



THE BOUGAINVILLE BULLETIN

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Landowners hand over shares to ABG

Landowners of the Panguna Mine affected areas had agreed in a meeting to transfer their shares in the Panguna Mine to the Autonomous Bougainville Government to hold in trust for all Bougainvilleans.

The executives of the 10 Panguna Mine affected landowner Associations and the Meekamui Government of Unity (MGU) met in Buka in August and made the decision.

A number of events had unfolded earlier that led to this decision.

Operator of the BCL Mine, Rio Tinto had made a decision to divest its 53.8

per cent major shareholding in BCL to an independent trustee which was then distributed equally between the Papua New Guinea government and the ABG.

PNG Prime Minister, Peter O'Neill, had then announced that the National Government's 17.4 per cent shares would be given to the Panguna landowners.

This chain of events

prompted the landowners to meet and make their stand clear.

The landowners and the MSG expressed appreciation to the National Government for handing over the 17.4 per cent shares in BCL to Bougainville.

They, however, condemned Rio Tinto's decision to end its involvement in Bougainville

without dealing with the serious legacy issues in environmental, social and other impacts of the Panguna Mine.

The ten landowner associations and the MGU said they fully supported initiatives by the ABG to put international pressure on Rio Tinto to take responsibility for the legacy issues.

They also called on Rio Tinto, Australian government and the PNG governments, who had approved and set the guidelines for BCL to operate in Bougainville, to contribute to a fund to meet the costs of dealing with the legacy issues.

TUNE IN.

Weekly Radio Talk shows - Toktok Wantaim Na Wokabout Wantaim ABG, hosted by Radio Ples Lain on 89.1FM and also relayed on New Dawn FM on 95.3FM, NBC Bougainville on 94.5 FM in Buka, 95.5FM in Arawa and shortwave band one on 3.325megahertz every Friday night.

Listeners with comments or queries about the talk back can call or text into Radio Ples Lain's hotline number 71234900.



Our voice, Our image, Our place

Editor’s Desk

Hello Readers,

We are happy to bring to you the 9th edition of the *Bougainville Bulletin*. So many things have happened since the last edition was produced. Many events regardless of whether major or minor are contributing to shape Bougainville's history on its journey to Referendum.

Some events to highlight include the lifting of the Mining Moratorium on the island by the House of Representatives that now allows landowners to engage in Mining explorations with any interested developer. Then recently Rio Tinto distributed its 53.8 per cent shares in the Bougainville Copper Mine equally between the Papua New Guinea government and the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG). In a chain of events the Prime Miinister of Papua New Guinea handed the shares to the Panguna Landowners. The Landowners in turn handed over shares to the ABG ito keep safe for all Bougainvilleans. The underlying thought in this move is to promote unity among Bougainvilleans.

On a more positive note, Bougainville commemorated 15 years since the historical Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA) was signed on the 30th August 2001 between the Papua New Guinea Government and Bougainville Leaders.

The BPA is the foundation that has brought peace that Bougainvleans are now enjoying. We must all endeavour to protect this peace. Having said that, the *Bougainville Bulletin* continues to print stories that reflect the three pillars in the BPA which are Autonomy, Referendum and Weapons disposal. We trust you will find this issue 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: Editor Robert Aneisia.

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Community health worker serves without pay

A community health worker has worked tirelessly to serve her people without getting paid for nearly twenty years in a remote area in South Bougainville.



Sr Dandapa (left) tells her story while a community woman leader listens.

Health workers working out in remote areas have called on the Autonomous Bougainville Government to look at outstanding payments owed to them for several years.

Sr Cathy Dandapa, a Community Health Worker at Parilo Aid Post in Buin told *Radio Ples Lain* during its community outreach awareness in Lule COE that she has not received her fortnightly wages for nearly twenty years since she started work.

“Lule COE has over 3,000 population that come from the coast and the mountains to seek medical treatment and since I joined the Aid Post to assist the Officer in Charge here, we work tirelessly and into odd hours, yet I have not been paid since,” she said.

Sr Dandapa started work as a CHW in 1993 and has served the 2000 plus people in their seven village assemblies.

RPL was informed that her case was filed with the Department of Health; however, to date nothing has been done to address the matter.

“I am a mother with a family and needs and working without pay is very hard for me and my family, but I love my job and the people need our services and so I am committed in my work. I only appeal that the ABG or other health authorities to please intervene and help me,” Sr Dandapa stressed.

Speaking on behalf of fellow health workers in the same situation, she appealed to the Constituency MP and the women’s MP to assist in this matter.

Sr Dandapa and another colleague have been very committed in serving the people and managing the Health Centre, however, it is very stressful and challenging when faced with issues of no fortnightly wages and drug shortages.

Officer In Charge Sr Jessica Posená explained that shortage of medical drugs is another major issue and appealed for assistance, however, she also acknowledged the Australian Aid for funding the new health facility that serves the people of Lule COE and other neighbouring villages.

“We are thankful to Australian Aid for funding us with a new building that now helps us to give medical treatment to our people,” she said.

The Parilo Aid Post has an outpatient area, inpatient ward to admit very sick patients and a maternity ward for expectant mothers.

Parilo Aid Post was opened in 2012. It is located in Lugakei Local Level Government, 15 kilometres of rugged terrain on the Northern fringes of Buin town. Plans are underway to convert it to a Community Health Centre.

Meanwhile the ABG Department of Health has maintained that it is its obligation to ensure all officers are paid.

Acting Secretary for Health, Clement Totavun in response to questions said: “All our officers are on payroll except those that need to renew their contracts and those that my office is not aware of their engagement.”

Radio Ples Lain hosts govt talk shows

The Bureau of Media and Communication is hosting weekly talk shows aired through its mobile Radio, Radio Ples Lain (RPL) and relayed through NBC Bougainville and New Dawn FM every Friday night.

ABG Bureau of Media and Communication under the leadership of the Director Mr Robert Aneisia began the two hours program to give an opportunity for the government and the people of Bougainville to communicate through radio broadcasts.

The theme of the Talk Show : “Toktok wantaim na wokabout wantaim ABG” is aimed at creating a communication link between the ABG and its people through radio communication.

“The radio talk back gives the opportunity for the people to listen to what their government is doing in terms of development thus the people can respond and raise queries on these developments during the talk back,” Mr Aneisia explained.

President Chief Dr John Momis as the political head of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville was the first guest on the Radio Talk Back . He was excited about the program giving the government a chance to communicate with its people.

“I am grateful for this opportunity to tell the people of Bougainville about what our government is doing in terms of service delivery and the preparation towards the referendum for Bougainville,” Chief Dr John Momis said.

President Momis further stressed on unity and called on the people of Bougainville to stand and work together to achieve peace for Bougainville.

Other guests on the talk back show so far has been the Secretary for Department of Primary Industry, Thomas Betitis, Member of Parliament for Atolls Constituency, Minister for Public Service Raymond Masono, Education Minister Thomas Pataku, Education Board Chairman Anthony Tsora and Acting Education Secretary Ms Dorothy Kenneth.

The most recent talk back had the President Chief Dr John Momis and the Mining Minister Hon Robin Wilson on hand to talk on the Mining shares that Rio Tinto had given to PNG which made headlines in the media.

The program which began in June has gained momentum and listenership across the Island of Bougainville as well as other parts of Papua New Guinea and the neighbouring Solomon Islands.

This broadcast can be accessed through Radio Ples Lain on 89.1FM and also relayed on New Dawn FM on 93.5FM, NBC Bougainville on 94.5 FM in Buka, 95.5FM in Arawa and shortwave band one on 3.325megahertz every Friday at 8pm BST.

Listeners with comments or queries on the talk back can call or text into Radio Ples Lain’s hotline number 71234900.

Bougainville to set up watchdog

Ombudsman Office to be established in the region.

Papua New Guinea’s acting Chief Ombudsman Ms Phoebe Sangetari revealed this on a visit to Buka in June.

Ms Sangetari and her delegation were in the autonomous region to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Autonomous Bougainville Government and the Ombudsman Commission of PNG as a step forward to an Ombudsman Office in Bougainville.

The agreement was signed on June 22 at the BEL ISI Park.

“The ABG under its Law and Justice Sector has already been established here in Bougainville except for the Ombudsman. This as a significant event for the PNG Ombudsman to join in partnership with the Autonomous Bougainville Government to set up this important office in Bougainville,” Ms Sangetari added.

It is outlined in the Bougainville Constitution. Part XII talks about the establishment of ‘The Bougainville Ombudsman’ which would be the constitutional body that ensures the government is responsive to people’s needs and also to assist in eliminating unfair practices within the government and administration and also enforcing the Leadership Code.

Landowners happy with lifting of Moratorium



Members of the ABG House of Representatives during the Swearing in ceremony at Kubu.

The ABG lifted the Moratorium on Mining Exploration and development in Bougainville during its parliament sitting in June this year.

The House of Representatives passed a motion asking the Autonomous Bougainville Government (the ABG) to lift the moratorium completely.

The members were also asked to seek the views of their people. Members had a further debate on the issues which later resulted in the decision to lift the Moratorium.

This comes as a relief for resource owners who would like to venture into the mining industry.

A Chief from South Bougainville, Joe Moikui has said for long the government had spent

millions of Kinas in the failed Panguna Negotiations in the hope

"It clearly shows that the government of the day is confident in the laws it has passed ..."

- Joe Moikui

of convincing resource owners into reopening the mines.

"I commend the ABG on taking this bold move. It clearly shows that the government of the day is confident in the laws it has passed and that autonomy is being implemented.

There is now freedom for Bougainvilleans to extract resources from their land and benefit from it.

In addition, Moikui said that the ABG needed to verify if the current

Mining Law covered for and could regulate alluvial mining and the impacts it would create.

"The mining law was designed for Panguna, my fear is that unregulated mining will have negative implications if we do not have the laws to control them," Moikui said.

The ABG President, Dr Chief John Momis, however said in a press statement:

"Under the Mining Act, it is the Bougainville Executive Council that has power to lift the moratorium. It has not yet made that decision. Before it does so, the Act

requires BEC to get advice from the Bougainville Mining Advisory Committee. It must also allow the House another opportunity for debate on the issues.

"We will do this as soon as the Bougainville Mining Department fully implements the Bougainville Mining Act provisions on small scale-mining. This requires reserving areas for small scale mining. They will be called Community Mining Reserved Areas, Community Governments and Ward Assemblies will issue community mining licences.

"Under the Mining Act, the Mining Department has till October 2016 to set up the new arrangements for licensing small-scale mining. The arrangements must be in place before the moratorium is lifted.

"Solve outstanding issues first." - Lokonai



The ABG has set up landowner associations under the Mining Department to address key issues affecting resource owners in these areas.

