



THE BOUGAINVILLE BULLETIN

Ph: 7111 3355 | Email: abgcommunications@gmail.com

NEW TRANSPORT FOR COMMUNITIES

Page 2

STORI PIKSA: OFFICIAL LEGAL YEAR OPENING IN BOUGAINVILLE

Page 9

GOVERNOR SUPPORTS SEAWEED FARMING

Page 13

Address key issues before Mine reopens: Daveona

The landowners of Panguna Mine say they will support the Autonomous Bougainville Government's (ABG) efforts to reopen the Mine only when key issues are addressed.

Mr Lawrence Daveona - Chairman of the SML Osikaia Landowners Association Inc. outlined these issues in a statement.

"We the land owners stand firm to inform ABG and the people of Bougainville; and we also believe it is in the best interest of all of us, that the following conditions be met before the ABG and the land owners negotiate the re-opening of the mine with Rio Tinto/BCL," he said.

1. Domangmingta (**BelKol**) must happen first before anything else. We want the Australian Government, Rio Tinto, PNG Government and the United Nations to take a lead role for the different roles they played during the colonial administration in forcing Bougainville to be part of PNG. Bougainville, by feature and geography are part of the Solomon Islands; and in forcing the Bougainville

Copper Agreement (BCA) down PNG colonial administration's and our throat.

2. Compensation for all damages to environment; and for the disturbance of our way of life (social inconvenience). As opposed to 1990 Outstanding Compensations (which BCL is legally liable under our 1986 Supplementary Agreement) we will demand General Compensation to cover the years from 1991 to the present day. This demand will include the rest of the people of Bougainville for damages and destruction to personal properties caused as a result of the Bougainville conflict.

3. Satisfactorily address relocation considering the population

and the future generations of the mine affected areas.

4. Awareness on mining law/bill must cover all areas of Bougainville for maximum input by all Bougainvilleans before ABG Parliament passes this law. The enactment of ABG mining law must take precedence over the negotiations and the re-opening of Panguna mine because it will regulate the mining industry on Bougainville. This new Bougainville Mining Law must address our main concern of the *"Stolen Rights"* and *Exclusive Right of Ownership*.

5. BCA is repealed in the National Constitution of PNG and must cease to operate in any way on Bougainville. BCA was

based on *"Fraudulent Inducement"* as the agreement was imposed upon PNG & Bougainville by the Australian Colonial Administration with the knowledge of the United Nations in 1967 when it was signed.

6. Health & Education must be satisfactorily addressed.

7. All reconciliations are completed all over Bougainville, including those of the Ex-combatants.

"Although we are the most poor on Bougainville in terms of land, rivers, scenic forest and flora and fauna, fish, wild animals, we also recognize our political journey established under the various agreements and our Bougainville Constitution,"

"We support ABG in its efforts to re-open Panguna because it intends to address the common aspirations of Bougainville; for which we fought for with so many lives lost and referendum for independence," Mr Daveona said.

"In conclusion, let us remind our brothers and sisters on Bougainville, that we the landowners of Panguna live with the destruction today, and our future generations will live with it for the rest of their lives unlike you our brothers and sisters. It is not of our doing that we are deprived of the fast running rivers, the forest that we once had, and rich soil, which was given to us by the creator himself. Our future generation of Panguna; how will they live?," Mr Daveona said.



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

Hello and welcome to this fourth edition of Bougainville’s very own tabloid newspaper; the *Bougainville Bulletin*.

Three editions have so far been published and successful distribution of more than 60, 000 copies throughout the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (ABG) and PNG. The Bulletin continues to develop and improve in reflecting the key issues such as the Bougainville Peace Agreement, Autonomy, Referendum and Weapons Disposal plan to 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 in line with the Bougainville Peace Agreement as it progresses towards achieving referendum in the near future.

We endeavour to engage the community in networking to encourage information flow between the Autonomous Bougainville

Government and its people, hence we have set up Community Information Centres. Our partnership is coordinated through the established Council of Elders (COEs) and Village Assemblies (VAs). 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 *Bougainville Bulletin* is and continues to be the platform where the Government and people can interact. The demand for information to reach the communities is high and we are responding to that need with an ambitious plan to increase the production of the Bougainville Bulletin to 50, 000 copies soon.

As usual we welcome ideas on how we can improve this newspaper or comments on any articles.

Thank you to those who have been contributing ideas and stories.

Happy Reading.

Robert Aneisia
Editor

Plans in pipeline for youth meet

The United Church in Bougainville is holding the bi-annual New Guinea Youth Convention in Arawa from 15 - 20th December this year.

The Regional Children’s and Youth Coordinator, Mr. Robert Sanopo said children and youth from West New Britain, East New Britain and New Ireland Provinces would take part in the week – long event.

“The Convention will be highlighted with Bible studies, Crusades and elective speakers.” said Mr Sanopo.

He said the facilitators would come from the Assembly of Children and Youth Ministry Coordinators in Port Moresby. An invitation has been given to the other United Church Circuits in Bougainville.

- Joseph Morokana

What’s inside

Bougainville news.....4
ABG Updates.....6
2015 Election Updates.....7
Community & Culture
Stori blong mi.....8
Stori piksa.....9
Bulletin forum.....10
Department focus.....12
District focus.....13
Sports.....16

About the *Bougainville Bulletin*

The *Bougainville Bulletin* is a publication of the Autonomous Bougainville Government, produced by the Bureau of Media and Communication: Editor Robert Aneisia. All articles are written by Jacqueline Ombeba, Joe Morokana, Tanya Lahies and Tommy Alasia unless otherwise noted.

