



# THE BOUGAINVILLE BULLETIN

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# President reconciles with ex-combatants

By Anthony Kaybing

**P**EACE and reconciliation amongst Bougainvilleans from issues stemming from the Bougainville Conflict remains an integral part of the region's development.

**Autonomous** Bougainville Government President Chief Dr John Momis exemplified the gesture by reconciling with former combatants from the Solos area in North Bougainville on December 21 last year at the Kahule Primary School.

During the height of the Bougainville Crises in 1997, President Momis was captured by the northern

element of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army at Tinputz District.

What followed was a grueling march through some of Bougainville's roughest terrain that saw President Momis, who was then Governor of Bougainville, being led by his captors all the way up to Panguna, the stronghold of secessionist leader the Late Francis Ona central command of the BRA.

After a month in captivity up in Ona's Guava Village, Momis was released in good faith by Ona and this sudden move also paved way for the peace process in

Bougainville.

Former BRA veteran Eddie Mohin made an emotional speech as he asked for the President's forgiveness for his actions but he explained that he was simply following orders from the BRA High Command to capture a prominent Bougainvillean leader.

Mr Mohin said that although he had personally reconciled with President Momis this public reconciliation was to show the people of his Tonsu Constituency and Bougainville the true meaning of peace within Bougainvilleans.



ABG President Dr. John Momis shakes hands with former BRA veteran Eddie Mohin

"I have no quarrel or ill will towards the men who took me from Tinputz and held me in captivity, I have forgiven them so I stand here today to say that I have nothing to forgive these young for," President Momis said.

"I was well looked after by the gentlemen who were my captors and I understood their grievances so I must say that I had to overlook their actions and we gained a mutual respect for each other," President Momis said.

The President revealed that his time in captivity

was fruitful as he had time to sit with the Late Francis Ona and discuss and explain various issues that had been misunderstood over the years due to the Crisis.

The reconciliation between the North Bougainville former combatants and the President was facilitated by the Bureau of Peace and Reconciliation and the Bureau for Veteran Affairs.

The two bureaus have undertaken the serious need for reconciliation between factions and have embarked on a mass campaign throughout Bougainville.

## Education boss wants to see teachers' Rating System change



**T**HE Deputy Secretary for the National Department of Standard & Guidance Section, Dr Eliakim Apelis pictured views the current National Teachers Rating System

as ineffective that should be changed to adequately cater for discrepancies that are existing.

Dr Apelis said the Rating System must be standardised with the relevant PNG educational curriculum.

Dr Apelis was speaking at the combined Regional Rating Conference held in Buka from the 17th -21st

November last year.

The conference was attended by a total of 76 participants representing the Port Moresby, the New Guinea Islands and the Highlands regions.

Dr Apelis said that the curriculum must be inclusive of the overall integral human development of the student and emphasised on areas

of student behaviour such as, dressing, attendance, punctuality, teachings, lessons and the overall school environment.

The Deputy Secretary also highlighted the current outcome based education (OBE) curriculum saying that it has not delivered the best educational service for children.





Our voice, Our image, Our place  
**Editor’s Corner**

Hello and welcome to this third edition of Bougainville’s very own tabloid newspaper; the Bougainville Bulletin. With two editions published and successful distribution of more than 30 000 copies throughout the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (ABG) and PNG under our belt, the bulletin continues to develop and improve in reflecting the Bougainville Peace Agreement, Autonomy, Referendum and Weapons Disposal Plan to best meet the information needs of the community. Most of our features are attributed to ABG development updates and department highlights. The premise of the day is to raise awareness on the progress that the ABG is making inline with the Bougainville Peace Agreement as it progresses towards achieving referendum in the near future. It is also about how much people know about this progress and what their views are. Remember, information is a service like any other Government development. Information sharing towards constructed dissemination of the ABG’s priorities is a critical sector we must collectively address. The bulletin is and continues to be the platform where the Government and people can interact. As usual, we welcome ideas on how we can improve this Bulletin or comments to the editor on any articles. Thankyou to those who have been contributing ideas and stories I hope you find this Bulletin Informative. Robert Aneisia Editor

**Bougainville adopts new time zone**

The Autonomous Region of Bougainville moved its clock forward by one hour on 28 December 2014. The Bougainville House of Representatives adopted the new time zone known as the Bougainville Standard Time at its September sitting. The new time zone, which is 11 hours ahead of universal coordinated time, means that Bougainville is one hour ahead of Papua New Guinea. ABG Minister for Commerce and Tourism told the House of Representatives that it had

long been felt that being part of the National Time Zone disadvantaged the Bougainville region. “As a result, sunrise and sunset times in Bougainville are earlier than most people would like,” Minister Kombasaid. Visitors coming to the Autonomous Region of Bougainville are required to reset their watches by one hour, to meet the Bougainville Time. At the moment, public servants have been urged to attend work using Bougainville time which is 7:45 am.

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**About the *Bougainville Bulletin***

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**Siriosi accepts BSAC decision**



ABG’s outgoing chief secretary Chris Siriosi has accepted the decision of the Bougainville senior appointments committee (BSAC) on the appointment of the new chief secretary and the head of the Bougainville public service. “As a proud Bougainvillean and a loyal public servant I have sworn an oath to serve the Autonomous region of Bougainville.

“I intend to remain faithful to the oath by respecting the lawful process by the BSAC in selecting qualified Bougainvillean, Monovi Amani for this important job,” he said. The recruitment and selection was on the basis of merit to recruit a permanent chief secretary . The process to recruit was not an easy task for anyone involved as change is never easy to manage and is even more difficult in a situation such as that faced by many Bougainvilleans, said Siriosi. Mr Siriosi urged for his supporters to accept the decision and allow the normal process of the

recruitment to proceed. “The only path to fulfilling the spirit of our constitution and the Bougainville peace agreement is to follow the rule of law and our Christian faith in all things,” said Siriosi. Mr Siriosi said that he was willing to work for the Government in any position that best suited his skills and talents. He added that he had enjoyed his time as the Acting Chief Secretary and his achievements made during his term. I ask the people of Bougainville to accept this decision just as I have and move on in supporting our new Chief Secretary to contribute to Bougainville’s Peace, Prosperity and Development,” Mr Siriosi said.

**Tohatsi Primary School observes World Children’s Day**



World Vision Project Coordinator Cecilia Naguoi



“Parents and guardians must prioritize children’s rights. This shows parents respect and support children’s rights”.

This was according to Ms. Jacqueline Tapiasi, Head teacher of Tohatsi Primary School during the Children’s Day. Ms. Tapiasi presented tips on children’s rights during the celebration said, giving time to children and making time to be there for them was priceless. She also stressed the importance of making sure children’s rights are protected and that these rights come with the responsibility to work hard in school and become productive members of the

**“giving time to our children and making time to be there for them is priceless”**

**Ms. Tapiasi**

society. Tohatsi Primary School was a hive of activities celebrating the World children’s day on November 25. The celebration to promote awareness on children’s rights and welfare was an initiative of World Vision, an NGO based in Bougainville. November 20 marks

the day on which the Declaration of the rights of a child was set up in 1954. World Children’s Day is observed every year as it is a day of world wide union and ensure children have access to education and to have their rights protected. World Vision Project Coordinator Cecilia Naguoi (pictured top left) speaking at the ceremony said, “25

years ago the world made a promise to children: that we would do everything in our power to protect and promote their rights to survive and thrive, to learn and grow and make their voices heard and reach their full potential,” Mrs Naguoi said. She further stated that the onus was on parents to keep this promise and give the best to our children. “As an island nation embarking to achieve referendum, our children will be tomorrow’s leaders. The one thing that all children have in common is their rights,” Naguoi said.

“Growing up with violence and abuse can seriously affect a child physically, mentally and psychologically. Therefore, children must be able to grow up and learn in an environment that is safe and violence free. Every child has the right to survive and thrive to be educated, to be free from violence and abuse, to participate and to be heard.” Celebrating World children’s day is a way of ensuring that children in Bougainville are aware of their rights and ensuring that they are respected.