These associations had met with the ABG, BCL representatives and other stakeholders to discuss outstanding compensations dating back to 1990.

The ABG Minister for Health and also a landowner Dennis Lokonai (pictured) said in an interview with *Radio Ples Lain* that, progress has been made in terms of registration and organising these associations as well as the negotiations for possible compensation payment by BCL back dated to the year 1990.

"This is compensation we were supposed to be paid in 1990, but due to the crisis and closure of the mine, we were not able to. BCL is ready to payout," Lokonai said, "We have finalised the list of title holders and recipients and presented it to the ABG and BCL."

Minister Lokonai also mentioned that the payments would have been made after the proposed

Belkol ceremony has been held in Arawa. He added that that the Belkol needs to happen first before any payments can be made to the landowners.

According to Minister Lokonai, the delay of Belkol was the key factor prolonging the compensation payments.

"Counter attacks and opposition from various factions on the Belkol also ensured the payments did not eventuate," he said.

"These attacks by the so called hardliner and other factions has marginalised the interest of landowners," He added that this has resulted in more political and controversial issues

I don't think It would be fitting to address outstanding issues from Panguna from the new mine.

- Dennis Lokonai

when the 40,000 men women and children of Panguna and Bana areas are not left alone to speak for ourselves.

Minister Lokonai said despite the bitter crisis that

ensued from the mine, a lot of developments also came from it. Interestingly, these were largely at the expense of the land and the people.

"With the full lifting of the Moratorium on Mining and Development in Bougainville and if we were to look at opening a new mining operation on Bougainville, I don't think it would be fitting to address outstanding issues from Panguna from the new mine. We should address the outstanding issues we have with Panguna mine first before we look elsewhere. Or let Panguna fix its own problems," Mr Lokonai said.

Meanwhile, a group

John Momis, however, has maintained that the new Bougainville Mining Act did not grant any minerals to BCL, but it does give BCL the first right of refusal to negotiate with both the ABG and landowners for a mining licence over the Panguna site,

"Landowners want the devil they know, not a new devil, because the devil they know accepts that it did many things wrong and accepts responsibility for fixing them up and they fear that a new devil would not accept those responsibilities," Momis said.

This has been the case until Rio Tinto behind closed doors divested its

shares on July 8.

The Panguna landowner associations are:

1. **Loloho Port Mine Access Road Landowners Association Inc**
2. **Upper Tailings Landowners Association Inc**
3. **Mid Tailings Landowners Association Inc**
4. **Lower Tailings Landowners Association Inc**
5. **Bolave Fish Owners & Affected Peoples Association**
6. **Panguna SML Osikaang Landowners Association Inc**

Local company completes Buka road work

Local company Jomik Limited has once again completed and handed over the first 20 kilometres of the Malasang to Salasa road to the government.

According to Luke Karaston Minister for Technical Services, Buka ring road sealing is an ongoing project and will continue until it reaches Kesa at the Northern most tip of Buka.

ABG officials and the Tsilato community were present to witness the handover on 3 August at Malasang. Jomik has been commended for timely and effective completion of roads.



Jomik Plant hire limited workmen pose for a photo after completing the 20 Km Malasang to Salasa section of the road recently.

"ABG website live"

www.abg.gov.pg

JOHN L. MOMIS, PRESIDENT, AUTONOMOUS REGION OF BOUGAINVILLE LIFTING THE BOUGAINVILLE MINING MORATORIUM



PRESS STATEMENT – 14 JUNE 2016

The ABG must ensure that existing small-scale mining industry is protected. It is an industry that benefits the people in villages. Their interests cannot be overlooked in favour of new large-scale mining interests with exploration licences.

Chief John Momis, President of Bougainville, speaking at the debate in Bougainville's House of Representatives on the future of the Moratorium on mining exploration and development. The House concluded the debate on Tuesday 7 June. It passed a motion asking the Autonomous Bougainville Government (the ABG) to lift the moratorium completely.

The Bougainville Executive Council initiated this debate in April. All members were also asked to seek the views of their people. Members had a further debate on the issues on Tuesday.

President Momis said:

"The moratorium was imposed in April 1971, by the colonial Administration. It prevented mining exploration or development in all areas except those already under BCL leases. Bougainvillean leaders asked for the moratorium because of deep concerns that there might be many more mines in addition to the huge Panguna mine.

"Although I proposed to the House that the moratorium should initially be lifted partially, most members of the House preferred to lift it completely. A major factor here is National Government failure to fund the ABG as the Peace Agreement requires. The ABG's bad financial position means we must increase our internal revenue. Most members see mining sector development as the best way to lift the Bougainville economy, and also provide ABG revenue. My Government has listened to and will implement the motion of the House.

"But last week's motion by

the House does not itself lift the moratorium. The debate in the House was for the purposes of public consultation only. Under the Mining Act, it is the Bougainville Executive Council that has power to lift the moratorium. It has not yet made that decision. Before it does so, the Act requires BEC to get advice from the Bougainville Mining Advisory Committee. It must also allow the House another opportunity for debate on the issues.

"We will do this as soon as the Bougainville Mining Department fully implements the Bougainville Mining Act provisions on small scale-mining. This requires reserving areas for small scale mining. They will be called Community Mining Reserved Areas, Community Governments and Ward Assemblies will issue community mining licences.

"Under the Mining Act, the Mining Department has till October 2016 to set up the new arrangements for licensing small-scale mining. The arrangements must be in place before the moratorium is lifted. Exploration licences are then likely to cover most areas where the ten thousand or more small-scale Bougainvillean miners now operate. Once an exploration licence is granted over an area, a community mining reservation is possible only if the exploration licence holder consents to it. Most exploration licence holders are unlikely to consent.

"The ABG must make sure that our existing small-scale mining industry is protected. It is an industry where benefits spread to the people in villages and hamlets.

Their interests cannot be thrown away in favour of new large-scale mining interests with exploration licences. If we do not recognise small-scale miners, there will be dangers of unrest, and even conflict.

"I have already given several directions to the Mining Department to implement the Community Mining Licence. As the Act requires those arrangements to operate by October, I can only assume that implementation work is far advanced. When the interests of small-scale miners are protected, we can lift the moratorium. I am today requesting my Minister for Mining, Hon. Robin Wilson, to obtain information from the Department about its progress in setting up the Community Mining Licence arrangements.

"An additional issue concerns the landowners impacted by the Panguna mine leases. The nine associations representing those landowners met me in Buka last week. They strongly requested a delay in lifting the moratorium until the after the holding of the Bel Kol ceremony with BCL. That ceremony has been requested by the landowners. They want to see this customary first step towards reconciliation about mining-related issues that caused conflict completed before there is any formal step towards resumption of large-scale mining in Bougainville. They are asking all Bougainvilleans and outside mining interests to respect their wishes in this regard.

"I am also requesting the Minister to investigate and report to me, as a matter of urgency, on

how to ensure that Bougainville is not threatened by many mines being established. It was fear of this led Bougainvilleans to request the moratorium in 1971. It remains a real danger.

"The ABG Mining Act restricts the number of large-scale mining leases to no more than two at any one time – that is for mines like Panguna or Ok Tedi or Lihir. But there is no restriction on the number of small-scale mines (usually open-cut or tunnelling mines).

"Once the Moratorium is lifted, if exploration licences are granted for all prospective areas, it will be difficult to limit the number of small mining leases. Lease holders and landowners will pressure for developments to go ahead, so they can get the money on offer from mining.

"Once exploration licences are granted, we could face huge pressures to approve small mines, wherever exploitable minerals are discovered. We could perhaps have 10 or 20 such mines at the same time. The social and environmental impacts could be massive. Most of the available mineral resources could be extracted rapidly, in one generation, and all mining revenue too.

"I will look forward to my minister's advice on how to deal with this problem."

**Chief John L. Momis
President, ARoB.**

Referendum

Wok kamap long Referendum Program

Wantaim Acting Secretary blong Department Blong Referendum Veteran Affairs na Peace Mr James Tanis.



Prime Minister O'Neill and President Dr. Chief Momis agree on the Joint Referendum Work Plan in May.

Bihainim Joint Supervisory Body (JSB) meeting wea i bin kamap long Kokopo long June, planti samting ibin kamap long wok blong rere long referendum long Jun 15, 2019. Displa em date we tuple gavman, ABG na Nesinel Gavman ibin makim olsem date blong karim out vote blong referendum.

Olsem Bogenvil Pis Agrimen itok, bipo long tuple gavman ilaik makim taim blong karim aut referendum, ol mas lukluk gut long wok kamap aninit long weapons disposal, gud gavanens na ol narapla importen samting.

Orait bihainim displa JSB long Kokopo, tupla gavman ibin passim tok olsem 2019 long mun Jun em target date blong referendum. Displa tingting em bihainim tripela as tingting olsem:

Namba wan as tingting em long soim commitment blong tupla gavman, Soim pipol na international community olsem tupla gavman icommitted long meksua referendum i kamap insait long displa time frame we Pis Agrimen itoktok long em.

Long inapim ol requirement blong Pis Agrimen, Bogenvil Constitusen na PNG Organic Loa blong Pis Building na Referendum, tupla gavman i wanbel long wanpla wokplan. Wokplan wea igat ol samting bai mas kamap long confirm displa date.

Displa wok plen i givim direction na rot blong go het wantaim ol wok

rere blong referendum. Olsem na bihainim displa, tupla gavman itok orait pinis long holim referendum.

Bihainim displa JSB tu ABG i kamap wantaim tingting blo karim aut ol follow up activity. Em long meksua olsem ol disisin i kamap long JSB i karim kaikai na tupla gavman i karim aut wok bihainim displa disisin.

Antap long displa, Teknikol team blong Bogenvil i bin holim wanpla bung long Buka. Displa bung em long meksua Bogenvil administresin i rere long karim aut wok bihainim ol disisin blong JSB. Displa ol teknikol konsultesin iwok long kontiniu yet.

Narapla bikpla tingting wea i kamap long displa JSB tu em Coordination issues. Em long meksua yumi kirapim coordination straksa we bai mekim isi long olgeta stakeholders insait long Bogenvil i participate long referendum. long coordinatim tu wei wea olgeta stakeholders iken teik part long wok kamap blong referendum. Na antap long em, meksua olgeta man meri or grup ino mis aut.

Mi gat bikpla hamamas long tokaut long pipol blong Bogenvil olsem displa ol wok plan wea tupla gavman ibin wanbel long em olsem:

Electoral Activity – Referendum em wanpla electoral proses so displa wok bai tupla electoral komisen (Bogenvil Opis blong Electoral Komisen na PNG Electoral Komisen) igo pas long en.