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

- Email: abgcommunications@gmail.com
- Bureau of Media and Communication, Buka airport
- Post: Editor, Bougainville Bulletin, Bureau of Media and Communication, Autonomous Bougainville Government, PO Box 322, Buka, Mobile: 7111 3355, Autonomous Region of Bougainville
- autonomusbougainvillegovernment@facebook.com

The *Bougainville Bulletin* is produced with funding support from the Governance and Implementation Fund, a partnership between the governments of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, Australia and New Zealand.

The editor reserves the final right to publish any story or not.

Government delivers transport to communities

People of Bougainville have been urged to look after assets that the Autonomous Bougainville Government delivers to them.

Acting Secretary for Community Government. Herbert Kimai made these remarks while presenting three vehicles and five dinghies with outboard motors to eight Council Of Elders (COEs) recently in Buka town.

“The ABG aims at delivering basic services

and vital resources to the community level and so this year onwards there will be more changes and improvements at the district levels to serve the rural people and so the people must appreciate what the government is doing and take care of the resources,” Mr. Kimai said.

Mr. Kimai also thanked the Minister for Community Government David Sisito for supporting the department to see that assets were

delivered to the people.

Minister for Community Government, David Sisito shared similar sentiments and called on the leaders in the COEs not to misuse the vehicles and boats presented but ensure that these assets serve their purpose.

“These assets are for you to serve your communities so use them wisely and help to serve the women, youths, police, teachers, health and other stakeholders,” Minister Sisito said.



Rau conducts historical peace ceremony

The Bureau of Peace and Reconciliation has so far completed 70 per cent of reconciliations throughout Bougainville and is looking forward to completing the remaining ones before the end of this year.

It conducted the recent reconciliation in Rau Constituency, Wakunai district, central Bougainville. This was the first major reconciliation ceremony and held at the former community government site. Officers from the Directorate of Peace and Reconciliation witnessed the occasion.

People from as far as Taonita Teop in the Tinputz Districts and the surrounding communities

attended the historical event.

Acting Director for Peace and Reconciliation Directorate, Jude Ariss, said reconciliation exercises throughout Bougainville was vital and must be completed before 31st December 2015.

He said it was his priority to fast track all high impact reconciliations before the deadline. “Medium and low impact cases will be an on going process until we complete all of them,” he said.

Rau constituency had been left off peace and reconciliation processes in the past due to insufficient funds that had been

allocated to the Peace and Reconciliation Directorate.

Mr Ariss told the people of Rau that the Autonomous Bougainville Government should allocate more funds in order to complete the reconciliation for sensitive cases.

He encouraged the Ex-Combatants to follow the procedure and register their cases with their Council of Elders (COE).

“Cases registered with COE will be regarded as genuine and will be easily funded by the ABG through the Peace and Reconciliation Directorate whenever the funding is made available,” Mr Ariss said.

Decent burial of two men reconciles Guava families

A small but significant reconciliation ceremony was held in Guava village in February to end a drawn out feud among relatives of two men who were killed during the Bougainville conflict.

The remains of the first landowner killed at the start of the conflict in 1989, Mathew Kove, were finally moved from the jungles of the Crown Prince Ranges and buried in Guava-Ositeka village. Late Kove was killed by his own nephew, late Mathew Miringtoro. This incident had caused a feud among the families of the two men for more than two decades. In retaliation, Late Miriongtoro was killed on the order of late Francis Ona, who was the Commander of the militants. Miringtoro was buried at the Koromia Catholic Mission cemetery.

This year, February 15, Kove and Miringtoro’s remains were brought

home to Guava village and buried next to each other. This significant event after 27 years in the history of Bougainville crisis was put to rest as a result of a long and protracted reconciliation effort by the chiefs of Guava Emai Families’ Reconciliation committee which began in October of 2009. The Chairman of Panguna mine SML Osikaiang Landowners Association, Lawrence Daveona who spearheaded Guava Emai Families’ funding efforts through the Association from mid June 2013 was a relieved man after the conclusion of the above event.

During the small burial and reconciliation ceremony

in a small chapel at Guava village, Mr. Daveona and his elder brother Bernard Devata were all in tears, seeing that their uncle, late Kove’s bones and also their cousin Miringtoro’s were finally returned home from where they were buried and put to rest at home.

Mr. Daveona thanked several groups that supported him and the Guava Email Families to finally reach reconciliation. These were the Autonomous Bougainville Government’s Mining Department and the Reconciliation Office with input from the then acting Chief Secretary, Chris Siriosi; Mr. Paul Coleman of BCL and the SML Landowner’s Association Executives and others

BCL to join Bel Kol

For well over a year, we have been engaging with Bougainville Copper Limited (BCL) and landowners regarding the conduct of a reconciliation ceremony or “Bel Kol”, as the first step towards BCL establishing a presence on Bougainville.

Through the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) budget we have allocated substantial funding (K7 million) to these preparations from our own resources, a large amount given the small size of the ABG budget:

We have negotiated with BCL, the Government of Papua New Guinea (GPNG) and development agencies to provide funding for ABG and landowners to participate fully and effectively in negotiations over coming years.” Chief Dr John Momis.