**Radio Ples Lain successful launches in three regions**

Radio Ples Lain (RPL) the Autonomous Bougainville Government’s recently launched mobile radio station, conducted its first trial broadcast at Hagus in the Halia Constituency, North Bougainville.

RPL was set up at the Halia Council of Elders (COE) main office complex and broadcasted to an audience of more than 500 constituents. Broadcasted content include pre-recorded news of the ABG’s 2015 Development priorities, live interview with the Council of Elders on their



The Australia Foreign Affairs Minister Ms Julie Bishop interviewed by RPL Producer Ben Talakam during the launching at Arawa.

priorities and achievements, address by the ABG Vice President and Halia Constituency member Patrick Nisira and Law and Order awareness by the Bougainville Police Service. The broadcast of RPL at

Hagus was in response to the community’s requests put through their COE after the launch of the RPL on November 7, 2014 and was the first broadcast operation out on location. ABG Bureau for Media

and Communication Acting Director Robert Aneisia said the Bureau was excited at the keen interest the RPL has generated in the rural communities of Bougainville. “Broadcasting in the Halia constituency as our first stop was a first time experience for many of our people. Because it was broadcasted at the community level, it can record community discussion, including panel discussions, talk back and receiving SMS,” Mr Aneisia added. In addition, last year was a milestone achievement

for RPL which saw three respective launches at Buka, Buin and Arawa. The launches were part of the Peace Process Reflection and Referendum Campaign awareness which drew alot of cultural groups and members of the communities to witness and part-take in the event. Mr Aneisia explained that the RPL is solely intended to relay government information to remote places around Bougainville where it is needed most and can provide a platform for local voices on important issues for the people.



# ABG meets Me'ekamui



Members of the MGU listening attentively to the discussions held in Buka recently.

A meeting held in last November in Buka has successfully opened up opportunities for further one on one dialogue between the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) and the Me'ekamui Government of Unity (MGU).

The dialogue between the ABG led by President Chief Dr. John Momis and the MGU led by President Philip Miriori was a first ever attempt at resolving outstanding grievances, enhance good governance and service delivery within the Panguna District in the context of the Bougainville Peace Agreement and implementing Constitutional Laws.

The meeting discussed a number of issues including the MGU working through the ABG in addressing the concerns of the people of Panguna District over mining at Panguna and the importance of reviewing the Panguna Communiqué document.

In his opening remarks,

President Momis reaffirmed that the ABG represented the best collective interests of the people of Bougainville and that the ABG was protected by PNG constitutional laws which were recognized by the international community.

Mr. Miriori in response expressed the MGU's desire to work with the ABG under the '*Panguna Communiqué*'. He urged that a review of the document was important.

ABG Minister for Mining and Natural Resources and member for Panguna District Michael Oni stressed the need for unity and alignment of the district leadership.

He said unity would promote enhanced delivery of basic services within the Panguna District which is crucial.

Mr. Oni commended the MGU for supporting the common roll updates in Panguna District and the initiative taken by Me'ekamui Defence Force commander Moses

Pipiro to establish a Village Assembly for his community.

ABG Minister for Community Development Melchior Dare told the meeting that it was critical for the ABG and the MGU to engage in fair and frank dialogue to resolve the question of whether or not the Morgan Junction Check Point was any longer necessary.

He highlighted that it was a major impediment to the socio-economic well-being of the people of Panguna District.

The leaders resolved to hold a Pan Panguna Leaders Summit to facilitate broader community participation in determining suitable solutions to socio-economic issues confronting the leaders and for them to contribute towards solutions for such issues.

According to the joint records of discussions, a suitable date for the summit was yet to be discussed.

## ABG progresses in Public Service reform

Massive progress has been achieved in reaching the final phase of implementing phase one of the Bougainville

**Public Service reform.**

Phase one of the reform involves the establishment of the Executive Management level structure.

Part of this exercise is to appoint permanent Secretaries to the ABG's thirteen Departments.

Phase two would

## Move afoot to revive cocoa industry



The Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) is now embarking on a strategic plan to revive its once lucrative cocoa industry with setting up of a ten (10) Regional Tenure Cocoa Program (TCP).

The Program is jointly funded by the Australian AID Agency – AUSAID with a total of K8 million and a total of K2 million from ABG.

Department of Primary Industry Acting Secretary, Mr Gabriel Wayne said the TCP will be inaugurated with the ABGs allocation of K2 million which amongst other plans

will also see the setting up of the community support facilities (CSF) to provide various incentives to cocoa farmers in the communities.

Mr Wayne said CSF will be an independent Body with its' own management body

and would be ready by March 2015.

"Some of the priority issues that will be taken on board by the CSF will be the setting up of cocoa budwood gardens, the rehabilitation of old DPI Stations in Buin, Konga, the Duncan research station at Manetai, Tinputz and Soronakori at Hanahan in the Halia Constituency of

Buka Island," he said.

Mr Wayne said that DPI is also looking at dispatching more district officers in these DPI station to oversee field work and logistics.

"DPI will also be looking at working with partners such as the Lauta Foundation, the World Bank, UNDP, PNG Cocoa Board and the Coconut Cocoa Extension Agency (CCEA) at Kubu and the Department of Commerce Trade and Industry," Mr Wayne said.

The other impact plans by the Department are, reviving the Bougainville Growers Association, set up of an export company to manage the task of exporting Bougainville cocoa out of the Kieta Wharf and the positioning of DPF officers in the districts to improve on capacity to provide effective service delivery.

concentrate on development of Departmental structures and Phase three would focus on improving the current structures of the District Administrations and the Council of Elders.

The report stated that work on phase three was expected in the second

quarter of this year followed by an appraisal of the final Organization structure and the rollout of job evaluation training programs for the Bougainville Public Servants.

## Gr 7 Student wins HIV/AIDS essay competition



Miss Ashleyanne Kavaro, receiving her price from Hon. Jerome Sawa

A grade 7 student at the St Peter Chanel Primary School on Buka Island has won a K200 award for being the best HIV/AIDS essay writer.

Miss Ashleyanne Kavaro, who attends the Primary School at Gagan Catholic Parish received the K200 Prize money from the Peit Constituency MP Mr Jerome Sawa.

The 2nd Prize of K100 was awarded to Maria Keneh of Hapan Primary School, while Immaculate Mala won the 3rd prize of K70.

The School's HIV/AIDS writing competition in the Peit Constituency was an initiative of the Bougainville Catholic AIDS Ministry to involve students to have a better understanding of the disease and the risks involved.

The sponsor of the HIV/AIDS Awards, the Peit Constituency member, Jerome Sawa, while presenting the prizes to the student winners said the initiative to involve schools in the HIV Writing, was an effective way as it would enable students to have a better understanding of the epidemic.

He thanked the Bougainville Diocese Catholic AIDS Secretary, Stella Morokana for initiating the idea and urged all the seven Primary Schools in the area to support and be involved in such programs in the future.

"Our children are vulnerable to HIV through their sexual behaviours and also we are seeing our youths involve in drugs. It is the responsibility of us parents to make sure that our children are given moral support and education on how to succeed in life," Sawa said.

He added that the HIV/AIDS disease has affected mostly the productive age group from 29 – 49 and added that it was a development issue in which relevant stakeholders, including the ABG to help improve the welfare of the people.

Mr Sawa was speaking at the World Aids Day Celebration at Hapan Village in the Gagan Parish of Peit Constituency no Sunday November 30th.

"This is the first time the World AIDS Day is being celebrated in the rural community. I would

like to thank the Diocese HIV/AIDS Ministry for taking the World Aids Day Celebration right down to the village level where people will have access to HIV/AIDS information," Mr Sawa said.