Weapons Disposal – wok blong rausim gun na meksua Bogenvil i pinisim weapons disposal program. Or wok kamap long rausim ol gun wea ol ino bin rausim aninit long United Nations supervised disposal we ibin go pinis.

Communications na Awareness – long weksua igat infomesen igo long ol man meri blong olgeta hap blong Bogenvil long wokabaut blong yumi na long update blong referendum na ol wok kamap.

Good Governance Assessment – long meksua yumi inapim ol intanesinel standard blong good governance.

Peace na Stability – tupla gavman i wanbel long karim aut wok rere blong referendum insait long peace na stable condisen. Long mek sua igat pis long taim blong wok kamap long referendum na bihain long aut kam blong referendum.

Kisim sapot blong ol Mee'kamui na Ex-combatant support long referendum – long promotim unifikesin long Bogenvil. Planti samting olsem weapons disposal bai nidim sae na tingting blong ol excombatants.

Promotim wok bung wantaim ol meri na ol man meri istap wantaim birua long bodi blong ol (disabilities) - Wok rere blong referendum igat luksave long ol minorities olsem wanpla internesinel proses wea givim luksave long ol meri na ol lain husait igat birua long body.

Adresim criteria blong ol non-

Bogenvilians – Glasim ol criteria blong ol Bogenvilians na non Bogenvilians

Lukluk long Divolopim ol Politikol option na kwesten blong putim long ballot pepa.

Post referendum Transition – Bogenvil Pis Agrimen na ol advisors tu ino tokaut klia long wanem samting bai kamap bihain long referendum. Displa em bikpla askim wea tupla gavman imas rere long em taim yumi wokabaut insait long referendum. Bihainim displa JSB, tupla gavman i wanbel pinis long sindaun na glasim wokabaut bihain long referendum.

Administresin blong Bogenvil i sindaun pinis tu wantaim ol wanwok olsem National Coordination Office blong Bougainville Affair (NCOBA) long setim up ol sub committee. Orait bihainim displa tupal gavman i tok orait pinis long kamapim fopela sub committee long karim aut wok rere long referendum. Em olsem, Tupla Electoral Commission na Bogenvil Referendum Communications Committee (BRCC) na Peace and Stability na Referendum decisions.

ABG i tokaut pinis long ol membas blong ol displa ol sub committee na wok i stat pinis long meksua yumi rere taim yu kamap long yia 2019.

Long Harim moa toktok blong referendum update, harim NBC long olgeta fonde nait long olgeta wik.

My Bougainville Story

Oi Mona blong Mortlock

Stori blong Marena Moilani

Long displa edisen blong my Bogenvil Stori, yumi bungim Marena Moilani husait i save man long wokim ol carving. Em i kam olsem long Atolls blong Mortlock Island.

Taim em i yangpla mangi yet, em bin lain long pasin blong katim diwai na mekim carving. Em i bihainim bubu na papa blong em. Ol save man blong sapim canoe na ol narapla kain carving na Marena ibin gat sans long kisim gutpla save

long tupla.

Marena ibin wok long ol bikpla kampani bipo tasol bihain taim emi go bek long ples, em bin stat long wokim ol carving na taim em skelim em ibin inapim

tingting blong em.

“Mi ting olsem carving em wanpla skill wea ol yangpela blong yumi ino save lukim. Olsem na em I isi long dai aut,” Marena itok.

“Igat bikpla deman blong ol artefact na ol samting blong kalsa wea ol turis igat intres long em. Mi lukim displa nae m I kirapim bek tingting blong me long mekim ol carving gen.

Ol wokman blong gavman tu i save kam long ples na baim artefacts. Sapos me wokim ol artefacts olsem canoe, spia, ol naip blong pait na planti ol narapla samting, me ken halivim long kirapim bek intres na lainim ol yangpla blo yumi.”

Marena em siaman blong Mortlock Kalsa Grup na olsem wanpla lida man blong Komuniti, em igat bikpla intres long lainim ol

Antap long em, Marena I tok ino gat gutpla market blong ol art na craft yet long ailan. Em I bilip plsem sapos ol artis iwok wantaim, o liken kamapim gutpla condisen

blong salim ol produkt blong ol long

yangpla long pasin blong kalsa na long wankain taim, em iken skulim ol long wokim carving wea igat stori tumbuna bihain long em.

Displa em long strongim na promotim pasin kalsa blong yumi wea ol narapla kantri igat bikpla intres long em. Tasol antap long em, long meksua pasin kalsa ino dai o lus long displa yangpela generesin yumi stap long em.

“Ol sampla canoe wea

bin sapim pinis em makim histori blong mipla ol Mortlock wea mipla ibin migret ikam long ples mipla istap nau long em,” Marena itok.

Wantaim ol displa modol canoe, em bin mekim ol tools blong pait na danis na wok gaden tu. Marena ilaik Bogenvil imas gat wanpla Arts Centre wea olgeta artist iken putim wok blong ol long em na ol man meri husait igat intres iken go painim long en.



Marena Moilani wantaim ol carving blong em



KEY AWARENESS MESSAGES - 1

INTRODUCTION

This document was created by the Bougainville Referendum Communications Committee: Department of Referendum, Veteran Affairs and Peace, Bureau of Media and Communications and the Office of the Bougainville Electoral Commissioner.

It aims to provide a foundation for the initial stage of public awareness about the Referendum. Once preparations for the Referendum get under way, the content of awareness messages will need to change, to provide the necessary information about each stage of preparations.

This document is designed to answer frequently asked questions with brief, clear, neutral and factual information summarising the Bougainville Peace Agreement (Part A) and the laws as they relate to the referendum process (Part B). These messages will provide the basis for developing a range of communication materials intended to improve people’s understanding of the referendum process. These may include fact sheets, videos, training materials, media kits, advertising etc.

PART A BOUGAINVILLE PEACE AGREEMENT What is the Bougainville Peace Agreement?

The Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA) is a joint agreement by the government of Papua New Guinea (PNG) and the leaders representing the people of Bougainville. It was signed in Arawa, Bougainville, 30th August 2001. It was created to end conflict between PNG and Bougainville, and between different groups in Bougainville. The idea behind the BPA was that the governments of Bougainville and PNG must work together to secure lasting peace for Bougainville through peaceful means. It is a ‘roadmap’ for Bougainville

covering peacebuilding, security, governance and development.

The BPA was built on compromise. For example, the National Government did not want the result of a Bougainville referendum to be binding (where the outcome of the referendum is final), and Bougainville groups had many different views. Some of these views included:

1. Early Independence: Earliest possible independence, following a referendum on the question within 3-5 years with a mandatory (binding) outcome

2. Autonomy and Deferred Referendum: Immediate autonomy for Bougainville, and a referendum deferred long enough to conduct reconciliation/weapons disposal to avoid a return to conflict

3. Remain Part of PNG, but with a high level of autonomy.

Who signed the BPA?

1. National Government was represented in the Agreement by: Hon. Sir Mekere Morauta, KT MP (Prime Minister) and Hon. Moi Avei, Minister for Bougainville Affairs.

2. Bougainville was represented by: Hon John Momis MP (Governor, Bougainville), Joseph Kabui (President, Bougainville), Hon M Ogio (MP for North Bougainville), Hon. M. Laimo (MP for South Bougainville), Hon. S. Akoitai, (MP for Central Bougainville), R. J. Banam (Chairman, Leitana Council of Elders), MR. G. Sinato (Deputy Governor, Bougainville Interim Provincial Government), MR. T Anis (Vice-President, Bougainville People’s Congress), MR. J. Tanis (Vice-President, Bougainville People’s Congress), Ishmael Toroama (Chief of Defence, Bougainville Revolutionary Army), Hilary Masiria (Chairman, Bougainville Resistance Forces), Mrs. Ruby Mirinka (Representative of

Bougainville Women).

3. International Community witnesses were from: the governments of New Zealand, Australia, Fiji, Vanuatu, and Solomon Islands, and the United Nations Observer Mission on Bougainville, and the Bougainville Peace Monitoring Group.

What are the three pillars of the BPA?

The three pillars of autonomy, weapons disposal and referendum are the building blocks of the BPA.

1. Autonomy

A change from provincial government status to one of greater decision-making, law-making and governance at the Bougainville level. Unlike a province in other parts of PNG, Bougainville has its own constitution, can establish its own institutions of government, hold elections for its government, make its own laws, establish its own Courts, Public Service and Police Service. Autonomy is supported by a funding arrangement from the National Government. A period of autonomy was meant to help resolve divisions and disagreement before a referendum was held, or contribute to a referendum outcome in favour of continued unity.

2. Weapons disposal

The BPA includes a plan for the disposal of weapons held by combatant groups in Bougainville. The weapons disposal plan is part of a wider process for demilitarization of Bougainville that required the withdrawal from Bougainville of all PNG security forces, and strong limitations on their future deployment to Bougainville. The aim was also to achieve reintegration and reconciliation of former combatants.

The weapons disposal plan involved three stages:

1. storage of weapons in single locked containers
2. concentration of stored weapons in fewer and double locked containers,

with one key held by the United Nations Observer Mission on Bougainville (UNOMB)

3. destruction of the stored weapons.

In July 2003, UNOMB certified that stage two of the plan was complete. In doing that the UNOMB acknowledged that not all weapons had been contained. In particular, Me’ekamui Defence Force weapons had not been included – because they weren’t signatories to the BPA.

In May 2005, the UNOMB declared that implementation of the weapons disposal plan in the BPA had been completed.

In 2013 the UN reported on weapons disposal to the Bougainville Referendum Committee (2013 UN Weapons Report) which was also endorsed by the JSB. The Report also noted a general:

... lack of awareness [in Bougainville] of the link between weapons disposal and the conduct of a referendum on the future political status of Bougainville. A broader understanding of this linkage could lead to broader popular support for completing the weapons disposal process in order to clear a path to a referendum.

3. Referendum (see Part B – Referendum, for more detail)

The BPA guarantees a referendum, to be held in any case no earlier than mid-June 2015 and no later than mid-June 2020. The question or questions asked in the referendum must include a choice of Independence for Bougainville. The BPA contains some key rules about conduct of the Referendum, such as making determinations about good governance and weapons disposal in Bougainville before the two governments consult as part of the process on agreeing the actual date for the referendum (within the five year period June 2015 to June 2020.

What is good governance?

The BPA says good governance will be considered in setting the date of the referendum. But like weapons disposal, a lack of good governance cannot stop the referendum going ahead.