Bougainville Copper Limited is pleased to have accepted an invitation to join Bougainville’s Bel Kol Events Committee.

The Committee is responsible for organizing the Bel Kol ceremony. This event will be an adaptation of the traditional practice in which parties hold a ceremony to begin a process of negotiations to restore relationships.

BCL had requested to be included as part of the Committee and was subsequently invited to participate in preparations

for the ceremony.

The Committee had recently closed out a phase of internal negotiations between stakeholders in central Bougainville.

With local alignment strengthened, the Committee moved focus to concentrate on preparations for the event itself and this was another factor in the timing of the invitation for BCL’s participation.

In December 2014, BCL joined a broad representation of Kieta and Panguna stakeholders and the Autonomous Bougainville Government as members of the committee.

Despite uncertainty surrounding legal tenure over its mining leases on Bougainville, BCL remains committed to the process of Bel Kol and to the deliberations of the Joint Panguna Negotiation Coordination Committee.

With more regular visits to central Bougainville, BCL will now progress fact finding with urgency to ensure the company has fulfilled its requirements for participation in the Bel Kol ceremony by mid-2015.

BCL wants to ensure there are broadly shared expectations and support for the Bel Kol ceremony. This will be achieved through discussions and interviews with a range of local stakeholders, as guided by the Events Committee.

- Bel Kol Committee

who were instrumental in channelling funds from the Central Bougainville’s national member Jimmy Miringtoro’s District Services Improvement Program Funding (DSIP) towards the reconciliation.

Mr Daveona also thanked the Bougainville Peace Building Program office and Charismatic Prayer team for their inputs towards the reconciliation process.

Big plans mooted for bureau of Media and Communications

By Tanya Lahies

The media and writers in Bougainville were urged to play an important role this year when disseminating information. Chief Secretary and Head of Public Service, Mr Monovi Amani made the remarks in the first ever media dinner in February at the Hutjena Secondary School Hall.

Mr Amani encouraged the media players from print, radio and online, to provide the service by disseminating information in line with the development goals of the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG).

He stressed that messages must be accurate and clear as possible and made available to the vast population in the rural communities. Mr Amani acknowledged the Bureau of Media and Communications for the initiative in uniting all media players and urged everyone to work together.



Chief Secretary Mr Monovi Amani

The Autonomous Bougainville Government's Minister for Community Development, Melchior Dare attended the dinner on behalf of President Chief Dr. John Momis. The President is also the Minister for Communications.

Mr Dare acknowledged the media players for their input to information awareness on radio, print and online. He said information must reach the rural communities and must reflect on the



Director Mr Robert Anesia

progress of the Autonomous Bougainville Government's development status, as the vast majority of people want information about the government's progress.

Head of the Bureau of Media and Communication, Robert Anesia, said that the media dinner was an attempt to unite all media players to work together and walk together towards the same direction, when delivering messages about the ABG and especially when Bougainville was approaching a crucial time of referendum and

the elections this year.

Mr Anesia also said that this was the first media dinner in his 13 years of service in the Public Service, to see the media fraternity together.

He said that the Bureau has big plans for this year, one being the Awards for Bougainville journalists and writers and the other is the Bougainville Arts Federations Awards. The Awards are being planned for the end of this year. The awards will be given for the best writer or journalists who promote positive stories about Bougainville using online, radio and print.

Mr Anesia said that the Minister for Community Development is aware of the plans and that a policy will be developed and presented to the Bougainville Executive Council (BEC). The media meetings intended to be a quarterly event.

Veteran doctor calls it a day

Dr Barnabas Matanu has retired after 19 years of service

Buka General Hospital's long serving Director of Medical Services (DMS) Dr, Barnabas Matanu has retired after nearly two decades of service.

He was given an official send-off on 23 January.

To mark his retirement a special dinner was held at the hospital's conference room that staff and family members attended.

"Having known Matanu for a long time, I would say he is a humble and dedicated public servant who worked tirelessly to develop hospital services since the restoration period, we will miss him," hospital Chief Executive Officer Dr. Cyril Imako said. "Doctors and staff would like to wish him all the best in the future."

The veteran Doctor bid farewell to friends and colleagues saying that it was time he hung his boots and spend more time with his family.

"I'm confident that the hospital is in capable hands and I thank all of you for serving together and for the comradeship through good and bad times," Dr Matanu said.

The event ended with the nurses performing a drama to depict a day in life of Dr. Matanu. He had served more than thirty years at the time of his retirement.

midwives and other clinical staff in the field and are designed to be reusable and robust," she said.

Meanwhile, Secretary for Health in Bougainville, Dr Anthony Pumpara said emergency obstetric care was one of the most important interventions that can supported to improve maternal survival in Bougainville.

oximetre.

Australian High Commission's Minister Counsellor for Bougainville, Jane Gresham, said the equipment, that was delivered last November and distributed throughout the region, would make pregnancy and childbirth safer.

"The items were selected to best meet the needs of

Australia provides equipment to health facilities

The Australian Government has provided K800,000 worth of essential maternal and child health equipment to 35 health facilities in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

The equipment was donated at the request of the Autonomous Bougainville Government's department of health. The equipment would enable health workers to effectively provide mothers and children with clinical care and perform emergency obstetric care and other monitoring and medical procedures.