World Aids Day was marked with various activities including a two metre red wooden ribbon outside the village chapel as a tribute to remember those who died of AIDS, the lighting of candles in the Advent Wreath to mark the start of the four weeks of advent until Christmas time.

The highlights were, the staging of drama plays, gospels, string bands and speeches from the representative Diocese Herbal Ministry, Mr James Kovie, Sisters of the Congregation of Nazareth (CSN) Sr Salome Taliu, Diocese HIV/AIDS Secretary, Stella Morokana, Buka District Youth Rep, Mr Wency Salib, Chief Representative, Mr Thomas Soagai, Peit Womens Rep, Mrs Josephine Getsi, Gagan Parish Rep, Mr Paul Pilakovue, Health Workers of Gagan Health Centre and HIV Counsellors.

## Road show includes Bougainville

Bougainvilleans wanting to obtain tertiary qualifications from Australian Institutions were excited at the chance to apply for the Australia Awards Scholarship for studies in 2016 which was awarded to Papua New Guinea.

Following a road show by the Australian Awards PNG Facility team in Buka recently, more than 15 participants including public servants of the Bougainville Public Service indicated a keen interest to apply in the various fields of study offered.

Specific priority fields covered by the scholarship included Health, Transport, Land Development, Rural Development, Research and Technology, Education, Urban Development, Law and Justice, Governance and Public Sector Management and Research and Technology.

Those who attended the road show at

the Bougainville Administration conference room were informed that the Australia Awards aimed to further develop the skills and expertise of Papua New Guineans and Bougainvilleans so they could contribute to the nation's development.

Participants were told that this prestigious international awards were offered to Papua New Guinea with the intention that through study and research, recipients develop the skills and knowledge to drive change, influence Papua New Guinea's development and build enduring people-to-people links with Australia.

Bougainvilleans interested to apply or seek further information were told to access information through the Australia Awards PNG Facility website: [www.australiaawards.org.pg](http://www.australiaawards.org.pg).

Applications close on 16 February 2015.

## Inclusive Development in Post Conflict Bougainville Project

The Inclusive Development in Post Conflict Bougainville (IDIB) aims to strengthening capacity of women's organizations to initiate and manage development activities; and increase the implementation of community development activities with more inclusion of women in planning and decision making processes, and which more explicitly focuses on the development priorities of women.

To know more about the IDIB, information can be obtained from the Department of Community Development Autonomous Bougainville Government  
Attn: Trent Piruruho, Acting Project Coordinator  
Tel: 73481466 | Email: [projectgrants.idib@gmail.com](mailto:projectgrants.idib@gmail.com)



# 2015: Year of Implementation

The Autonomous Bougainville Government has passed a massive K328 million budget for this year. Passed on December 30, 2014, the budget reflects the Priorities of:

- A. Improve Service Delivery through a strong focus at the District Level
- B. Promote Economic Growth and Sustainability.
- C. Significantly Increase revenue volumes and the collection of revenues.
- D. Strengthen key interventions and functions of Government.

In presenting the Budget statement, Minister for Treasury and Finance Albert Punghau urged the Members of the Bougainville House of Representatives and the Bougainville Public Service that the government now needs to concentrate on implementing the budget.

“As we have seen with the opening of Aropa Airport, the sealing of Buka town Road and work commencing on the Buka Ring Road sealing, the people respond positively when they see physical progress and development taking place,” Mr. Punghau said.

Discussing the Budget in details, Mr. Punghau said the 2015 National Government Budget delivered a 38% increase of the ABG’s recurrent budget as reflected in this table:

RECURRENT UNCONDITIONAL GRANT	2014	2015	INCREASE
Goods & Services	19,148,100	20,830,800	9%
Staffing Grant (GoPNG)	22,299,800	37,460,100	68%
Teaching Service Commission	40,802,700	47,245,700	16%
Public Service Leave Fares	272,800	531,200	95%
Teachers Leave Fares	1,350,500	2,100,900	56%
Police Goods & Services Grant	2,803,400	3,802,700	36%
ABG Community Auxillary Police Allowance	0	1,500,000	New
ABG Parliamentary Services Allowances	5,771,000	9,000,000	56%
Land Mediation Function Grant	0	65,000	New
Land Mediation Allowance	0	440,600	New
ABG Chief Collector of Taxes	0	2,500,000	New
ABG Electoral Commission Allowance	0	1,700,000	168%
National Functions and Powers	299,000	800,000	168%
TOTAL RECURRENT	92,747,300	127,977,000	38%

In terms of Internal Revenue, Mr Punghau said this year, the ABG would be making a concerted effort to increase Bougainville’s internal revenue. He highlighted the ABG’s Budget targets on collecting internal revenue as follows:

Estimated Internal Revenue	2015
Bougainville Group Tax	9 million
Goods & Services tax	6.5 million
Liquor tax	2 million
Tobacco tax	1 million
Motor Vehicle Registration	281 thousand
Liquor Licensing Fees	168 thousand
Housing Rentals	Nil
Sundry	170 thousand
<b>Total</b>	<b>K19,119 000</b>

Minister Punghau said unlike the previous year of the government targeting a very high over-estimate of amount available to be collected under these taxes, this year, he is confident that the Internal Revenue Budget is realistic and that it can be collected. Referring to Development Grants, Minister Punghau highlighted the following summary:

Restoration and Development - Annual	15 000 000
RDG - Arrears	30 000 000
Special Intervention Fund (High Impact)	70 000 000
Provincial Support Improvement Program	15 000 000
District Support Improvement Program (ABG)	30 000 000
TOTAL	160 000 000

In relation to development partner projects and National Member projects, the Minister said for the first time the budget document records the development partner and National member’s contributions.

He highlighted on the Australian Foreign Affairs Minister Julie Bishop’s recent visit to Bougainville to which she announced her government’s K150 million commitment to Bougainville this year.

“New Zealand’s contribution is K20 million this year with further support from UNDP and USAID for development and peace building activities. We acknowledge the preliminary work being undertaken by Japan on a possible new bridges programme,” Mr. Punghau added.

He thanked the National MPs and Development Partners for working in partnership last year in aligning their contributions with the government’s priorities.

In commending the 2015 Budget to the Bougainville House of Representatives, Mr. Punghau concluded that the Momis/Nisira government had been able to increase its allocations to government priority policies and urged that the budget be implemented.



# Bougainville politics & the characteristics of its people

By Leonard Fong Roka

**There are certain shared traits that bind Bougainville people into a cultural and geographic unity. Bloodshed since 1988 was the result of denial and suppression by Papua New Guinea of Bougainvilleans’ rights of expression in their geographical and cultural settings of the Solomon archipelago.**

Colonialism had far reaching impacts on Bougainville psyche. The acculturation since 1768, island’s discovery by Louis De Bougainville, embedded certain significant characteristics that affect the political processes today. In geo-political interpretation of Bougainville, North Bougainville has a population of ‘feigning’ people; Central Bougainville has a population of ‘talkers’ and South Bougainville has a populace of the ‘practical’. Many people, looking at Bougainville’s problems, see the situation through Papua New Guinean lens, which is not the way to find an amicable solution. Bougainville conflict is a Bougainvillean issue. Bougainvillean resistance to foreign intruders was initiated since October 1768 when locals marked their dislike of the navigator Louis de Bougainville and his men by shooting an arrow at them from a retreating canoe after a friendly meeting.

This resurfaced in our conflict against Bougainville Copper Limited and the PNG government in 1988. The 1979 book, Bougainvillean Nationalism, said that in the 1960s the Napidakoe Navitu independence movement of central Bougainville claimed to have run a referendum for Bougainville independence. South Bougainville claimed that secession

for Bougainville was too early and the north Bougainvilleans sided with the south. This contradicted the fact that it was the north that birthed the idea of Bougainville independence with movements such as John Teosin’s Hahalis Welfare Society. The north denied the fact that it was it that influenced the central Bougainville resistance. In the 1988-90 conflict, problems caused by Central in the name of the Bougainville freedom affected Buka greatly. So the people in the North were quick to sail to New Guinea and forge an agreement in New Ireland to re-invite the PNG government.