The BPA does not define good governance, but the PNG Constitution refers to: “... the internationally

accepted standards of good governance, as they are applicable and implemented in the circumstances of Bougainville and Papua New Guinea as a whole, include democracy, the opportunity for participation by Bougainvilleans, transparency, accountability, and respect for human rights and the rule of law, including this Constitution.”

What about fiscal self-reliance for Bougainville?

Fiscal self-reliance is about Bougainville having enough money to look after itself. The government needs money to provide services like roads, health and education for its people. This money comes from collecting taxes and duties from people and business.

MISUNDERSTANDING

Some people say Bougainville must be ‘fiscally self-reliant’ for the referendum to be held (or for independence to be considered).

No. There is no requirement in the BPA or the Constitutional Laws for ‘fiscal self-reliance’ to be achieved before the referendum is held. However, fiscal self-reliance could be expected to be an important practical issue in considering whether Bougainville is ready for independence.

What happens to the BPA after June 2020 (the final possible date for the referendum)?

The BPA does not have an end or final date. Under the BPA and the Constitutional Law, the autonomy and other arrangements that they provide continue where no decision is made.

MISUNDERSTANDING

After the referendum result is known, if the two governments do not reach agreement about implementation of the result, by June 2020, the BPA and the PNG Constitutional Laws implementing the BPA will end.

This would mean:

1. Bougainville’s autonomy status finishes

2. The immunity from prosecution for former combatants and other aspects of the BPA finishes

There is nothing in the documents that says this. In fact, the existing constitutional arrangements for autonomy would continue, unless the two governments jointly agree to change them.

How do the National and Bougainville Governments work together to implement the BPA?

The Joint Supervisory Body (JSB) is a joint PNG-Bougainville institution to oversee implementation of the BPA. It is also a forum for the two governments to come together and resolve any disagreements. The JSB is co-chaired by the Prime Minister of PNG, and the President of Bougainville.

Does the BPA provide solutions to all the issues in Bougainville?

No, it does not. The people of Bougainville

Government to address the issues.

PART B – BOUGAINVILLE REFERENDUM What is a referendum?

A referendum is a vote by the people to decide on a single political issue. It is a way to make decisions about very important issues. In Bougainville, the BPA calls for a referendum on, “Bougainville’s future political status”, to be held in any case, no later than June 2020, which is 15 years after the first sitting of the House of Bougainville Representatives.

A referendum is like an election, but instead of voting for a person/candidate/party, people choose an ‘option’. That option or options will be on a ballot paper. People will choose the option they want by marking that option on the paper.

Holding a free and fair referendum is not easy. Referendums can cause conflict, especially where there are already ethnic, religious, or other kinds of differences between people. One danger is that the result can leave the ‘losing side’ feeling like the outcome causes them serious disadvantage. In the past 25 years, violent conflict has occurred after independence referendums – for example in East Timor and South Sudan.

Having clear arrangements for the Referendum, with people understanding these arrangements will help avoid conflict. Clear arrangements help planning for and managing the Referendum. They make sure everything possible is done to ensure arrangements work as intended, problems are anticipated and contingencies are provided for.

In preparing for the Bougainville Referendum, it will be important to consider both the advantages and disadvantages that can flow from the referendum, learn from experience of other countries, and do everything possible to minimise the chance of serious problems occurring during the referendum and afterwards.

What are the main features of the Bougainville referendum?

Like an election, the Bougainville referendum will have:

a. *A ballot paper with options to vote for*

These options must be jointly agreed to by both Governments after consultation. One option must be independence for Bougainville.

b. *A roll of persons eligible to vote*

There are two groups of people allowed to vote in the referendum.

1. People who can vote for National Elections in Bougainville.

2. “Non-resident Bougainvilleans”. The two governments must consult and agree on the links to Bougainville that non-resident Bougainvilleans must have to be enrolled to vote, and they must agree on those issues before setting the date for the referendum.

c. *An agency responsible for conducting the referendum*

The two governments have agreed in principle on establishing an independent administrative agency to conduct the referendum. This Agency is expected to be established by the end of 2016.

What legal documents govern the referendum?

The rules for the Bougainville Referendum are in four legal documents:

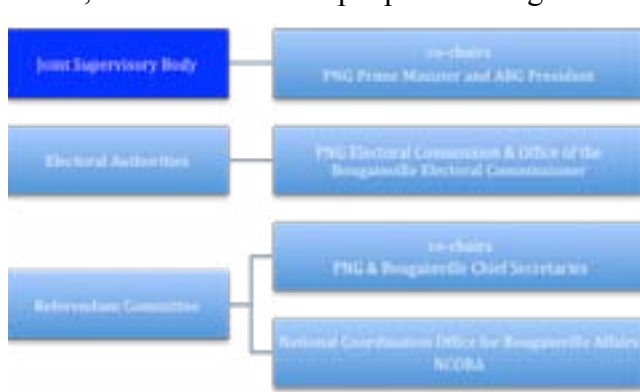
1. Bougainville Peace Agreement

2. Papua New Guinea Constitution

3. Bougainville Constitution

4. Organic Law on Peace-Building in Bougainville – Autonomous Bougainville Government and Bougainville Referendum 2002

must continue to discuss the issues with their elected officials who will raise the issues with the ABG. The ABG will then consult with the PNG



The key points are in the PNG Constitution (sections 338-343), but together, these documents map out the process for before, during and after the Referendum. This process, like the Bougainville Peace Agreement, relies on negotiation and the two governments reaching a joint understanding.

The rules say that the Bougainville and National Governments must agree on who will conduct the referendum, the date, the question and who can vote. The two governments are currently discussing these issues and there will be also consultation and engagement with the people of Bougainville.

WHEN will the referendum be?

The referendum must be held no later than the 15th anniversary of the establishing of the Autonomous Bougainville Government – which is 15 June 2020. Both the Bougainville and National Governments must consult to agree on the actual date for the referendum, no earlier than the 10th and no later than the 15th anniversary.

A number of steps must be taken before the date can be finally decided. In the meantime, the technical teams of the two governments have agreed on 15 June 2019 as a target date for the conduct of the Referendum. Importantly, this date may change, however the aim of the target date is to help start planning for the Referendum and it shows the commitment of both governments to begin preparations. The two governments have also agreed on a work-plan containing the main activities that need to be carried out to confirm the date and to prepare for the conduct of the referendum.

MISUNDERSTANDING

The BPA requires the referendum be held in 2015.

This is not true. It must be held in the five-year window beginning June 2015, ending June 2020.

The only way to stop the referendum being held is by a decision of the Autonomous Bougainville Government. The PNG Constitution says:

The Referendum shall not be held where the Bougainville Government decides, in accordance with the Bougainville Constitution, after consultation with the National Government, that the Referendum shall not be held.

MISUNDERSTANDING

Can the referendum be stopped if good governance is poor or weapons are still in the community?

No. The referendum must be held by (no later) than June 2020. The level of good governance and weapons disposal in Bougainville will be used to help decide the referendum date. However, the level of good governance and presence of weapons may affect how credible, free or fair the referendum result is seen the eyes of the people and government of Bougainville, the national government, and the international community.

What will the referendum ‘Question or Questions’ Say?

The PNG Constitution says the question or questions the referendum will ask people must be jointly agreed by both the Bougainville and National Governments after consultation. The question or questions must include a choice of ‘separate independence for Bougainville’. So there could be just one question, asking whether voters support independence, “yes” or “No”. Or if the governments agree, the question or questions

BRIEF ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BOUGAINVILLE HOUSE OF REPRESENTTIVES.

A POST CONFLICT PARLIAMENT

On the 30th of August 2001, the Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA) was signed in Arawa.

For the two warring governments it paved the road map towards Bougainville achieving political independence through a Referendum to be conducted within 10 to 15 years from when the ABG government was formed in June 2005, i.e. between the years 2015 to 2020.

As the clock ticks towards the impending referendum, many are wondering whether we are Referendum ready and, most importantly, if we can achieve a positive outcome from the Referendum.

As we rush against time we have forgotten one of the most important creations of the Bougainville People apart from the BPA. The Autonomous Bougainville Government. also known as the House of Representatives (HOR).

We look at Why and How it was formed and for whom. With progress, so much has been achieved over time; most of us have forgotten the story behind the establishment of the Bougainville HOR is only fitting that we reflect



back on the formation of the ABG, which sets its foundations on the BPA.

THE BOUGAINVILLE CONFLICT

Violent conflict broke out in Bougainville in late 1988 and developed rapidly into a war of independence for Bougainville. From early 1990s, internal Bougainville conflict also developed.

From 1989 many attempts were made to resolve the conflict and reconcile those divided by it. These efforts provided the foundations for a peace process that began with a meeting at Burnham military barracks, New Zealand, in July 1997, and consolidated when a ceasefire agreement was signed in April 1998.

Bougainville Peace Process

The Peace Process developed and strengthened with international support, especially from New Zealand, Australia, Solomon Islands, Fiji, Vanuatu, and the United Nations. The Truce Monitoring Group led by New Zealand (December 1997 to April 1998) and the United Nations (through the United Nations Observer Mission in Bougainville –UNOMB) all played vital roles.

From June 1999 to August 2001, Bougainville Leaders negotiated with the Papua New Guinea Government about the political settlement to

the conflict. On 30 August 2001, in Arawa, Bougainville they signed the Bougainville Peace Agreement. It provided a new basis for the relationship between Papua New Guinea and Bougainville, and for the corporation and unification of the once divided Bougainvilleans.

The Bougainville Peace Agreement contains three ‘pillars’; first, a constitutionally guaranteed high level of autonomy for Bougainville; second, a constitutionally guaranteed referendum for Bougainville on independence to be held between 10 to 15 years of the establishment of the Autonomous Bougainville Government; third, the demilitarization of Bougainville through the withdrawal of the PNG security forces (Defense and Police Mobile squads), and a three stage agreed process for weapons disposal in Bougainville.

Real implementation of the BPA began in March 2002 with the PNG Parliament passing the constitutional laws giving effect to the Agreement.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BOUGAINVILLE HOUSE OF

REPRESENTATIVES – A POST CONFLICT PARLIAMENT

Composition of the House –A Unicameral Parliament

Members of the First Autonomous Bougainville Government HOR were sworn into Office on 15 June 2005 under a new Constitution for the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

The composition of the Bougainville HOR is inclusive of representatives of parties to the Bougainville Conflict and also promotes gender equality. This unique feature build into the Bougainville Constitution reflects the wish of the people to see unity in their Parliament.

The Bougainville HOR has three regional seats for former combatants, three regional seats for women representatives and 33 single member constituencies. The President is popularly elected while the elected leaders elect the Speaker from outside the House.

Four Bougainville Members of the National Parliament are also members of the House can debate on issues but cannot be counted towards a quorum of the House.