The equipment included

infant resuscitators, electric suction pumps and examination lamps for ten larger facilities, manual suction pumps for all facilities, adult and infant scales, universal mounting carts, foetal Dopplers, glucometers, nebulizers and birthing mats.

The Arawa health facility received a diathermy machine, X-ray processor, developer and a pulse

Community building its own swing bridge across Tupukas River



The Tupukas River in Arawa holds many fond memories for those who had associations with it. The Tupukas Primary School gets its name from being situated close to the tail end of the River. Further upstream at the head of the River, however, it is a different story for communities who live near it.

They know the destruction and havoc the Tupukas River causes when it is flooded.

Crossing it is the only means of transport and communication that support the Singakai, Kabaku and the communities along the Tupukas section of the Bovonari area. The River is a vital link for the people yet successful governments from the provincial government era to the present had not considered building a bridge to help

"If we don't build it, who will do it for us? It would probably take another 20 years if we wait on the government."

Mr. Paul Taana

the people. The prospect of building a bridge had been merely a dream.

This dream is now slowly taking shape to hopefully become a reality soon. In 2012, two community leaders initiated the idea of a swing bridge over this section of the river. They were Mr Nehemiah Kompaon, a partially blind vegetable farmer and Mr Paul Taana, a tradesman with a record of constructing bridges and community crossings in the Bovoanari area under his belt.

The community

contributed money and raised K300 and started the project. Most of the building materials are borrowed from individuals on a trust basis or partially paid. The labour is free while the only payments are for hardware materials and consumable such as fuel and oil.

Most of the funding came out of the Mr. Kompaon's cabbage plots while Mr. Taana is the mastermind behind the construction. For as long as these two men can remember, they had been promised bridges by successive government

but to no avail.

The drive to help themselves came from seeing the people suffer at times from the might of the Tupukas Rver.

"Our women lose their goods, our children would miss school and vehicles are frequently washed downstream and damaged while crossing the flooded river," says Kompaon.

After the foundation of the bridge was laid, they saw that it was big enough to accommodate vehicles, thus, they decided to build it for vehicle crossing. While the bridge is far from complete, the funds are depleted. Construction has been stalled since January this year and the two leaders are looking at ways to source funding to complete the bridge.

"The 30 metre bridge has been constructed with manpower, even the

massive 600mm "H" beam steel frames were hauled across with chain blocks," Mr. Kompaon says, "we're half way through, can the ABG, our National Minister and regional member meet us halfway?"

In an interview with the *Bougainville Bulletin*, the two leaders said they had consulted the Department of Works for assistance and were told that the construction cost would exceeded K500, 000 and would require a certified engineer to do the scoping and the job be put on tender.

Mr Taana is calling for assistance from their elected leaders in the Autonomous Government to help them complete the project.

"If the bridge is not completed, it would be extreme for us, to say the least. Elections are around the corner, lets hope for the right responses."

Respect President Momis: Former combatant

A former combatant from Siwai District in South Bougainville has challenged his counterparts to respect the law and not instigate trouble that would disrupt the current peace process.

By Joseph Morokana

Mr. Phillip Mutono's made the comments following the recent move in January by some former combatants to stage a demonstration against ABG President Dr Chief John Momis - to force him to submit to their various demands. *(see page 10*

on forum Part 1 for the demands)

"Nowhere in the world in a post conflict era, can very few ex combatants force a democratically elected leader to submit to their own vested agendas. In Bougainville, they no longer exist. They are now

civilians. Who are they to challenge a legitimate Government? Mr. Mutono questioned.

He said if they want to challenge the President, they should do it in a fair election.

Mr Mutono has appealed to the formers

combatants to put away their differences and work with the Momis - Nisira Government to prepare for the referendum in few years' time.

"In Bougainville, we must respect our laws. The law is there to regulate our lives and must not be

tempered with," Mr Mut said.

Mr Mutono also stressed that the issue of weapon disposal was an ongoing program to be supported by all the parties concerned and there must be commitments from all sides to be completed.

Autonomous Bougainville Government highlights

From the ashes of conflict, two Governments have come together, agreed to jointly implement a peace agreement, law and order and normalcy has returned. With limited capacity and resources, there has been real progress in implementing the Peace Agreement. Progress is made but hard earned.

Mission

- Safeguard and preserve our unique customs, traditions and cultural identity.
- Seek justice, equality, a peaceful and secure society through democracy.
- Strive to eliminate discrimination, poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, disease and corruption.
- Creation of development opportunities and sustainable livelihoods for all Bougainvilleans, both present and future generations.
- Safeguard and utilize our natural environment and natural resources for the betterment of all our people in a sustainable manner.
- Empowerment of people and communities to improve their wellbeing and self-reliance.