There was no way to address the Kieta generated chaos as a Bougainvillean problem by the North Bougainville leaders. This characteristic simply connotes ignorance and cultural syntax of negligence; or ‘pretence’ of being a non-participant, indirectly. Such a northern orthodoxy can be seen in the Bougainville’s top cocoa producing district, Tinputz, which continues to produce the highest percentage of cocoa, but this is not translated into positive socio-economic progress compared to Central and south. In Central Bougainville where the Kietas are politically and economically dominant, there are a lot of ‘big mouths’ that just cannot stop talking. Central Bougainvilleans are creative in exporting their dreams without testing the practical outcomes of those thoughts.

In Central Bougainville, nobody looks before leaping. There is also stubbornness in this area that even the peace process or the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) has not yet eradicated. Before 1975 it was the Central Bougainvilleans that created a lot of anti-PNG noise with ideas they imported from the north. Through such organizations as the Napidakoe Navitu, they attempted to change Bougainville politically. All this effort was done without proper strategizing. And in the 1989 conflict, this flawed approach was repeated by the Panguna people. In today’s Bougainville politics, Central Bougainville is where most hot politics is played with spill-over effects. From the mountains of central Bougainville the 1989 crisis was created; the problem of Meekamui was created and even the UV-Stract and the Twin Kingdoms of Papaala, got start-up fuel from Central Bougainville.

Central Bougainville is blessed with dreamers with loud voices without any practical application of their thoughts. Across many villages of Central Bougainville politics is present in every mouth of all ages. Men and women discuss and condemn politicians. The problem for Central is they lack the capacity to be practical. The leadership of BIG showed this clearly that Central had the vision but needs north or southern support to implement. Hitherto Central Bougainville’s realm of politics is: Kongara man dreams of a Kongara influenced Central Bougainville; a Panguna man wants a Panguna controlled Central Bougainville; a Nasioi (Kieta) man envisions his Nasioi area to be masters of Central Bougainville.

Central Bougainville is the home of ‘noise people’. This attitude was developed because the area was the centre of the pre-crisis and post-crisis Bougainville politics and pre-crisis

economic development that tuned the mindset into ‘we are the ones’.

In South Bougainville, the story is a bit different. The Napidakoe Navitu conducted a ‘referendum’ for independence in the 1970s and the voters in South Bougainville did not turn out for many saw Bougainville, then, not fit yet. In most literature about colonial Bougainville, it can be noted that colonizers regarded South Bougainvilleans as people, especially the Siwai, with practical capabilities. This was the direct result of two reasons: (1) the land in south Bougainville is not so fertile or productive; and (2) economic development came late to the region.

In so many political events of historical significance for Bougainville, it was the South Bougainville men who stood behind the ‘big mouths’ of Central Bougainville to bring about the wanted impacts. For example, the 1970s Napidakoe Navitu group was effective because of leaders like the late Sir Paul Lapun from Banoni and, later, the shutting down of BCL’s Panguna mine spearheaded by the late Francis Ona in 1989 was effective because of the direct involvement of South Bougainville leaders such as the late James Singko from Nagovis. There is a trend here; problems are created in Central Bougainville and spill over to South Bougainville. For example, we have had the recent Konnou Crisis in Buin and the ongoing Twin Kingdoms of Papaala and the UV-Stract. In the economic arena, Bougainville is controlled by South Bougainville businesses. The Siwai people are now in charge of most business operations in Buka and a growing

investment in Arawa. Many South Bougainvilleans are sweating their guts to earn money for Bougainville or their own bread and butter as Central Bougainvilleans are occupied by the ‘talks’ of so many plans and the north Bougainvilleans just relax to collect development as a by-product of their region being the current gateway into Bougainville or the Asian infiltration against Section 24 of Bougainville Constitution. One proof to this theory is in 1990 when the PNG government and the BCL left Bougainville, Central Bougainville was burning with the psyche of a victor over PNG and BCL. Central Bougainville was not interested in the practical burden of providing the goods and services for the shattered people of Bougainville. In the anarchy that was unfolding, South Bougainville responded by creating the South Bougainville Interim Authority (SBIA) for the sole purpose of providing basic services to the people. This act of providing of Bougainville filling the political and economic vacuum created by the departure of PNG institutions and the NSP was a threat to the ‘victor syndrome’ in Kieta so resistance was the solution resulting to armed conflict and division to Bougainville in the early 1990s.

This spirit of putting into practice what comes into mind cannot be seen in Central Bougainville and North Bougainville. In summary, thinkers in ABG should consider Bougainville along the lines of geo-political needs and wants when planning the development. Much ABG failure since 2005 had been ‘wrong projects on wrong political environments’. ABG needs to know the people and plan for them.





## My Bougainville - Stori blong mi.



### Insait long dispela edisen bilong bogenvil bulletin, yumi bungim wanpela artist bilong Konnou constituency insait long Buin Distrik, South Bogenvil. Yumi bungim Timothy Kopana

Timothy Kopana em i bin bon long namba 16 dei bilong mun june 1963 insait long liklik ples ol i kolim long Uano insait long Konnou Constituency. Timothy i bin go long skul mak inap long Grade 3 tasol na long 30 krismas igo pinis, Timothy i wok olsem wanpela artist i mekim ol artefacts na ol painting wea em i save salim long kisim moni. Intres bilong Timothy long sait bilong arts i stat taim em i stap long grade 1 long Manetai primary school yet. Papa bilong Timothy em



man bilong wokim ol samting olsem spear na basket samting. olsem na em i bin influensim pikinini long dispela sawe long wokim ol samting wantem han bilong em.

Namba wan wok bilong Timothy olsem artist em long yia 1984 wea em i bin droim piksa bilong papa bilong em long pepa. Taim papa bilong em i lukim, em i bin laikim tumas. Stat long dispela dei, Timothy i kontiniu long lainim na i kamap gutpela long ol kainkain stail bilong art em i wok long en.

Long taim Timothy i raun long ol narapela ples, em i bin kisim sawe long mekim ol painting long ol narapela artist. Timothy i lukim ol wok ol narapela artist i paintim na em i mangalim. Bihain, em yet igo traun long haus bilong em na i kamap wantem niupela stail bilong em yet long paint. Timothy i statim dispela longpela wok artist bilong em olsem wanpela painter. Em i sawe paintim ol pes bilong ol manmeri na tu ol kainkain samting em i lukim.

Wanpela hap wea Timothy i gutpela tru long em, em long wokim ol carving long diwai na ston. Em i save mekim ol stone carving na sanapim ol long bilasim peles. Em i bin kisim save bilong katim carving long Solomon ailan insait long kraisis. Taim emi kam bek long peles em bin katim namba wan diwai carving bilong em long yia 2001, carving ibin kamap gut tru na ol manmeri lukim na wanbel long wok bilong em. Stat long dispela taim Timothy isave katim ol carving bilong ol haus lotu na long request bilong ol kastoma. Orait bihainim dispela, em i stat long katim ol carving nau long ston.

Timothy i soim ol artefacts bilong em namba wan taim long opening bilong Muguai helt senta. Bihain long yia 2014, em



i wokim exhibition long Tuiruma festival long Buin.

Ol wok carving bilong Timothy i gat wanwan stori insait long em. Ol i toktok long ol tumbuna stori na long pasin kastom istap insait long kalsa bilong yumi. Ol carving i stori long laip bilong yumi long bipo na long ol pasin bilong lukautim kalsa na pasin tumbuna.

Timothy i kirapim liklik museum long ples bilong em yet, ol i kloim long Ugan Cultural Museum. Insait long dispela museum em isave putim ol artefacts na ol kainkain samting wea ol tumbuna i bin usim bipo. Igat sampla samting bilong pait tu wea ol tumbuna i bin usim bipo.