Parliamentary Committees

The HOR has adopted a committee system that accords committees various functions as mandated either by the Constitution, Standing

Orders and an Act of Parliament.

First Committees to be set up during the first meeting of the House after the return of writs are the Regional Committees for South, Central and North Bougainville. Members of constituencies in each region are members of the Committees. The primary function of Regional Committees is to make nominations for the election of the Speaker. Nominations are received from a non-member of the House. Once elected the Speaker is a Member of the House.

The other committees that exist are Parliamentary Select Committees on Standing Orders, and Sectoral and Advisory Committees on:-

1. Local Level Government and Customary Authority
2. Law and Justice:
3. Information, Communication and Awareness
4. Education, Health and HIV/AIDS:
5. Economic Development, Natural Resources, and Taxation
6. Autonomy, Constitutional Development

and Good Governance

7. Peace, Reconciliation, Weapons Disposal and Veterans Affairs
8. Business Committee

Five ordinary members serve in more than one Parliamentary Sectoral and Advisory Committees. The Executive Government has an influence on the appointment of Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons of Committees but does not influence the work of a committee.

The House establishes Parliamentary Committees and mandates the Parliamentary Sectoral and Advisory Committees to consult and advice Ministers on policy and legislative proposals in each portfolio responsibility.

Parliamentary Sectoral and Advisory Committees meet on a monthly basis to either initiate work consistent with their functions or attend to matters referred to them by the House.

Two petitions presented in the House in March and June this year are before the Parliamentary Sectoral and Advisory Committees on Economic Development, Natural Resources, and Taxation and Education, Health and HIV/AIDS/

Parliamentary Sectoral and Advisory Committees on Economic Development, Natural Resources and Taxation is conducting an inquiry on the Torokina Oil Palm Development while the

Parliamentary Sectoral and Advisory Committee on Education, Health and HIV/AIDS is considering a petition requesting the Autonomous Bougainville Government to vacate the current building which accommodates the Office of the President, Office of the Vice President, Office of the Speaker, the meeting chamber of the House and Parliamentary Service.

The House may establish any other select committee. A select committee continues in existence for the duration of the House unless the

House provides otherwise or, in the case of a committee established for a particular purpose, until the committee makes its final report.

The Public Accounts Committee is established by the Public Accounts Committee Act 2006. The Committee derives its powers and functions from the Public Accounts Committee Act 2006. The PAC has initiated inquiries and tabled its inquiry reports on the MV Sankamap one and two and the usage of Government Vehicles.

The House provides a budget to support the work of the Parliamentary Committees and the Public Accounts Committee.

Some features that makes our Parliament different and unique

When the Bougainville Constitutional Commission, chaired by the Late President, Joseph Kabui consulted widely while developing the Bougainville Constitution, the people voiced strong views on issues that were associated with the cause of the Bougainville Conflict. They wanted the Constitution to address the social ills, ownership of natural resources, the protection of cultural and traditional values etc...that directly and indirectly caused the uprising in Bougainville.

Conscious of the Bougainville conflict, they wanted a unified structure of authority; they disliked having an opposition in Government, did not favor the political parties, and wanted an inclusive parliament that had representatives of parties to the Conflict.

The other feature that makes our arrangement different is that Members of the House may be recalled. The Bougainville Elections Act 2007 implements the recall provision in the Bougainville Constitution. The law provides for a process that starts with a petition to recall a member. The petition, signed by a two third of the enrolled voters for that constituency is presented to the Electoral Commissioner who then advises the Speaker whether or not the petition is in order.

Challenges of a post conflict parliament

The implementation of the three pillars of the Bougainville Peace Agreement –Autonomy, Weapons Disposal, and Referendum- remains a major challenge for the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

The establishment of a unicameral (single chamber) House had its own challenges. There was no precedent to go by when the House was first established in June 2005. A building had to be identified to accommodate the Office of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker, the Office of the Clerk and Deputy Clerk , a meeting chamber, Committees etc... Staff had to be recruited to support the Clerk in administering the affairs of the House on behalf of the Speaker; an annual budget for the House had to be prepared to fund

recurrent costs of running the parliament and managing the welfare of Members and staff.

The Bougainville HOR Standing Orders was developed adopting some rules and practice of the former North Solomon Provincial Assembly, the PNG Parliament and New Zealand Parliament.

Another challenge for the Bougainville HOR was to maintain internationally accepted standard of practice based on the Westminster democratic system of government with a fully functioning legislature.

Bougainville is mindful of expectations from its people on outstanding grievances that caused the Bougainville Conflict. The Bougainville Objectives and Directive Principles of the Bougainville Constitution reflect the peoples’ wish to be in control of their own destiny. The policies and laws developed should take into account the principles regarding:-

- Strengthening of customary authority.
- Democratic principles.
- Pursuit of peace, rehabilitation, reconciliation and harmony.
- Unity and stability of Bougainville.
- Autonomy and territorial integrity of Bougainville.
- Assistance to Institutions protecting and supporting human rights, etc.,
- Fair representation of women and marginalized groups.
- Welfare of widows, children, orphans, the aged and the disabled.
- Provision of adequate resources for government.
- General social and economic objectives.
- The land and natural resources.
- Development.
- Human resource development.
- Transport infrastructure.
- The environment and conservation.
- Recognition of the role of Women in Bougainville Society.
- Children and Youth as the future of Bougainville.
- Recognition of the dignity of persons with disabilities.
- Music, the arts and sports.
- Education objectives.
- Medical services and health care.
- HIV/AIDS.
- Partnership with Churches, non-government organizations and other Organization.
- Natural disasters.
- Cultural objectives.
- Accountability.
- Rights of workers and employees.

Public Awareness

Educating the citizens of Bougainville about the Autonomous Bougainville Government and the Bougainville Peace Agreement is an ongoing challenge for the Government.

The Bougainville HOR contributes to the Government’s public awareness program through its outreach programs implemented by the Parliamentary Education Office. A regional tour was successfully conducted last year targeting Secondary School students in South, Central and North Bougainville. Presentations were made on the new political arrangement and institutions established under the Authority and Structure of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. A weekly radio program called “Inside Parliament” aired on the local radio station carries updates, factsheets and replays question time and business

transacted in a meeting of the House.

While carrying out their constituency responsibility, Members of the House have a responsibility to advocate on political, social and economic issues associated with autonomy implementation and preparations for Bougainville’s Referendum. Constituency visits by members also contribute to public awareness. Members are supported with a quarterly grant to fund their constituency activities.

Sustaining parliamentary democracy in a post conflict region of Papua New Guinea is our ultimate objective in order to uphold peace, unity and good governance in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

Finally, the Bougainville HOR has moved on by enacting essential legislations to protect its independence from the Executive. The Parliamentary Services Act 2009 establishes and clearly spells out the functions of the Parliamentary Service as a separate service from the Executive Government administration. It also establishes the Parliamentary Service Commission vested with the responsibility to advice the Speaker on funding entitlements for parliamentary purposes etc..

The Office of the Clerk Act 2009 establishes the Office of the Clerk and recognizes the Clerk as a Constitutional Office holder. The Act clearly spells out the functions of the Clerk, terms and conditions of employment and the appointment procedures of the Clerk. The Clerk is appointed by the Bougainville Senior Appointments Committee. The Committee has the power to remove the Clerk on the grounds specified in the Act.

The Clerk has the power to appoint and remove staff. Staffs employed in the HOR are subjected to the control of the Clerk of the House and not to the head of the Bougainville Public Services and politicians.

REPRESENTATIVES BRIEF FACTSHEET.

Term of the House

Five year term

Election method

Limited Preferential Voting (LPV).

Elections are conducted according to the Bougainville Elections Act 2007.

Political Parties

Political Parties exist. A Bougainville Law provides for the appointment of a Registrar of Political Parties and a system of registration of political parties.

Leadership Code

The Papua New Guinea Leadership code applies in Bougainville. ABG Leaders and Constitutional office holders are subjected to the Leadership Code.

The PNG Ombudsman Commission administers the Leadership Code.

Salaries and Allowances

The National Salaries and Remuneration Commission consider and recommend to the Bougainville HOR a determination on salaries and allowances for ABG Leaders.

ABG has two of its representatives in the National SRC.

Legislations

Calling of the Meetings of the HOR. Parliamentary Service Act 2009. Office of the Clerk Act 2009.

Policy/Ethics

Standard Terms and Conditions of Employment of Staff of the HOR.

A staff Code of Conduct

Program bai lukluk long yuts

Dipatmen bilong community development i wok bung wantaim Dipatmen blong Foreign Affairs na Trade (DFAT), belong Australia long kamapim Bogenvil youth initiative program.

DFAT i wok bung wantaim ol narapla diplopmen patnas olsem World vision, Caritas ,KUFA, ADRA na Pan international. Ol dispela Non Government Organisation’s (NGO’s) i karim aut wok long ol narapela erias long Bogenvil long sapotim ol capacity building programs, health programs, economic na educational programs long kainkain levels long komuniti insait long bogenvil. Seketari bilong Community Development Justin Bogia i tok klia olsem ‘DFAT em i givim financial na technical assistance long ol dispela organizations

long wok namel long ol yut bilong Bogenvil ‘Dipela program bai kontiniu long dispela yia igo nap next yia,” Mr Bogia i tok. Em i tokaut olsem Bogenvil Youth initiative program ibin kamap long 2012, taim Bogenvil executive council (BEC) ibin pasim youth policy bilong 2012-2017. Em i tok vision bilong policy em long givim pawa na strongim ol yuts long contribute long wok kamap insait long region na long ol wanwan komuniti blong ol. Mr Bogia tok aut tu olsem dipatmen blong Communiy Development i bin wok bung wantem

DFAT long lukluk long wei bilong kirapim wok na kamap wantaim tingting bilong youth initiative program. Dispela initiative em i sanap long tupla tingting: ekonomik na sosol diplopmen. Economic development, em bilong givim ol yangpela skills na save ol i nidim long contribute insait long economic development bilong region, emi ken halivim ol long statim liklik business bilong ol na involve long wok agriculture. Sosol diplopmen bai lukluk long wei long givim sans long yuts long go pas long ol wok insait long ol

komiuniti olsem ol lida manmeri. Mr Bogia itok tu olsem halivim bai kam long Peace Building Program long halivim ol yuts long kirapim bek yut netwok. Taim yut netwok em i kamap strong emi ken opim dua long kirapim ekonomik diplopmen Ol NGOs iwok long halivim ol youth insait long region especially long ol disadvantage erias long providim literacy, live-skills training, na halivim sampla long kamap economically productive. **Wok kamap** World vision i bin

karim out wanpela program ol i kolim long, youth parliament we bin kamap long parliament long mun March. (Social development) **(Economic development)** World Vison i karim out tu ol programs long Buin bilong ol yangpela manmeri long kisim training long cocoa production na financial management long bisnis. Dispela initiative i kamap bilong sapotim ol policies we ABG bin kirapim through long dipatment bilong kominity development wantaim dipatment bilong education.

