Immigration.

5. Enhancing Law and Order

- Community Government elections conducted without a single security incident.
- Bougainville Police Service examining how to get more police on the street.
- ABG provided K2 million for police housing construction.
- Large reconciliations completed to deliver peace and unity for Bougainville.

10. Enhancing Aid Coordination

“We need to break these down and by sharing information on how advisers are supporting the ABG we can enhance whole-of-government progress.”

-Chief Secretary Joseph Nobetau

- UNDP to establish a dedicated aid coordination

mechanism in Office of Chief Secretary.

- First ever Adviser/Counterpart Workshop convened.
- Ongoing support through the joint Australian and New Zealand Governance Implementation Fund and the UN Bougainville Peace Building Programme.
- Prospective support from European Union across water and sanitation, infrastructure projects and vocational education and training.
- New Zealand support for feasibility of hydro-power generation.
- Continued Australian support across good governance, justice, stability, as well as health and education programmes.

11. Enhancing Engagement with National Government

- Prime Minister and President agreed to request the Supreme Court to examine the constitutional provisions regarding calculation of Bougainville Restoration and Development Grant.
- Secured release of 2017 Restoration and Development Grant (RDG) and Special Implementation Fund (SIF) funds from national government.
- Finalising Terms of Reference for the Second Joint Autonomy Review.

12. Preparing for the Referendum

“Building awareness and understanding of what the referendum means and the options available is essential if we are to

have a free and fair voting outcome.”

-Chief Secretary Joseph Nobetau.

- Target date of 15 June, 2019 set for the Bougainville Referendum.
- Formation of Department of Peace Agreement Implementation to coordinate and deliver Bougainville preparations, including consultation and engagement to reach joint government resolution on the referendum question to be asked and voting qualifications.
- Charter establishing the Bougainville Referendum Commission legally cleared by National Government State Solicitor. Selection of independent eminent international person to head the Bougainville Referendum Commission underway.

13. Challenges Ahead

We are making progress and order is starting to take form within the broader public service. There are, nevertheless, a number of challenges that will be my focus in the coming months.

These include:

- Enhancing financial accountability and investigating allegations of corruption.
- Developing a strategy for managing outstanding financial claims and seeking BEC approval.
- Ensuring that legal clearance is granted for any proposed agreements with external partners.
- Progressing whole-of-government recruitment so that we can attract and

retain the best and the brightest public servants.

- Progressing the Strategic Development Plan so that we have a roadmap for the future.
 - Implementing an effective performance management framework.
 - Progressing the second joint autonomy review.
 - Obtaining critical data on fisheries to enable the development of a long term revenue sharing arrangement that benefits the ABG.
 - Seeking legal resolution on the calculation of the Restoration and Development Grant (RDG).
 - Ensuring we progress important work around the referendum, including enhancing awareness and reaching resolution with the National Government on the question and voting criteria to apply
 - Managing exploration applications efficiently and effectively, ensuring that the interests of the ABG are always upheld.
 - Finalising arrangements for the BCL Steering Committee so that important consultation work can commence with respect to mining operations at Panguna.
- It is the Chief Secretary's wish for a need to change the culture of the ABG public service and an action must be taken to stop those public servants that seek to destabilize and defraud. Accountability must be practiced by every public servant in the Bougainville Public Service.



SP Brewery assists Bougainville Boxing

SP Brewery has come to the aid of the Bougainville Boxing Federation with a sponsorship of K200,000 to host the National Boxing Championships in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville later this year.

Corporate Manager John Nilkare, when presenting the cheque on Friday, 2nd June, 2017, acknowledged Bougainville for producing the best athletes in Papua New Guinea (PNG), especially in the boxing arena and proudly announced that the sponsorship will be a long-term arrangement to support the sport in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (ARoB).

"We [SP Brewery] saw it as a natural fit that if we were to come back in a big way to assist Bougainville, it would be to support something that is closer to the hearts of the people and in Bougainville, boxing is one sport loved by the people and this is where our support comes in," Mr Nilkare added.

President of the

Federation Mr John Avira, thanked SP Brewery for its support and stressed that such support was a real boost to the sport and would help to stage the National Championships in Arawa this year.

"We thank SP Brewery for this support as this will go a long way to help the Federation to host the National Championship and also to stage two local tournaments in the region," Mr Avira said.

Bougainville Boxing Federation will be hosting the National Championship Titles in Arawa in September this year and are also planning to stage two local tournaments in Buka and Buin respectively, as a lead up to the National Titles.

Hon Raymond Masono, Vice President of the ARoB, was present at the occasion and acknowledged SP Brewery for sponsoring Bougainville Boxing, as the organisation has been struggling for many years and the gesture was a timely blessing for the sport.

"It's a long-term



Presentation of the dummy cheque from SP Brewery to the Bougainville Boxing Federation.

sponsorship and we welcome that, as the sponsorship will rekindle the interest of boxing in the region, as some of the clubs have been dormant for a while now," Masono stressed.

He further called on the local executives to see to it that the sponsorship achieves the purpose for which it is intended. "I would like to see that the sponsorship is used according to what SP Brewery wants to see achieved and that both parties SP Brewery and Bougainville Executives must work together to achieve this," Masono said.

Meanwhile, SP Brewery Sponsorship not only addresses the sport, but has other positive messages addressing common social issues that are affecting our communities.

It has a primary

objective to invest in Bougainville communities and offer long term support for social activities as well as driving positive attitudes and behaviour when addressing social issues.

These positive messages include advocating communities drink responsibly and prevent violence.

"We want to leverage alcohol and promote positive messages by using the SP Brewery Brand and sports to drive these messages and bring people together," Mr Nilkare stressed.

He explained that currently SP Brewery has a National Campaign which reads 'Keep your cool, don't drink like a fool' and they want to drive a similar message in Bougainville that suits the people.

Nilkare suggested it's not right to throw

punches outside of the ring pushing the message 'If you want to fight, keep it in the ring', however, he has asked the local executives to come up with messages suitable for the Bougainville Campaign.

SP Brewery and the Bougainville Boxing Federation will be collaborating together to organise the staging of the National Championship, however Mr Nilkare has stressed that they will be using a consultative approach in this preparation. "This is a Bougainville event and all preparations will be done here in Bougainville."

The National Boxing Championships will be staged in Arawa in September this year. Bougainville will play host to the National Event for the second time – the first was in 2008.