Timothy i tok, "As tingting bilong dispela museum em long lukautim pasin tumbuna na tu long lainim ol yangpela manmeri long wokim ol artefact na carving, "Olsem na ol i ken lukautim gut kalsa bilong yumi."

Wanpela program wea Timothy i woklong ronim em Screen Printing bilong ol kolos. "Dispela em isi samting wea ol yangpela i ken lainim long mekim moni na halivim ol yet," Timothy i tok. Insait long dispela program, i gat Ol kain samting olsem wokim basket, wokim spia, wokim ol net bilong painim pis na planti moa samting.

Dispela program bai bungim ol lapun bilong peles long lainim ol yangpela man na meri

long kisim save long wokim ol dispela wok.

Long developmen bilong arts long Buin na Bogenvil, Timothy i tok, "Arts na Kalsa em laif, yumi mas lainim ol dispela samting long lukautim kalsa na bai em ino lus." Timothy i tok arts na kalsa i bungim ol man wantem na emi strongim peace na gutpela pasin insait long komuniti. Timothy igat planti yangpela man na meri i woklong lainim arts na kalsa aninit long em.

Bikpela salens long dispela taim em namel long komputer na manpawa olsem Timothy i tok, "Tete yumi gat ol disain wea ol i wokim long komputa na i luk nais tumas olsem na ino gat intres long ol samting yumi wokim long han."

Timothy igat bikpela intres tru long wokim ol carving na strongim pasin kalsa wantem ol stori bilong wokim carving na tu wantem ol stori istap bihain long ol carving em i wokim.

Sapos yu laikim moa informesen long wok bilong Timothy, you ken ringim em long mobile namba, 72647646.



## Yumi kuk

In this edition, we introduce to you kitchen tips that feature a collection of recipes using local Bougainville produce and is targeted at those cooking enthusiasts and anyone willing to spice up their meals with new cooking tips.

In this edition we give you an easy method of baking a banana cake.

Bananas are always available in markets and are the easiest fruits to grow. Basically a carbohydrate food, bananas provide some vitamin A, B, C, iron, potassium and phosphorus.

### Ingredients:

- ½ cup smoothly mashed bananas
- 1 ¼ cups self-raising flour
- ¾ cup sugar
- ¼ cup milk
- 1 egg
- 60g butter or margarine and 4 tablespoon chopped nuts (dried galip)
- 1 tea spoon bicarbonate of soda (Baking Soda)
- Pinch of salt
- Extra milk for glazing

### Method:

- Mix together butter and sugar.
- Add mashed bananas.
- Beat in the egg and mix well.
- Dissolve soda in milk and add alternatively with the sifted dry ingredients.
- Add nuts.
- Turn mixture into a well-greased, 8-inch sandwich tin. Brush top with milk and bake in moderate oven (350°F) for 30 to 40 minutes.

Serve warm, split and lightly buttered.



## Stori Piksa

In this edition we bring to you the Aropa re-opening event in pictures.

# Kieta (Aropa) Aerodrome Re-opening



**Picture Caption:**  
1. ABG President Chief Dr John Momis welcomes PNG Prime Minister and his delegates during arrival.  
2. Students welcome Air Niugini Kieta.  
3. Women's widow marches through the crowd in style bringing to the public a new style.  
4. The Late media icon Mr Justin Kili during his last public appearance as the MC.  
5. The first landing arrival of the Airlines PNG that took on board landowners as passengers  
6. Brian Semoso poses for a picture with dancers from Buin.





# 2015 Development priorities



Continuing on from the previous edition:

## Significant increase revenue volumes and the collection of revenues

1. Implement the recommendations of the Joint Review on Autonomy and put greater effort into calculating the on-going costs of providing each function.
2. Significantly increase revenue, including those associated with the provisions of the Bougainville Peace Agreement from the following sources:
  - i) Fisheries revenues (utilizing expert advice);
  - ii) Audit GST and Group Tax collections and identify underpayments (utilizing external expertise)
  - iii) Restoration and Development Grant as a result of mediation and



ABG President  
Dr. John Momis

- arbitration to resolve the formula and arrears
- iv) Recurrent Grant calculations, including a negotiated commitment as a result of resolution of the new functions grants based on the cost of services with a priority on Health and Education
  - v) ABG sales taxes, including analyzing collections and investigating options to broaden the base for sales taxes on beer and cigarettes at wholesale stage rather than retail.
  - vi. Improve and strengthen the Bougainville

Office of Chief Collector of Taxes and the IRC in the collection of revenues, compliance and enforcement.

## D. Strengthening key interventions and functions of government

1. Implementation of the new *Bougainville Public Service Management Act* 2014, is a key priority for 2015, including:

- i) Implement the Public Service Code of Conduct, establishing sound values and ethical standards for all public servants in the new Bougainville Public Service;
- ii) Supporting general orders and policies;
- iii. recruitment to the new public service structure;
- iv. effective human resource development processes;
- v) Robust performance appraisal and compliance processes.

2. *Implement the Bougainville Public Finance (Management*

*and Administration) Act* 2014 and the *Bougainville Government Contracts and Tenders Act* 2014 came into force on 15 May 2014. All financial and contractual functions are now administered by the Bougainville government.

3. Examine the option and implement outsourced key financial management processes in order to migrate from existing moribund and failing financial processes to efficient, industry standard processes.

4. Delegate reasonable financial responsibilities down to District levels and establish District cash offices.

5. Define the linkages between the role, functions and accountabilities for the second-tier of government in Bougainville and the Bougainville Public Service.

6. Coordinate activities to progress the implementation of the Joint Recommendations

of the Autonomy Review, including:

i) Developing a work plan with expert advice and support from development partners to start preparations for the Referendum

ii) Assessment of the conditions stated in the Bougainville Peace Agreement, namely, peace and reconciliation initiatives, weapons disposal and good governance.

7. Streamline resource and manage the orderly and efficient transfer of high priority powers and functions to Bougainville.

8. Continue preparations and funding for the 2015 Bougainville Elections and Council of Elders Elections in late 2015 or early 2016.

9. Implement the determinations (including funding) on remuneration for Ministers and Members of the ABG.

# Low tax collection delays fiscal self reliance

By Joe Morokana

## “ABGs’ internal revenue is below the self-reliance level as the main taxes that contribute to its’ internal revenue have not been collected effectively since 2007.”

Said John Momis

One of the seven priorities of the Autonomous Bougainville Government is to reach a level of income self-reliance before 2020. Successive ABG leaders have discussed economic recovery, our current President; Chief Dr John Momis shared similar sentiments at a recent parliament meeting:

According to Internal Revenue Commission (IRC) statistics, Personal Income Tax and Goods and Service Tax (GST) have only contributed a meagre K10.5 million per annum to the ABG.

“We can improve tax collection”, said Mr Robert Perokai, the officer overseeing the IRC Office in Buka. With appropriate long term programs such as effective awareness and enforcement can increase the number of businesses contributing tax.”

According to the tax figures from the IRC, many Small to Medium Enterprises have not lodged their tax returns for assessments. The business sectors according to the IRC figures, have not lodged in their returns.

For example, in real estate, landlords have not

registered for tax purposes or lodged their tax returns. IRC has not conducted a full audit and inspections on businesses in Central and South Bougainville due to limited funds and logistics problems for mobility. ABG Chief Collector of Taxes, Mr Peter Siana, believes that the current K10million tax revenue can be doubled if only people were willingly to comply with the existing tax system.

“We can double the current internal tax collection to K20 million,” which means more funds for public services like

schools, road maintenance and clinics.

“There is so much money around; the problem is lack of a system in place to effectively accommodate tax regulation in Bougainville. Another issue is that Bougainville Taxation Office (BTO) has only 1 staff (the chief collector) while 2 officers are only attached to BTO from the finance Division. It needs to have its own structure to effectively and efficiently deliver to the expectation of our people,” Mr Siana said.