Wok bilong commerce



Raymond Moworu: Speaks on the role of Bougainville Business Association and the National Development Bank in Bougainville.

Business associations play significant role not only in assisting in funding, increasing number of working places and decision-making of private enterprises, but also in social policy regardingthe businesses, Created by volunteers and governed by professional managers, such associations became the essential institutions of improving economic, political, and social structures of their countries. Business associations of different countries conduct different activities and have different operating procedures depending on existing economic basis. In Bougainville, like in other countries with transition economies, private entrepreneurs need to represent their common interests in Government, Parliament, and other state and local authorities and society in general. Raymond Moworu of the ABG Division of Commerce under the Department of Economic Development has said this was what the ABG was doing through the Bougainville Business Association. Mr Moworu has said once the Bougainville Business Association fully implemented, it would be the mouth piece of the Business Sector in the region. “It is very important that Business Houses become member of this association and in doing so, contribute to implementing policy decisions of the ABG. “Right now there is no

active body that represents the business interests of Bougainvillian Small and Medium Enterprises (SME’s) in the region, Moworu said, “This was also revealed in a research presented at the Australian PNG Business Council Meet in Cairns recently. “The research found that Businesses in Bougainville are yet to organise themselves in a way that supports their business interests. This is one of the main reasons why we do not see government funding and assistance from other similar entities, Moworu stated. “The ABG through the Department of Economic Development and Commerce is working to revitalise the Bougainville

Business Association through consultation with the Business Community in Bougainville. “The department is calling on all Business houses in the private and public sector and revitalise it to represent their interests. It will also encourage compliance with ABG regulations that are in place. “The most challenging issue in Bougainville is Taxation. I encourage all business houses to consult the responsible department to seek help in the meantime. Once the Association is up and running then it should be able to air your views collaboratively,” Moworu stated. In related matters, the ABG invested K2 million in the National Development Bank (NDB) in 2014. This

is the money that has been loaned out to interested customers. However as Mr Moworu stated, the repayment of loans has not been too good. A lot of customers have not been repaying their loans or are late by some months. The ABG in its efforts to encourage self-sufficiency in small and medium enterprises had invested money in the NDB. I encourage those with outstanding’s to make efforts to repay their loans so money can be available for other to borrow from,” Moworu said. The ABG remains positive in its efforts to support upcoming small and medium enterprises and is focused on ensuring communities are self sufficient.

Mini youth convention held in Buin



Participants at the 2016 Mini Youth Convention in Buin.

The government and development partners held a three day mini youth convention in Buin secondary school from 15th - 17th April this year, with the theme: Youth Development into the Future. The event provided an avenue for youths to meet with government officials and share their views on development issues that affected young people. It also provided the youths an opportunity to ask questions and exchange ideas on issues affecting young people, community development and most importantly views on

the Bougainville Peace Agreement, Autonomy and Referendum. The program included presentations from departmental heads including the Department of Community Development, Fisheries, Road Works (Kramer Ausenco) and Mining. Following these presentations, participants were later asked to provide a feedback on the presentation and reflect on what they learnt as well as what they would like the know more in future. The event ended with fun games and entertainment. Youth groups presented songs

and dramas to reflect the challenges they face each day and encourage each other to stay positive and be active development agents in their communities. An initiative of the ABG Bureau of Media and Communication (BMC) and supported by Governance Implementation Fund (GIF). The event was attended by departmental heads from the ABG, youth representatives from South Bougainville and other development partners.

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KEY AWARENESS MESSAGES - 1

could include a choice from two or more options. The question or questions must be presented in a way that avoids a dispute or an unclear result. If it were to be decided to include options, here are some that might be considered:

1. Continue the current autonomy arrangements
2. a level of autonomy greater than under the current arrangements;
3. free association with PNG;
4. independence to be gradually attained over a period of years;
5. immediate independence, if there is sufficient capacity in Bougainville and if agreed by the National Government;
6. deferring a decision on independence until after another referendum is held.
7. Other options

But including multiple options could make it difficult to get a clear result, and could cause confusion for voters. These are amongst the issues that the two governments will need to consider when making decisions about the question or questions to be asked. The agreed work-plan includes research and consultation to assist in determining the question or questions to be asked.

What will happen to those people who do not take part in the referendum? There is no law or punishment for people who do not take part in Referendum. However, the result of the Referendum will affect voters and non-voters alike. **Is the outcome binding on the governments?** The BPA and the Constitution do not say what happens after the referendum result is known. It leaves it up to the two governments to consult together, and decide what happens next. The international community will continue to be involved, including providing international observers. After the governments consult, if they agree, the results can be referred to the National Parliament. The two governments will have a moral responsibility to agree on peaceful resolution to the issues related to the BPA. The governments have also engaged through a jointly agreed work-plan that has identified activities to ensure that the referendum is peaceful and the outcome is accepted, and that there is a peaceful end to the process. There is no mention of the required number of votes for the question(s) to pass, or of the number of people who voted required in relation

to the ratification or an outcome. **What will happen after Referendum vote?** Only if the two governments agree, the result of the referendum will be tabled in the National Parliament. The BPA and the PNG Constitution do not require the PNG Parliament to make a decision on the results, or otherwise decide what to do within a specified time. If there is a decision made that the ABG disagrees with, it can be dealt with through the dispute resolution process in the BPA. **MISUNDERSTANDING** A vote for independence requires PNG to implement the outcome, and Bougainville then having an immediate right to independence. This is not true. The two governments must consult about the results of the referendum. **Transition** The documents do not say anything about transition from current political arrangements to any new arrangements following the referendum or any decision on the referendum. All such matters are left to consultative and political processes. The two governments have agreed on a work-plan which includes consultation to address these issues.

Kokopo JSB Resolutions

The Joint Supervisory Body Meeting was held on May 20th at Sir Manasupe Haus. The body endorsed the following as true records of the meeting.

1. Referendum
The JSB endorsed, 1.1 The collaborative efforts of the joint Committee in implementing the resolutions of the JBRC made on 5th December 2015 in Kokopo and further developed at the 19th – 20th April 2016 special extra ordinary referendum committee meeting at Lamana which resulted in the establishment of a joint Bougainville Referendum work Plan.

1.2 The content of the Joint Briefing Pack which incorporates activities led by PNG Electoral Commissioner together with other referendum activities led by National Coordination Office of Bougainville Affairs and the ABG Department of Referendum, Veteran Affairs and Peace.

1.3 The recommendations contained in the Joint Briefing Pack and endorsed the proposed date of 15th June, 2019 to be the target date for the purposes of planning for the referendum.

2. Restoration Development Grant (RDG)
The JSB accepted the resolutions for thee JTT specifically for the National Government to honour its commitment to pay as per the 2014 JSB Resolution Number 8.

1.1 That the National Government will make payment of K30 Million beginning in 2015 and that an amount of K96.6 Million that was supposed to be paid over three years must now be adjusted to cater for any additional outstanding RDG payments up to 2016; and

1.2 That whilst this payment is made, both the ABG and the National Government will seek and independent interpretation of the RDG and calculations going forward.

1.3 The JSB further

recommended that both of the Chief Secretary to the National Government and the Chief Secretary to the Autonomous Bougainville Government to organise to have the resolutions of the JTT honoured. If the ABG or the National Government does not accept the independent interpretation they are free to seek interpretation from the Supreme Court to address the issue once and for all and the results of the Supreme Court interpretation will be accepted by both parties.

3 Special Intervention Fund (SIF)
The SIF is a special conditional grant that was approved by the National Government to fund major development and infrastructure projects in Autonomous Region of Bougainville. The SIF is governed by a specific finance instruction and specific management guidelines agreed by the two governments through the JSB that states how the ABG and the National Government should implement the projects.

The JSB meeting endorses that a technical team of officers from relevant agencies shall review progress and recent developments in the SIF and advise the JSB on:

1.1 What the SIF projects are in place, and what funding or other support is needed to complete them.

1.2 Review the overall SIF program and identify what projects have been completed, the stage reach by each uncompleted project, and all related matters, recognising that all projects so far approved are directed to benefit the people of Bougainville;

1.3 That all current SIF projects approved by the JSB be completed before any future commitments is considered.

1.4 For the PNG government to arrange financing and purpose for development partners funding assistance for the outstanding SIF contracts of over Four Hundred Million Kina (400m).

1.5 That funding for agriculture programme be included as part of SIF in future.

4. Recent cost of Service Delivery
The JSB took note of the two assessment reviews by NEFC and endorsed that the findings and assessments be applied to the ABG recurrent unconditional grants: arrears and future payments, so as to correct the current underpayments experience by the ABG under this grant.

5. ABG revenue generation
The JSB notes that the internal revenue capacity of the ABG is very small and inadequate to support the ABG to deliver government services to its people and also, fund government institutions under its annual budget. Thus it is vital that the ABG through its relevant agencies initiate economic development initiatives to enable it to raise internal revenue.

The JSB endorsed that;

a) The National Government provide support through its relevant agencies to the Autonomous Bougainville Government to implement economic development initiatives;

b) That the National Government endorses the current ABG economic development initiatives and agrees to support their implementation and that of any future initiatives that the ABG identifies and agrees to engage in.

c) That the National Government agencies including State Owned Enterprises (SOE) are fully operational in Bougainville and are able to support

the implementation of ABG’s revenue generation initiatives.

6. Overarching MOU on the drawdown of Powers and Functions
The JSB notes that the Bougainville Peace Agreement and Papua New Guinea’s Constitutional laws commit the National Government and the ABG to working together to build special autonomy arrangements in Bougainville. The two principal aims of autonomy, as stated in clause 1 of the Bougainville Peace Agreement are to;

a) E m p o w e r Bougainvilleans to solve their own problems, manage their own affairs and work to realise their aspirations within the framework of Papua New Guinea Constitution and;

b) Provide sufficient personnel and financial resources for the Autonomous Bougainville Government to exercise its powers and functions effectively.

The JSB further noted that in 2015, the JSB agreed for a new overarching mechanism to be developed and the Departments of Personnel Management to take lead in consultation with ABG and the National Coordination Office of Bougainville Affairs to ensure that all powers and functions required for transfer by the ABG and the relevant National Agencies and Departments from which the transfers will be exercised are identified and directed to proactively participate in the transfer of those identified powers and functions.