The Momis five Pillars

1. Unification of all Bougainvilleans
2. Economic development to improve and develop the welfare of the people of Bougainville through this new approach
3. Secure Bougainville’s political future under the Bougainville Peace Agreement. This means fully implementing autonomy, preparing for referendum on independence and achieving complete weapons disposal
4. Promote good governance and rule of

law, and in the process end the evil of corruptions

5. Building public awareness of the Peace Agreement and the Autonomous Bougainville Government’s policies.

Achievements

- Laws:**
- Establishment of the Bougainville Constitution
 - 44 laws passed
 - Amendment to the Organic Law on Peace-building and subsequent repealing of the National Constitution
 - Seven memorandums of Understanding on the draw down of powers and functions from the National departments to ABG divisions

- Services:**
- Reopening of over 33 health centres and a general hospital
 - Construction and staffing of over 300 educational institutions, and the draw down of 101 powers from the Department of Education
 - Establishment of the Bougainville Police Service
 - Establishment of court circuit, court services and court houses
 - Restoration of public utilities and services: Shipping, postal, banking, airlines, power and telecommunications
 - Implementation of rehabilitation programs
 - Construction of 15 bridges, trunk and feeder roads with donor support
 - Launching of High Impact Projects
 - Successful completion of Operation render safe by the Australian Defense force
 - Establishment of MV Chebu Shipping Service
 - Reopening and the establishment of the Aropa Airport
 - Launching of the Community mobile radio

(Radio Ples Lain)

- Implementation of Bougainville standard time

Governance

- Establishment of Autonomous Bougainville Public Service, Payroll and transitional arrangements
- Creation of Council of Elders as the second tier of government
- Establishment of the Bougainville Electoral Commission and the successful conduct of two Bougainville elections
- Draw down and the establishment of ABG Mining Department
- Joint Supervisory Body established and the review of autonomy complete
- Memorandum of understanding signed by the Prime Minister and the President on joint implementation of the BPA awareness
- Establishment of the transitional mining act
- Public service reforms
- Establishment of the Bougainville Peace Building Strategy from Panguna Peace Building Strategy
- Launching of Peace Awareness road show
- Launching of Referendum prayer campaign

Challenges

- Implementing the draw down of powers and functions from the National Government
- Preparations for the referendum including an awareness strategy
- Ensuring weapons disposal
- Unification of all Bougainville’s Political factions
- Limited mass media/ telecommunications reach and infrastructure.

Key Dates	
Joint Declaration for Peace and Recreation	30th November, 1989
Endeavor Accord	1st March, 1990
Agreement to end hostilities (First cease-fire)	1st March, 1990
Endeavor Accord	5th August 1990
Malagan Accord	5th October, 1990
Honiara Declaration	3rd January, 1991
Tambea Accord	27th August, 1994
Honiara Commitment	3rd September, 1994
Ceasefire Agreement Bougainville	8th September, 1994
Agreement between National Government & Department of North Solomon’s, Resistance and BRA Commanders	18th October, 1994
Miringini Charter	25th November, 1994
Waigani Communiqué	18th May, 1995
Areas of common understanding	3rd August, 1995
Honiara Record of understanding	16th August, 1995
All Bougainville Leaders Talks in Cairns	1996
Burnham Declaration	18th July, 1997
Burnham Truce	10th October, 1997
Agreement on Truce monitoring Group	November 1997
Cairns Commitment	24th November, 1997
Lincoln Agreement	23rd January, 1998
Ceasefire Agreement	30th April, 1998
Hutjena Minutes	10th July, 1999
Hutjena Record	15th December, 1999
Loloata Agreement	23rd March, 2000
Gateway communiqué	9th June, 2000
Bougainville Peace Agreement	30th August, 2000
Nissan resolution	November 2003
First ABG Election	15th June, 2005
Window for conducting the Bougainville referendum opens	2015
Window for conducting the Bougainville referendum closes	2020



ABG Electoral Commission updates

From the office of the Electoral Commissioner

Common Roll updates

Electoral Commissioner, George Manu had said work on updating the common roll would start on February 10.

Mr Manu said all materials including computers for this exercise were already in place.

He said that the enrolment forms were distributed to all Council of Elders (COE) in Bougainville to carry out the enrolment exercise. “You can go and check if your name is on the roll. If your name is not on the roll you can enroll and they will bring the forms back so we can update the preliminary roll,” he said.

Mr Manu called on Bougainvilleans that are 18 years and above to get enrolled so that they would be able to vote in the upcoming elections.

Enrolment will stop on the date that the writs are

issued,” said Mr Manu. Once the preliminary rolls are updated, they would be sent to each COE to check if names of all eligible voters in their areas had been registered.

The Writs would be issued at the end of April. There would be two weeks of polling from mid- May to the end of May, to be followed by the counting of votes.

There will be three counting centres. One each in South, Central and North Bougainville respectively.

Advisors arrive

Preparations for the upcoming 2015 General Elections has been boosted with the arrival from the Australia and New Zealand Electoral Commissions In February.

Acting Commissioner, George Manu said while welcoming them that their role was to

assist the Bougainville Electoral Commission to conduct the elections, Mr Manu said some of these advisors would be posted to the Central and Southern Regional Fields coordinating offices.

These field coordinating offices would be the first of its kind to be set up in Bougainville.

Mr Manu said it was part of the Bougainville Electoral Commission’s plan to decentralize its operations and accessibility to each constituency in Bougainville.

“Apart from helping us in the elections, they would also be training our officers in preparations for the establishment of the Bougainville Electoral Commission,” Mr Manu said.

Service providers to be paid.

The Bougainville Electoral

Commission would still pay service providers that are still being owed outstanding payments for services rendered during the 2010 ABG General Elections and the 2013 ABG By-Elections.

Candidates warned

Intending candidates for this year’s elections have been warned not to conduct early campaigns.