# Mr Monovi Amani appointed as Chief Secretary and Head of the Public Service



## Statement by President and Chairman of Bougainville Senior Appointments Committee, Chief Dr. John Momis



Chief Secretary Monovi Amani

**As President and Chairman of the Bougainville Senior Appointments Committee I am pleased to announce that after an extensive recruitment and selection process the Bougainville Senior Appointments Committee has invited Mr Monovi Amani to take up the position of Chief Secretary and Head of the Bougainville Public Service.**

Mr Amani, aged 52 is from Mortlock Island. He was the Provincial

Administrator for New Ireland Province a position he has held for the last two years before recruited to his new post. Prior to that he was CEO Planning and Finance in that Administration. The new Chief Secretary has previously been a business and taxation consultant, a lecturer in finance and accounting, a senior officer in the National Housing Corporation and a tax

assessor with IRC. Mr Monovi Amani has degrees in Commerce, Accounting and Business Administration. He also has certificates and diplomas in financial management and tertiary teaching. Since 1992 Mr Amani has been a member of the Australian Society for Chartered Practising Accountants.

The Senior Appointments Committee recognised that Mr Amani had served at the very top of both government and the private sector in different executive management capacities within and outside of PNG.

In his role as Chief Executive Officer of Planning and Finance for the New Ireland Provincial Administration he developed a performance financial management framework that enabled the province to develop its annual budget with clear linkages to performance indicators established.

As the Provincial Administrator Monovi Amani has been able to develop a new public service approach targeted at improving service delivery whilst streamlining the processes and mindful of the cost of services. The new Chief Secretary’s organisation skills are of a very high standard and he has been able to work very well in turning New Ireland Government

vision and political goals to improve services in the rural communities. This is exactly what Bougainville needs today.

We were impressed by other elements of Mr Amani’s wide-ranging career. He has been involved with teaching at the MBA level on both strategic management and in particular on the development of organizational visions and mission statements to drive organisations to achieve their goals. He has demonstrated success in developing a strong sense of achieving results under different approaches including the development of teams that compliment each other.

Specific competencies and experience relevant to Bougainville include extensive work experience and skills in financial management and his involvement with landowner groups and negotiations in mining and logging projects which have enabled him to develop resilience and maintaining a high level of ethical conduct. His international exposure has also enabled him to see the big picture and to put complex organizational challenges into local context for analysis and seeking solutions.

The BSAC interviewed three highly qualified

candidates and after considering all background and career information Mr Amani was chosen as the preferred applicant. The Committee received a report from the independent panel on the three shortlisted applicants and the Committee then chose to interview the three candidates.

The executive recruitment firm assisting the ABG and the Committee with this recruitment has completed background and referee checks. Mr Amani will come to the ABG highly recommended by very senior Papua New Guinea government officers whom Bougainville respects.

I want to take this opportunity to record my thanks to Mr Chris Siriosi for acting as Chief Administrator since August 2013 and more recently as Chief Secretary. Mr Siriosi has worked extremely hard. The progress under his leadership in the last 15 months has been substantial. Included in those achievements is establishing the Bougainville Public Service and its new departments, introducing the Bougainville public finance system, revitalising the annual budget process for 2015 with greater community and district engagement, improved engagement with the

National Government, overseeing the preparation of a high quality budget submission that resulted in a 50% increase in recurrent budget grants, contributing to the interim transition mining laws and overseeing the start of a series of the high impact projects including the opening of Aropa Airport, the sealing of Buka Town roads and contracting the first 20 kilometres of sealing for the Buka Ring Road.

Chris has a valuable contribution to make to Bougainville. I have spoken with him and we will work through a number of options for Chris to remain engaged serving the ABG and the people of Bougainville. I record my thanks to all the other candidates.

Once Mr Monovi Amani is in office the Senior Appointments Committee will consult with him, and the appropriate minister, on the remaining appointments of the 13 departmental heads for which there are over 150 applications. These appointments will be made in February.

CHIEF DR. JOHN L. MOMIS, GCL, MHR, PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN BOUGAINVILLE SENIOR APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

[BACKGROUND: the Bougainville Senior Appointments Committee consists of President Momis, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr Andrew Miriki, Bishop Tim Arthur representing the churches, Mrs Hona Hollan appointed by the Bougainville Women’s Federation and appointed by the PNG Law Society Mr Hubert Kikira. Under Bougainville law the Committee received a report from the independent panel of Secretary John Kali, Sir Paul Songo and Mr Simon Pentanu ranking the applicants.]



Each edition we will feature reports from areas of the Autonomous Bougainville Government

## Department of Mining

# Bougainville Peace Agreement. Awareness on the Referendum Pillar.

**What the BPA says. Part C: Agreed Principles on Referendum. Paragraph 309 states that the National government will move amendments to the National Constitution to guarantee a referendum on Bougainville's future political status.**

It also states in paragraph 310 that the choices available in the referendum will include a separate independence for Bougainville.

**What does the National Constitution say about Bougainville's Referendum?**

The National Constitution Part XIV, Section 338 – 343 provides for Bougainville's Referendum.

Section 338: Referendum to be held.

Subject to this section, 1. A referendum on the future political status of Bougainville shall be held in accordance with this division.

2. Subject to subsection (7), the referendum shall be held on a date after consultation by the Bougainville Government with the National Government, which date shall not be earlier than 10 years and not withstanding any other provision, not more than 15 years after the election of the first Bougainville Government.

**What the BPA says about the Conduct of Referendum.**

The BPA states in part C, paragraph 312 that:

The constitutional amendments will guarantee that a referendum will be

held no earlier than 10 years and in any case, no later than 15 years after the election of the first Autonomous Government.

When the conditions of weapons disposal and good governance have been met, paragraph 313 (b) stipulates that both GoPNG and ABG will cooperate to ensure progress is made towards achievement and maintenance of these benchmarks.

**Good Governance Benchmarks.**

As stipulated in paragraph 313 (a) of the BPA states that benchmarks to be used for determining good governance will take into account international standards, as they are applicable in Bougainville and the rest of PNG.

**How will these benchmarks be monitored**

**and evaluated?**

Article 313 (c) tells us that the agreed procedures for review and resolution of disputes will be used. These are the review of the Autonomy arrangement provisions in the BPA part 15 paragraphs 298-307. Any disputes will be addressed through the Joint Supervisory Body as stipulated in Article 11 of the BPA paragraphs 263–264 and paragraph 308.

**Benchmarks on weapons disposal.**

Part E of Weapons Disposal Article 1, paragraph 329 mentions the Weapons Disposal Plan adopted by the Peace Process Coordination Committee (PPCC) on 9 may 2001 and that its implementation must comply with paragraph 324.

A weapons disposal plan adopted by the

PPCC was implemented and supervised by the United Nations before the election of the first ABG; HOWEVER, some weapons were removed from the containers before they were destroyed. So what next?

If the Constitutional Commission allows for referendum to be exercised in Bougainville then the ABG is obligated to ensure that it is followed through Good Governance and draw down of functions of powers and its implementation.

Bougainvilleans must work to ensure all the pre-conditions of the referendum set in the Bougainville Peace Agreement are met to enable the self determination of Bougainville is done consensually.

Each edition we will feature reports from district administrations

## Buin District

# Rais fam i kirap long Tonolei

Chief, Peter Toou i trenim komuniti long planim rais long ples Tantareki



**Long dispela ledition, mipela i lukluk long ol wok wanpela man i woklong mekim long ples Tantareki insait long Buin District. Nem bilong em Chief, Peter Toou. Dispela em stori bilong rais projek wea Peter i wokim na trenim ol yut na komuniti long Tonolei. Hia nau em stori bilong em.**

Chief Peter Toou em i startim rais farm long Ples Tonolei insait long Buin Distrik long South Bogenvil. Long taim Peter istap yangpla boi yet, papa bilong em i bin lainim em long planim rais. Peter ibin startim rais faming olsem wanpela eksperimen tasol na bihain long 3 pela mun,

em i kisim 15 bags. Em i usim tredisenol pasin bilong milim rais na em wantem family i traim namba wan kaikai bilong rais ol yet i planim. Chief Peter i lukim olsem rais i kamap gut na em i bin baim ol komuniti wok grup na ol i bin klinim 1 hekta long planim moa rais.