The JSB noted that an overarching MOU to this effect has been drafted jointly by relevant agencies and endorsed the leaders to sign it, subject only to later endorsement by NEC and BEC.

7. Any other business

1) Second Autonomy Review
The JSB endorsed the second autonomy review to be carried out and approved the development of the TOR, identifying the independent agency to facilitate the process.

The JSB further endorsed that a joint technical committee should develop terms of reference for the second autonomy review, and make recommendations to the two governments, as a matter of urgency.

The JSB;

• R e a f f i r m e d commitment to the implementation of all aspects of the provisions of the National Constitution and the Bougainville Peace Agreement.

• Directed for the joint technical committee in particular the National Fisheries Authority and the counterpart departments of Primary Industry, Finance and Treasury and Planning to address the issue of benefit sharing of the fisheries financial benefits.

• Endorsed the joint technical committee in particular the counterpart departments of Finance and Treasury to reconcile with Both Governments Finance Management Acts.

• Endorsed for permanent appointment of National Government representatives to the Bougainville Senior Appointments Committee.

• Endorsed the strengthening of the Bougainville Police Service

• Endorsed the participation of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville in foreign related activities, and the president provided a booklet of papers setting out the ABG’s concerns, which were referred to the JSB for consideration and reporting back to JSB.

Wok kamap insait long Bogenvil

Tok klia long ol projek

Planti ol projecks i bringim wok kamap insait long ol eria bilong Bogenvil. Sekretari bilong dipatmen bilong teknikol sevis Bernard Tsilu i tok klia long ol projek

Islands i ken accessim shortwave frequency tu. Narapela project em Arawa Hospital upgrade. Architectural design na engineering em i komplittu. “Ol tenders ol i putim pinis, wok long arawa bai stat long mun April’ Mr Tsilu itok. Dispela wok i involvim supply bilong ol medical equipment, wok long maternity ward na operating theatre na bai igat ol gutpela facilities bilong ol sik manmeri bilong central na South iken kism halivim klostu long ples. Arawa water and sewage system project, dispela project em ongoing yet. Ol officers bilong Arawa Town Urban Council i wok long odarim ol materials long Lae, Port Moresby na overseas bilong helpim long wokim water and

sewage system long Arawa. Long Buka , igat liklik delay wantaim Water PNG husat i sapos long helpim long design na wokim proper documentation long startim projecks. Mr Tsilu i tok moa olsem ol bai stil painim way long buildim water supply pipping system bai kam long town

Education infrastructure
Igat spesol infrastraksa we dipatment bilong edukesen i givim bikpela luksave long olgeta sekendari skuls insait long Bogenvil. Dispela 8 pela projeks emi klostu long kamap long arere bilong ol. Long Buin vokesinol skul, niupela klasrum inapim moni mak K400, 000 i komplit na rere long usim. Long Asitavi High School, Science Lab na ol staff haus em i komplit tu.

Na long Koromira Technical High School, wanpela staff haus i komplit tu. Na long wankain taim Devare High School dormitory inapim moni mak K300,000 i pinis na rere long ol sumatin usim. Haku High School Building projeks blong ol tu i klostu long pinis na long Tonu High School Dormitory i stap aninit yet long konstraksen. Dipatmen bilong edukesen ibin baim tu sampela water tanks bilong ol high schools osem Nissan, Hujena, Arawa na Buin high school. Ol dispela tanks i sanapim pinis na rere long givim fresh wara long ol sumatin. Na long Bougainville technical college water and sanitation projek, ol building materials na water pumps i redi pinis, na ol kontrakta i stat wok long em. **Projeks**
Rot projeks i wok long go het insait long Bogenvil. Raibro konstraksen kampani i wok long Buka road, Stage 2 emi 10km long Salasa go long Halia Constituency. Raibro surveyors istatim wok pinis na ol kontrakta i mekim clearance long rot. Ol i karamapim 3km bilong rot pinis. Mr Tsilu i tok klia olsem “wok bai delei liklik bikos igat planti ol limestone long dispela rot we i nidim moa taim. Dispela project bai pinis lo arere bilong dispela ia.” East road trunk road em dispela mein rot long Kokopau igo nap long Buin long kangu beach. Tupela Konstraksen kampani, Dekenai na Kovek i statim wok pinis.

Ol wok kamap long Bogenvil Pablik Sevis

Dipatmen bilong Personal Management long Port Moresby halivim long got hetim wok lo aninit long niupela ABG Public Services Management and Administration Act since 2014. Igat ol niupela dipatments we BEC bin wokim disisen long establishim.

Wok i kamap pinis long make sure that ol structures bilong ol dispela dipartments i redi according long ol mendeit bilong ol dipatment’s co-functions bilong ol. Wok insait long ol partitions olsem Establishment comparison tables na gradings ikamap pinis.

Dipatmen bilong personal management long bogenville i wok long redim submission we em bai containing ol structures and information bilong olgeta dipatments bilong opis bilong chief sekretari husat i het bilong olgeta public sevis long apruvim.

Taim ol dispela structures na ECTs I approved ,BDPM bai go het nau long wokim ol advertisement bilong ol key positions,ol positions we ol departmental heads i

identifim olsem ol initial positions long iniatim wok kamap insait long wanwan dipartments.

Ol departments igat list bilong ol dispela ol key positions na job description, taim ol structures na ECT wantaim ol job descriptions i apruv bai DPM i go het na putim advertisement long newspaper bilong ol man meri husat i gat expertise long ol dispela positions long apply.

Seleksen bilong ol dispela key posisens bilong ol dipatments bai bihainim kraiteria bilong gavman long kism ol manmeri husat i gat experience na ekspetis long ol posisens we ol advetaisim.

Acting Chief Secretary Mr Paul Kebori itok olsem ‘dispela em i bilong abrusim nepotision o wantok sistem na dilivarim kualiti sevis long ol pipol.

Sampla taim igo pinis tupla Departmental heads: Bogenvil Chief ekretari na Electoral commission i bin stap long advertisement.

I gat wanpela Independent HR department isave mekim

advertisement, interviewing na short listing bilong ol applicants. imas gat appointments before advertising, dispela em bilong Confirmim departments and departmental heads bipo advetaisim ol narapla posisens tamblo.

Sikspela departmental heads bai stap long opis.Olgeta public servants bai unattached na apply gen long ol positions bai kamaut long sampla wik i kam.

As bilong dispela i bilong Impruvim pablik sevis insait long bougainville, na rausim ol korap pasin long public service bai gat transparency na accountably proses long pablik sevis, so that ol public servants iken perform long antap na dilivarim sevises olsem helt na edukesen long ol pipol.

Presidential statement
Presidential statement ibin kamaut bihainim ol pasin bilong nesisinol gavman ino woklong luksave long ol otoriti bilong ABG lo sait bilong ol projects . ABG aninit lo BPA emi toktok osem sapos ABG em i enactim law or

legislatim blong em, olsem tenders and ACT Wans ABG enactim wanpla law long pawa blong em.

National gavman aprovim ol projects without consultation blong ABG we president na cabinet ino hamamas na wokim dispela statement. National gavman ino luksave long authority bilong ABG.

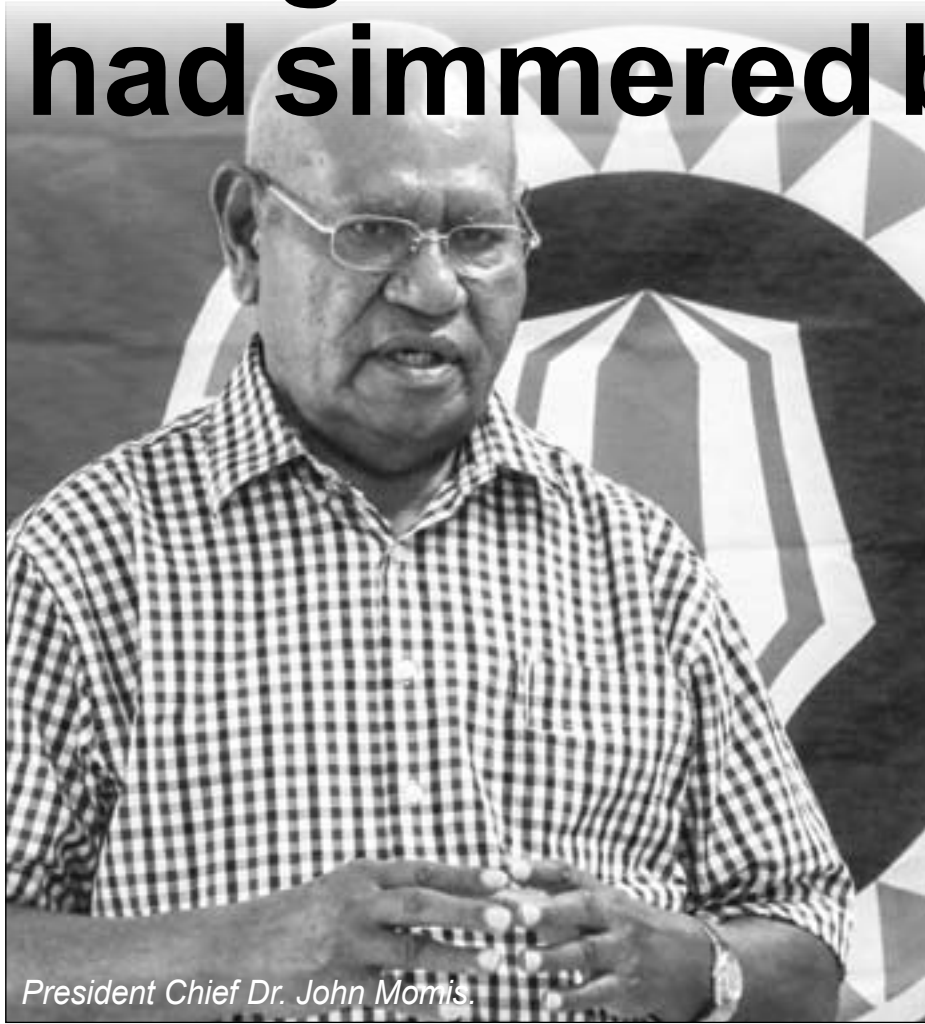
National tenders board i Awardim Major road projects lo bougainville, olsem 21km long Siara igo long ramason.

ABG i acknowlegim olsem ol dispela projeks em gutpela tasol National gavman I mas consultim ABG before ol mekim disisens or anything to do with bogenvil.

Bikpla ass tingting, National gavman i save awardim road projects na planti ol dispela road ino save komplit,olsem road long kokopau igo siara upgraded sealing i no komplit.

National gvman i mas toksave long ABG long Sources bilong funding i kam where bikos dispela i ken affectim interconnection bilong ABG na national gavman.