“ This is illegal and you will be taken to court for doing this,” Mr Manu said. For more information, contact the following number: 7380 3068. John Itanu: Regional. Peter Wang: northern regional seats - for women and former combatants. Charles Kopana: Central regional seats for women and former combatants. Sam Roroga: Southern regional seats for women and former combatants. Assistant returning

Francis Tommy (Peit, Tonsu and Tsitalato)

Gary Kenehe (Haku, Halia and Hagogohe)

Peter Kutadio (Taonita/ Teop, Taonita Tinputz)

Henry Taul (Nissan)

Samuel Aririan(Teua, Mahari)

Peter Tokin (Atolls)

Robert Toromet (Suir, Selau)

Collin Darei (South Nasioi, Kongara and Kokoda)

Denise Palipal (North Nasioi, Eivo - Torau and Ioro)

Sylvester Semoso (Rau, Terra)

Mathew Maau (Baubake, Makis)

Moses Koiri (Lule, Konnou Ramu, Motuna Huyono Tokunutui, Bolave)

Leo Gobekatsu (Torokina).

George Manu, recently announced the appointment of Joe Kaipu as the Political Parties Registrar.

New residential judge to settle in Buka

A new residential judge has been appointed to the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

He is Sir Kina Bona from Milne Bay Province.

Chief Justice Sir Injia Salamo made the announcement during the opening of the legal year in Buka recently.

Sir Kina has served the legal service in Papua New Guinea with distinction over the years, holding significant posts which included being the President of the PNG Law Society. He has been the Senior Legal Counsel with the Albatross Law Firm since 2013.

Sir Kina is a senior and well respected citizen who has experience as State Prosecutor, Public Prosecutor, PNG’s High Commissioner to London, Chairman of the Integrity of Political Parties and Candidates Commission and Registrar of the Political Parties and Candidates Commission.

Sir Kina had completed his senior school education at an Australian private school, the Armidale School in northern New South Wales.

- Joseph Morokana



My Bougainville - Stori blong mi.

Long dispela edition, yumi bungim wanpela yangpela mangi wea i save raitim ol buk. Leonard em bilong Panguna District insait long Central Region bilong Bougainville. Hia nau em stori bilong em:



Leonard Fong Roka ibin bon lo 25 dei bilong mun July lo yia 1979 insait lo Arawa General Hospital. Leonard ibin bikipela lo ples Kupe insait long ol maunten bilong Arawa na het bilong bikipela wara Bovo.

Lo yia 1986 Leonard ibin stat skul tasol Bougainville Crisis ibin pasim skul bilong em lo yia 1990 taim em ibin stat lo wokim Grade 4 lo Kaperia Community School insait lo Arawa. But lo 1995 Leonard ibin stat skul gen taim peace process ibin stat isi-isi.

Emi ibin pinisim Grade 12 bilong em lo yia 2002 lo Hutjena Secondary School na go lo University of Papua New Guinea wantem interest lo raitim buk na stadim politics tasol em ibin lusim stadi hariap taim femili ino bin nap lo sapotim em lo skul fee.

Lo yia 2004 Leonard ibin kam bek lo peles na strongim interest bilong em lo raitim buk. Leonard ibin save rait isi-isi wantem bikipela sem lo ol man-meri na femili bilong em yet ibin

save tok-bilas lo em olsem emi bin wanpela university drop-out.

Lo yia 2011 Leonard ibin go bek stadi lo Divine Word University na stat rait ol kainkain stori bilong Bougainville crisis, politics, history na

society na salim ol wok bilong em go lo ol websites na blogs stap lo Australia.

Lo sem yia emi bin go insait lo raiting resis bilong PNG, Crocodile Prize Competition, na wanpela save-man bilong raitim buk na papa bilong wanpla kampani bilong wokim buk, Pukpuk Publications, bilong Australia ibin askim em lo stat tingting lo raitim buk.

Tasol dispel taim stret Leonard ibin tokim man ya that em gat tupela wok emi bin statim lo yia 2004 iredi na stap.

'Publisher na editor

bilong ol raiting lo Crocodile Prize ibin kirap nogut,' lo Leonard tokaut. 'So em ibin kisim wok bilong mi go Australia na namba wan buk bilong mi, The Pomong U'tau of Dreams, ibin kamap lo yia 2013. Displa buk em ol collection of poetry mi bin stat raitim lo yia 1997 taim mi sumatin lo Arawa High School.'

Lo yia 2013 yet namba tu buk bilong em, Moments in Bougainville, ibin kamap gen. dispel buk emi collection bilong 16pla sot stories lo ol kainkain samting na

laip lo Bougainville.

Leonard ibin winim tu 2013 Crocodile Prize Short Story Award wantem wanpela sot stori bilong em My Bougainville Prophetess istap nau insait lo buk, Moments in Bougainville.

Lo stat bilong 2014 em ibin kamautim Brokenville, we em stori bilong em lo taim bilong Bougainville Crisis. Dispela buk ibin winim Book of the Year Award lo 2014 Crocodile Prize resis bilong rait. Lo pinis bilong yia em ibin kamap wantem buk, Bougainville Manifesto, we emi toktok lo how emi

ting yumi ken stretim Bougainville na kamapim kantri bilong yumi yet.