Wantem dispela Peter i bin kisim 1 tonne. Ol man meri long komuniti i lukim nau olsem pita i wok long wokim gutpela project na ol i kirap nogut. Peter i putim 50 pela flower bags rice aninit long haus bilong em na em i go long Buka long painim rais mill. Peter igo long Dipatmen bilong Praimeri Industri (DPI) na askim ol long halivim em long wanpela rais mill.

Wokman bilong DPI long Buka i tokim Peter olsem fopela rice mill bilong Buin Distrik istap na em i ken kisim wanpela igo long Buin na usim wantem komuniti long kisim halivim. Peter i kisim mill igo long Buin na toktok wantem Chief bilong ples bilong em na chief i hamamas tru long wok Peter i mekim. Nau Peter i wokim moa



awenes na ol narapela man meri long komuniti i stat long planim rais nau. Intrest bilong planim rice i kamap strong long komuniti na igo inap long Konnou na Baubake. Peter i bung wantem komuniti na ol i millim rice na em i stat salim 1 kilo long 80 toea tasol. Ol Komuniti i hamamas long gutpela sevis na prais wea Peter i givim long komuniti. Taim ol gutpela wok i wok long kamap na komuniti i kisim halivim, Peter i go lukim Thomas Lugabai long ofis bilong President na gavman i givim halim long moni mak 200 000 na kontrakta i wokim gutpela haus bilong millim na storim rais. Long wankain taim, Chief Peter i kontiniu long wokim aweness long growim

rice na long kirapim dispela rice indastri insait long Bogenvil wea bai ABG na ol pipol i ken kisim halivim long em. Na tu, Peter i bilip olsem Bogenvil i ken growim rais bilong em yet na stopim ol import bilong rais ikam insait long ol arapela kantri. “Yumi yet, wanem samting yumi painim, yumi mas kisim long graun. Referendum na independens em yumi yet bai mekim. Em i stat wantem ol kain liklik samting olsem,” Chief Peter i tok. “Yumi mas salensim yumi yet na work hat,” chief Peter i tok. “Maski long askim ol Member long moni olgeta taim. Dispela pasin i mekim yumi les long wok.” Chief Peter i tok, Sapos yu mekim gutpela wok kamap long peles, orait

ol narapela tu bai lukim na bihainim yu. Dispela pasin i kamapim gutpela komuniti i wok hat. Long kirapim bek Bogenvil, yumi mas wok hat long komuniti na kamap gutpela eksampol long ol yangpela man meri. Bihain tai mol bai kamap ol lida bilong ailan bilong yumi na bai ol i ken wokim wok long stretpela pasin tu. Peter i kontiniu long planim rais, halivim ol niupela growa na mekim awenes long rais faming insait long ples bilong em. Em i salim rais bilong em long ol skul na ol komuniti igat laik long rais.

Sapos yu laikm moa toktok long rais farming wea Chief peter i wokim, you ken toktok long em long mobile namba: 70394496

## Press Release: From the office of the Panguna Mine Negotiations

**The BEI Kol or Domangmitta between the people of Bougainville and the Bougainville Copper Limited (BCL) can now go ahead as soon as the Bougainville Executive Council (BEC) approves a date for the staging of the ceremony in Arawa.** The landowners requested the Domangmitta in 2012 during the first meeting between the ABG, landowners and BCL as a precondition to any negotiations on the future of Panguna Mine. It is a concept of traditional appeasement according to the custom of the Nasioi people of Kieta, Central Bougainville.

The domangmitta symbolizes a readiness by both parties to reconcile past differences and most importantly through negotiations, forge a new relationship. After two years of discussions and five months of awareness (June – October 2014), the ABG has secured the unconditional support of Central Bougainville Ex-combatants for the ceremony to go ahead.

According to the office of Panguna Mine Negotiations, Mr. Raymond Masono, a Memorandum of understanding paving the way for the staging of the ceremony was signed between landowner representatives and

central Bougainville Ex-combatants on Monday 3rd November 2014 in Arawa.

“The MOU is a significant break through in the ABG’s efforts to obtain majority consensus to stage this ceremony,” Mr Masono said. The MOU is a culmination of five months of consultation and awareness on the basis and purpose of the Bel Kol. This is inline with the ABG’s all inclusive, consensual, collaborative and consultative approach of engaging with the people of Bougainville to express their views on major developmental issues affecting the region.

“The staging of the ceremony will be a major

milestone in the process of preparing the ABG and landowners to negotiate the future of Panguna Mine,” Masono said. It now means that the Bel Kol organizing committee co-chaired by acting secretary Department of the Community Government and the executive managers of Kieta and Panguna Districts can now proceed with the planning, organization and staging of the ceremony tentatively scheduled for February 2015 in Arawa.

“I believe that the spirit of commonsense has again prevailed in finding a solution to a difficult and sensitive issue,” Masonao said. “The Majority of

Bougainvilleans are looking forward to the Bel Kol ceremony. With the signing of the MOU to secure unconditional support to stage the Bel Kol having been achieved, the organizing committee can now focus on delivering a product for which the people of Bougainville would be proud.

Raymond J. Masono  
Director (Panguna  
Mine Negotiations)



# Operation Render Safe 2014 sets record in disposing WW2 munitions



**T**he dangers posed by 16 tonnes of unexploded World War II ordnance have been greatly reduced for the community of Torokina, Bougainville, following the conclusion of Operation Render Safe 2014. This makes Operation Render Safe 2014 the largest ever in terms of amount by weight of explosives destroyed.

The Australian Defence Force (ADF)-led mission saw Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams from Australia, the United States, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Canada and Solomon Islands launching from HMAS Choules and

searching for and safely destroying World War II era munitions. Commander of the Multinational Joint Task Force, Captain Jay Bannister, said Operation Render Safe cleared 109 sites of 2293 items of ordnance that totalled more than 16,000 kilograms of explosives.

Working in close consultation with the Autonomous Bougainville Government, the multi-national Render Safe team destroyed the dangerous munitions that had threatened the Torokina

community since the end of the war in 1945.

“It is the largest Render Safe undertaken by the ADF; not just in terms of explosives destroyed but the number of personnel involved - almost 500 in total,” Captain Bannister said.

“We have received exceptional support from the Bougainville Police Service and the people of the Torokina district in what has been an extremely complex, sustained amphibious operation.”

“Render Safe has made

Torokina safer for generations to come. It will enable safe farming and gardening, and has contributed to weapons disposal in Bougainville.”

Five months before the operation commenced, a small community engagement team worked with the Autonomous Bougainville Government to educate the local Bougainville people about the Render Safe mission and the dangers posed by the unexploded ordnance. With the conclusion of the operation all military personnel have now

left Bougainville.

Detailed information about the unexploded ordnance located and removed, as well as information about war relic sites found during the operation, has been provided to the ABG. Hydrographic maps for the waters around the former jetty site have also been handed over. These will facilitate future plans for the construction of a wharf in Torokina.

Render Safe is a continuing peacetime operational commitment to the people of the South West Pacific.

## MV Rapoise Chief nearly done

By Anthony Kaybing



**T**he Autonomous Region of Bougainville's journey into the shipping industry has achieved another milestone with the soon to arrive vessel, MV Rapoise Chief. The vessel as it has been christened will service the West Coast of mainland

Bougainville as well as the atolls who are in desperate need of this service. MV Rapoise Chief will carry a crew of 6 and 53 passengers and can carry approximately 15 metric tonnes of cargo. Though the vessel is second hand it has undergone a

complete refitting with new two new engines, navigational equipment and a complete overhaul of the hull at the Marala Vitas Central Terminal & Shipyards Corporation in Manila, Philippines. The vessel is currently undergoing sea trials before it can set sail for Bougainville waters and the trials have shown that the vessel can reach speeds of up to 12 knots. Not to be outdone by Bougainville's flag carrier, the MV Chebu, the MV Rapoise Chief also offers aluminum seats and a fully functioning air-conditioned cabin area for the passengers to travel in comfort and style.