Bougainville dream for self rule had simmered below the surface



President Chief Dr. John Momis.

By Chief Dr. John Momis

Bougainville dream for self rule had simmered below the surface.

When Michael Somare and Gough Whitlam decided that Papua New Guinea (PNG) would be given independence in the near future, the 15 members of the house of representatives who formed the Constitutional Planning Committee (CPC) were given the important task of making the independence constitution because we wanted a home grown constitution tailored to the specific needs and aspirations of our people we decided to conduct the most comprehensive political engagement that any government had with its people in PNG.

Our Constitution was not based on any one constitution on any one constitution of a foreign country. We did not send study groups overseas. When we needed to consider foreign models for adaptation, we brought in foreign experts to advise us and we picked and chose what we considered to be relevant.

We, the constitutional fathers found ourselves in the midst of our people

searching for a new National identity. Our vision was enshrined in the National Goals and Directive Principles of the Constitution. Having experienced racial discrimination, powerlessness, injustice etc we were determined to embark on the process of conscientization, liberation and empowerment of our people. We were not only interested in quantitative change that political independence would bring but more importantly in qualitative change which would uphold our human rights and freedom, respect the principle of separation powers, that is the three arms of government, namely, legislature, executive and judiciary should be separate and independent of each other. We foresaw the problems currently experienced. With respect to the working relations between the three arms of government which, if not managed, according to established democratic principles would be dangerously close to being dictatorial.

In answer to the question- what kind of society we wanted, the National Goals and Directive Principles

enjoy integral human development and have their human dignity respected.

The National Goals and Directive Principles encapsulate the kind of society we want to create, the kind of development we would like to have, the kind of values we would live to cultivate and defend. They are like the sign posts that shows the direction which we ought to follow if we are going to experience a sense of human fulfilment in our lives. The National Goals and Directive Principles are like a set of benchmarks that beckon us to excel in our human endeavour to overcome poverty, fight corruption, injustice, and conspiracy theory syndrome and promote integral human development.

While the National Goals and Directive Principles are a non-justice they become a moral imperative of a new “socio-economic and political order” for us if we are going to have a chance of shaking off the undesirable past with its evil of injustice, powerlessness, exploitation, corruption, lack of good governance etc. it is incumbent on government, churches and educational institutions to

One of the founding fathers Chief Dr John Momis takes us through history and explains Bougainville’s history as entwined with Papua New Guinea.

The Bougainville Bulletin is reprinting Dr Momis speech which was published in a special Independence report in the Post Courier Newspaper on 16 September 2015. It is reprinted to help our readers appreciate the history of the road to Independence for PNG and Bougainville sentiments at that time which paves the way for the upcoming Referendum.

clearly suggest the creation of one that is sustainable and egalitarian, in which people would

be proactive in including the values and principles of the Constitution, our most basic law governing our human existence in the minds of our people.

All forms of development whether economic, social or political should be broad based and inclusive to get rid of the gap between the rich and powerful and the poor and he weak. In fact, in accordance “with the preferential option for the poor,” government policies should exercise positive discrimination in favour of those on the periphery of society.

Some of us had experienced in our provinces the evil of powerlessness and exploitation when the colonial regime imposed its will on our people even though the Mataunagan Association in the Gazelle Peninsular and the Hahalis Welfare and Napidakoe Navitu in Bougainville clearly rejected it.

The colonial government which was highly centralized and bureaucratized was a misfit because it did not suit the highly diversified nature of PNG with its 800 languages and cultures. We felt that in our zeal to create a united nation we ought not to impose uniformity and regimentation at the cost of people’s creative participation which is the best incentive for mobilizing people’s joint collaborative effort

towards nation building.

In line with man’s inherent self-determining nature he is also both the subject and object of government and development. In other words, he must be the active agent and not a mere recipient of goods and services. The above quality or property is derived from the theological fact the God the creator in His wisdom has opted to become a creature, a human being. Under this new economy of salvation, man becomes co-creator of his own world, and in a real sense his future is in his own hands because as a rational being with an intellect and a will, he cannot but accept the consequence of his decisions.

The people of Bougainville reacted strongly against disempowerment and deprivation of their inherent human rights under the monopolistic colonial rule and wanted political independence. However, when the pre independence government of Chief Somare included decentralization cum autonomy in the terms of reference given to the CPC to include in the PNG constitution, Bougainvilleans were prepared to compromise and accept negotiated autonomous arrangement. On the eve of PNG’s independence, the House of Assembly ignoring the advice of the CPC, got rid

of chapter 10 which was on provincial governments from the draft constitution which was being debated in the House of Assembly. As far as the Bougainvilleans were concerned this decision of Parliament was the last straw that, as it were, broke the camel’s back. They then recalled the Member for Central Bougainville, Raphael Bele and myself which resulted in our voluntary resignation from Parliament and returning to Bougainville. The people sent a well-known Bougainville leader – John Teosin and myself to the United Nations in New York to present our petition for independence was announced in Bougainville. The UN rejected our petition and upon our return Bougainville leaders reached and understanding with the new Prime Minister, Chief Michael Somare to grant provincial government powers to Bougainville with a provision that a greater powers would be transferred as Bougainville proved its capacity and responsibility which it did after the 1977 elections and became the premier province in PNG. Unfortunately, the bureaucratic inertia and the intransigency at Waigani led to the Bougainville Crisis over the same issues of powers of provincial governments and the injustice of the distribution of benefits by Bougainville Copper Limited and the National Government. The Bloody crisis ended when the Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA) was negotiated and signed in August of 2001, between the PNG government and the leaders and people of Bougainville which gives Bougainvilleans the right to have full autonomy and even political independence if they so wish and fulfil three important benchmarks of good governance, weapons disposal and fiscal self-reliance.

Man is by nature a self-determining animal being endowed with faculties of intellect and will which enable him to examine and analyse issues and make responsible decisions. One of the most important recommendations of the CPC was to set up provincial governments throughout the country and give them some measure of autonomy thereby enabling the people to take control of their local affairs in a highly diversified country, leaving the central governments throughout the country, leaving the central government to take care of national affairs. Empowering people through decentralization would make the people become important and responsible stakeholders in the national effort to create a new nation out of a conglomeration of

of government services. However, the decision to involve all our people right across the land, including the most remote areas in the awareness and consultation process convinced them that we were all in it together and our “common good” would be promoted and protected. What the CPC was able to achieve by using the strategy of adapting broad base inclusive participation by the people was a powerful incentive in mobilising the masses. The people’s participation in the making of their own “mama lo” gave them pride and the motivation to take ownership to the independence constitution and accept political independence.

In Bougainville and the Gazelle Peninsular of East New Britain the people were strongly protesting against the colonial government policies of monopolizing power which rendered people vulnerable to manipulation and exploitation. Unfortunately, in their zeal to support economic activities which under the prevailing circumstances the House did not take up the CPC’s recommendation for a new economic strategy, which tried to have a proper mix between macro and micro economic activities with emphasis on local participation..

In any country the political leadership plays a crucial role in the democratic process of development and government. It is the government that creates a conducive climate for investment and holistic development of the people. The second national goal of the Constitution calls for equitable distribution of power and benefits connoting reduction of the gap between the rich and the poor, hence the relevance of the principle of subsidiarity – sharing power and the principle of solidarity-promoting the common good.

The two principles would engender people’s participation in the affairs of their nation thus creating self-sufficient egalitarian society in which the human dignity of every man, woman and child would be protected and promoted. Leadership belongs to all of us; it must not be monopolized by one person or group of persons.

A leader will only lead other leaders and not followers, like the captain of a good team of players who are good in their own specialty. If we all dream the dream of becoming active agents of change and development and make a concerted effort to the best of our abilities, we can succeed as a people of our own distinct cultural identity in the modern globalized world.

The CPC viewed the role of political and government leaders holding strategic public office as vitally important to guide the nation. For that reason we recommended that they should have a special law that applied only to them in their behaviour and exercise of their responsibilities. This special law is the Leadership Code and it is different form the Criminal Code. Leaders under the Leadership Code must not only do the right thing but they must be seen to be doing the right thing.

If they are not seen to be doing the right thing, then they are in breach of the Leadership Code.

At this juncture in PNG’s journey as an independent

country it behoves us to pay tribute to our leaders both living and deceased who had the dream that one day we would be free and had the courage and the generosity to labor tirelessly to forge ahead in the face of hardships to mould a new Christian democratic nation which has stood the test of rimes. While we are conscious of the fact that we made many mistakes along the way, we must, with confidence in ourselves and faith in God, who has invited us to be his partners to build his kingdom, transform our country into a just, intelligent and egalitarian nation that we can all be proud of.

Let me once again thank our people and our leaders for their sterling generous contribution to make PNG what it is today. I wish to pay special tribute to Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare, the founding Prime Minister, Sir Julius Chan who served in the pre-independence House and the 15 members of CPC who drafted the most basic law that governs our human existence.

Although the colonial power of Australia did not adequately prepare the people of PNG for independence, a lot of credit must go to the leaders and the people for their resilience to create a budding democratic nation which has a constitutional government which is functioning and gaining momentum and has stood the test of times.



One of the cultural groups at the 2014 Mona Festival in Buka



Black Orchid ends on a high note



In an effort to promote peace, unity and to spread the love of the game, the idea of Black Orchid Games was developed, thus the Black Orchid.

Just like the Black Orchid flower, the game has a rare ring to it. It is intended to bring the rare to lime light and create indifference in diversity.

These sentiments were echoed during the launch and close of the games in Arawa by Peter Tsiamlili Jnr, the man behind the orchid team and other speakers in the likes of Minister Justin Tkatsenko.

The successful staging of the 2016 Black Orchid Tournament has since made a number of positive reflections on the premise of the day, which are peace and unity. This is the message long sought by Bougainville and it has once again brought into Arawa, using the code of rugby union.

From around Papua New Guinea, it brought ambassadors of rugby union as peace keepers unifying Bougainville youths as the event unfolded. This is what Peter Tsiamalili said.

"We're proud to have successfully staged this event and we look forward to bigger and better events in the future. We hope that this code brings peace, unity and discipline as this has always been the code of this game. I believe rugby will continue to drive the message of peace through the expansion of the game into other districts in the region."

He further thanked all the participants and sponsors for making the event a success.

Tsiamalili stated that the AROB Rugby Football Union will continue to drive the message of peace, through the expansion of the game to South Bougainville in the near future.

Moving forward the union has plans to take the Black Orchid concept into South Bougainville in the coming year. This, however, will be discussed after the Black Orchids attend the PNG games in Kimbe in the coming months.

The team has been in preparation, with vuv a hope to return with positive results.