Displa yangpla raita bilong Bougainville iredim pinis namba 5 na namba 6 buk bilong em we bai kamaut lo kampani bilong em yet, Boug Press Limited. Antap long dispela, em I joinim Bogenvil Arts Federation olsem wanpela writer bilong tokaut long ol stori na ol samting I kamap long Bogenvil.

Sapos yu gat tingting lo toktok lo em, yu ken kolim em lo 70257535 or emailim em lo leonardfongroka@yahoo.com



Stori Piksa

Official opening of the Legal Year in Bougainville



Picture Captions:

1. The Minister for Justice Rev Joseph Nopei hands over the key to a house for the resident judge.
- 2, 5 and 6. Members of the Police Force and Correctional Services on parade.
3. Judge Sir Kina Bona with Chief Justice Sir Salamo Injia lead the way with members of the PNG Law Society.
4. Chief Justice Sir Salamo Injia inspecting the members of the Police Force and Correctional Services.

A summary of the Forum - a discussion between the ABG President Chief Dr John Momis and the Ex-combatants

First part of the forum

ABG President Chief Dr John Momis responds to questions from the Ex-combatants.

On Friday, 30th of January 2015, a group of ex-combatants from the South and Central region, confronted the President Chief Dr John Momis with questions on issues that received a lot of attention on the social media in recent times.

The confrontation was an attempt by the ex-combatants to get answers from the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG). Prior to the forum, a petition was presented to President Dr Chief Momis asking him to resign if he did not give satisfactory answers to the grievance that were raised.

The forum was to get clarifications about information on the latest developments spearheaded by the current government. Leaders of the ex-combatants Ishmael Toroama, Thomas Tari and Sam Kauona presented their grievances based on what they saw as outstanding issues that were not properly addressed.

Mr Toroama said that it was unfortunate that a public forum was organized to debate the issues, but the reason for their public appearance was to get answers from the Autonomous



Chief Secretary Monovi Amani greets a leader of ex-combatant Ishmael Toroama after the forum.

Bougainville Government.

He mentioned the Bougainville Peace Agreement, and said the ex-combatants had completed their part in weapons disposal and now the ABG needed to complete their side of the Agreement. He touched on the issue of on good governance and questioned how well the government has shown leadership at the administrative and political level.

Toroama asked several questions. These were:

- Why four members of the government owned shares in the Poge Investment?
- Bridges need to be built in the North West?? Who is responsible? Where is the money going?

Toroama acknowledged the United Nations Development Program for the part they played in ensuring the weapons disposal process was completed.

The other ex-combatant leader, Thomas Tari, presented his views on patriotism towards holding

In response to the accusations, President Chief Dr. Momis gave the following explanations:

- The MV Chebu was a joint share between ABG and Henry Chow the owner of Hakau Investment. This meant the ABG held a trustee share. This meant that the share belongs to the people of Bougainville.
- The President assured that it was not a personal share, but that the ABG was looking after the money on behalf of the people of Bougainville.
- Bougainville POGE Development Corporation comes under the Autonomous Bougainville Government and that four members hold a trustee share in the corporation. This did not mean any of the members had personal

a referendum. He argued that the government has failed and that there were still outstanding issues and asked for the government to explain.

control or ownership of the share but the shares belong to the people of Bougainville.

- The Torokina Oil Palm project was implemented by the Kabui Government. Since the implementation of the project, there has been a lot of misuse of funds. During the current government, the project was advertised and three companies applied and Hakau Investment won the bid to develop the project to provide technical services and had successfully completed the work. The project is not a failed project but an ongoing project.
- Referendum - the talk to defer referendum is not true. Referendum will happen when two Governments (ABG and PNG) sit down and look at all the criteria of the Bougainville Peace Agreement. Referendum will look at good governance and weapons disposal.

President Chief Dr. Momis said that the people and Government did not have the power to defer referendum. The referendum should be held in 2020.

The president also clarified that the statement he had made earlier that a referendum will be held in 2019 was not a final decision but his views based on how he sees the current preparations on all political

levels, both nationally and internationally.

Chief Dr. Momis said that if the people were ready to hold a referendum, it could be held this year, but then, the people must be prepared to accept the outcome. He said the result of the referendum would be measured by the United Nations and the National Government using the Bougainville Peace Agreement as criteria.

The President defended the current government saying it has practised good governance under his leadership and has done more than the previous government.

He said one of the achievements of the government was the change of Public Service Act. President Chief Dr John Momis questioned the ex combatants on how many weapons have already been disposed and yet people were still using weapons. He also questioned whether the petition for him to resign had criteria that could be used to judge him and be leveled against the developmental goals and achievements of his government.

Dr Chief Momis reiterated that it was the people who gave him the mandate to become the president. Photo Caption: New Chief Secretary Monovi Amani greets a leader of ex combatant Ishmael Toroama after the forum. Note: Final part of the Forum will be published in the next edition.



President's Column

set apart from the rest of PNG.

It was a colonial accident that placed the people with PNG and the people going back as far as 1946 expressed to the colonial government at the time that they wanted to be different.

Consistently over a period of time the people have always demanded to have a referendum to determine whether Bougainville was to remain a part of PNG, join with the Solomon Islands or become an entirely Independent nation on its own.

This is because the people saw themselves as not being a part of PNG.

This inspired the nationalist movements on Bougainville such as the Napidakoe Navitu in Central Bougainville and the movement led by the late John Teosin in North Bougainville

and numerous others that rejected the imposition of the colonial regime.