The vessel also features a sick bay and separate male and female toilets and showers for the passengers and crew. Due to the stringent measures put in place by the PNG National Maritime Service Authority the vessel will require minor tweaks to its operations and functions to meet the safety requirements enforced by the NMSA. The Autonomous Bougainville Government President, Chief Dr. John Momis said he was impressed with the work being done on the vessel. “The work done on MV Rapoise Chief by far exceeds my expectations and this I believe will

provide the best shipping service for our maritime needs in the west coast and to those in the atolls,” President Momis said. “A lot of people have put in a lot of hard work into this project, the ABG and Bougainville Executive Council, the Bougainville Administration and ofcourse the Chebu Shipping Company who have and are still working tirelessly to ensure the vessel comes home soon,” he added. The President has assured Bougainvilleans that once the vessel has passed the NMSA requirements it will set sail for Bougainville which maybe in the next month or so.

## Australia links Bougainvilleans to key services and helps improve community safety

**L**ast December, the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Julie Bishop announced an increase in Australia's support for the maintenance of vital road infrastructure in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

Ms Bishop made the announcement in a media release published on the Australia Foreign Minister's website.

She said that Australia assists the Autonomous Bougainville Government to maintain around 425 kilometres of its 600 kilometres main road network. And about 80 per cent of Bougainville's population of 300,000 people and schools and health facilities are located within seven kilometres of these roads.

Ms Bishop added that the Australian Government would extend the road maintenance program into the township of Buin in south Bougainville to help unlock the economic potential of this area and that the Australia Government will provide funding to res seal roads in Arawa, central Bougainville, to improve access to services and businesses.

“The road maintenance program has already expanded market opportunities for many Bougainvilleans. Improvements to the road between Arawa and Kokopau have cut travel time between these agricultural centres from nine to three hours.”

“The program also creates employment

opportunities for many Bougainvilleans, particularly women,” said Bishop.

The Minister also announced an expansion of Australia's support for the police barracks in Bougainville.

She said that the new barracks would assist the Bougainville Police Service to reach its goal of 100 more police officers on patrol by 2016.

Ms Bishop said that the male and female barracks would provide accommodation for 40 Bougainvilleans to undertake pre-recruitment training at the Police Training Centre in Buka next year.

This contribution was part of Australia's broader law and justice investment in Bougainville that has

included renovations and improvements to this training centre, building housing and courts, training police and lawyers, and supporting local dispute resolution.

Ms Bishop added that a growing and well-trained Bougainville Police Service was critical for providing the security and order that underpins peace, democracy and development for Bougainville.

“I am pleased that 16 women have been selected by their communities to undertake pre-recruit training next year to support the Autonomous Region's peace and development. If successful in their course, these trainees will be eligible to join the police as recruits,” Minister Bishop said.



People screening the Pawa Meri Film Series at Tanreki Village in the Haku Area of Buka District

**H**uman rights issues are important to the welfare of Bougainvilleans and the people must be aware of them.

This was highlighted after the recent Bougainville Human Rights Film Festival which was launched in Buka, Wakunai, Kieta and Buin Districts on the 10th - 17th of October this year.

The Bougainville Women's Federation Leader, Mrs Agnes Titus said that the success of the Human Rights Film Festival 2014 was realized because the committee members had regular weekly meetings for 2 months to plan and

organize with the focal points and with the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights in Port Moresby. The banners and CDs arrived on time well before the Festival commenced its tour of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

“The Human Rights Film Festival attracted more people in the village communities and should be the trend for future engagements,” said Mrs. Titus.

The Festival screened various Films – such as the Pawa Meri Series and other related films on Women

## Bougainville Human Rights Film Festival gains new height

in Business, HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and rural birth attendants particularly in Buka Town, Haku, Hahalais, Wakunai Primary school, Arawa and Buin town. It attracted about 1400 people participated in discussions.

The BWF advocate said that a lot of people expressed interest to be included in advocacy work with organizations that were already promoting human rights in their communities.

“Resource materials such as the CDs of the Pawa Meri series, T shirts, and other giveaways such as the Human Rights comic books, torches, water bottles and magazines were given out as gifts to the confident people who shared their views during the shows.” said Mrs. Titus.

In Buin, police officers will use the CDs in their communities during their community policing and

outreach programs. Some of the films that were screened included the Pawa Meri Series. The series were; The Voice of Change – a film which features the Nazareth Rehabilitation Centre at Chabai on Bougainville and other short films like the popular highlands series which feature Tuberculosis(TB), War on Witches, Bibiane's Story, Never Give Up and when we were Hela.

The Film Festival was made possible through the support of - Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights, UN Women, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Bougainville Women's Federation, United Nations Development Programmes (UNDP, World Vision, Volunteer Services Abroad (VSO) and North Bougainville Human Rights Committee.

### Notice:

**F**OLLOWING the resignation of the former director Mr Nick Peniai on Friday 9th January, Mr Jude Ariss is now the Acting Director of the Unity, Peace and Reconciliation Directorate until such time a permanent Director is appointed. Any matters regarding Peace and Reconciliation can be directed to his office located at Green House building in the Bougainville Administration Headquarters premisses, Buka.

**T**HE Acting Bougainville Electoral Commissioner Mr. George Manu has announced the appointment of Mr. Joseph Kaipu as the ABG Political Parties Registrar. Mr. Manu said the appointment was made by the Bougainville Executive Council on Thursday 15th January. Mr. Kaipu's role is to coordinate the registration of political parties that will be endorsing candidates during this year's ABG General Election. The Acting Electoral Commissioner said Mr. Kaipu officially assumed his position this month.

### Coming soon:

**U**SNS Mercy will be visiting Bougainville in June this year. In preparation for this visit, a team of personnel arrived in Bougainville this month to survey potential areas for US assistance. For More information, you can contact the US Embassy section on telephone Number: 321 1455 or Email: pdportmoresby@state.gov





# Community awareness

## Jomik Cup Tournament: Promoting peace and harmony through sports



The recent Jomik Cup tournament Themed, “Promoting peace and unity through sports,” held in Hutjena oval, Buka, attracted teams from as far as central and south Bougainville.

As a leading business house in the northern region, Jomik limited sponsored the tournament, which started on Sunday 18th through to 24 January and hosted men’s soccer and women’s volleyball.

This tournament is deemed the largest in the region so far with the prize money standing as, 10,000 kina for first prize soccer, 6,000 second place soccer and 4,000 third place soccer while volleyball first place is 5,000 kina, second place, 3,000 and 2, 000 for third placing.

Jomik’s Irene Huuma while officially opening the ceremony said that without the community Jomik wouldn’t be where it is today.

“As a token of appreciation for the community support we have decided to host this tournament and give back to the community while supporting peace and harmony in the region,” Ms Huuma said.

Games patron Mr. Anthony Tsora said that to ensure efficiency, the tournament is operating according to PNGFA and FIFA rules.

Mr Tsora while thanking Jomik limited for giving back to the community for a good cause added that this tournament is aimed at promoting the spirit of peace and harmony and reflect

unity amongst youths in Bougainville.

“We hope this tournament will continue throughout the region in years to come,” Mr Tsora added.

“The maximum number of teams expected to participate are 32 for soccer and 20 for volleyball,” Mr Tsora said, “due to the large number of teams affiliated, we have decided to develop a pool system where team can play in different pools in different locations.”

Entry forms are available at Jomik supermarket, Buka and entry fees can also be paid at the supermarket. Entry and player registration fee for Soccer is K615 and K317 for volleyball.