This should be the resilience of the people of Bougainville to reject the imposition of colonial rule on their land.

The least that they wanted was to be listened to and to be consulted on processes that determined their livelihood and this was the same case with Bougainville Copper when the Australian Colonial Government imposed their will and extracted the mineral in the land without consulting the people.

The people reject the move by the colonial government even though the Australians resolved that this was in the best economic interest of our people.

So when you look at the history of Bougainvilleans, Bougainvilleans definitely had a history, we have

a history of rejecting outside imposition, a history of being proud of our heritage and a history of self-determination.

This is in line with the fact that Man is by nature a self-determining animal, man being a rational is endowed with the intellect and the will that enables him to asses, analyze and make informed decisions his future.

So self-determination is not a dirty word for the people of Bougainville, self-determination is peoples claim that they must be the major stakeholders in deciding their fate and to be engaged in socio-economic, political and spiritual liberation.

Bougainville has a definitive history and that history now determines how we should proceed from here onwards, because of that history we believe that we have a future that

will be determined by the same principle that drove our forefathers to stand up against foreign exploitation and manipulation and all forms of injustices.

We have now reached a critical juncture on our journey to freedom where we stand at the threshold of a new socio-economic, political and spiritual order.

This new future means we will want to be liberated from structural impediments, from institutional impediments and become agents of change and development and also become the subjects and objects of these changes.

That is why the people of Bougainville want to drive development and at the same time want to be on the receiving end of development.

The ABG Public service code of conduct and ethical behavior

The Public service code of conduct and ethical behavior describes how public servants are expected to conduct themselves and behave while delivering services to the people of Bougainville or in their dealings with others while representing the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG). An ethical culture in the ABG workforce begins with the Chief Secretary and is then cascaded through to the behavior of senior employees

and ultimately to all ABG employees.

- This code is based on four key principles.
1. Adhere to the highest ethical and behavioral standards
 2. Commitment to the Government
 3. Accountability and Transparency
 4. Act only in the Public Good

The four principles are essential to a robust Bougainville public sector, specifically to its integrity

and accountability and as such all public sector entities must be seen to be promoting these principles in all their dealings.

The ethics principles, associated values and standards are therefore equally important in strengthening an associated value set and observable behaviors that will further demonstrate adherence to that particular principle.

These standards are not intended to cover every possible scenario and therefore in adhering

to the code, we are each entrusted with the responsibility to uphold the intention and spirit of the values contained within them. Department/ Division/ Office/Unit specific standards of practice, as approved by ABG head of public service may be use to supplement this code. An approved standard of practice may then apply to that agency's employees in the same way as this code.

As well as upholding the principles, values and complying with

standards of ethical behaviors set out in this code, as public servants we must comply with all relevant legislations, awards, certified agreements, subsidiary agreements, directives, whole-of - government policies and standards. We must also adhere to policies, organizational values and organizational documents such as the annual work plans of our employing agency.

- The issues raised were:
- Bougainville POGE Development Corporation
 - Torokina Oil Palm Project
 - MV Chebu shares arrangement
 - Deferral of Referendum
 - Good governance

Frequently Asked Questions; Bougainville Foreign Investment Framework



The Inward Investment legislation is part of a wider Foreign Investment Framework, more information on the framework is outlined below.

1. Why is the Project necessary?

“The waves of globalisation are lapping at our shores. We cannot stop this happening. Rather, we must prepare ourselves for it” (President Momis, 15 June 2010).

a) The ABG wants to secure the economic future of the people of Bougainville, and provide security to the people through clear and transparent decision making processes.

b) Bougainville has many resources (land, fish, minerals, skilled people) that can be developed but this will only happen if there is investment;

c) Bougainville does

not have enough money to invest by itself, so outside investment and know-how is needed;

d) We have learned from our recent past that not all outside money and interests are good for Bougainville;

e) The ABG wants to be sure that the only investment that comes in is responsible investment;

f) Bougainville has what the rest of the world wants; therefore development should take place on Bougainville’s terms and conditions.

2. What is responsible investment?

1. Aligned with the values and culture of the people of Bougainville;

2. Ethical, moral and fair;

3. Recognises and protect land rights;

4. Environmentally sustainable;

5. Involves maximum participation of the people;

6. Achieves social

and cultural outcomes.

3. What is the Framework and how was it created?

The purpose of the framework is to create an enabling environment for responsible inward investment into Bougainville that meets Bougainville’s cultural, social and economic needs. Any investment proposal that is contrary to this will not be given approval.

The Framework was created through interviews, meetings and workshops with the ABG, the Administration, Bougainville business community, landowners, community groups, and potential investors. Each group’s role in economic development was clarified and what they need to do to achieve the framework’s goal “Building a Prosperous Bougainville Economy and Society.”

4. Who is Tuia

International?

1. A New Zealand Company with wide investment and economic development experience;

2. A great deal of experience working with Maori Tribes on commercial issues;

3. Experienced working in the Pacific;

4. Experienced working on commercial issues around the world;

5. Engaged by the ABG and working with key Divisions (Commerce, Law and Justice), with support from the NZ and Australian Governments;

6. Tuia International are advisors to the ABG.

5. How will Tuia International assist the ABG?

Tuia International will work with the ABG to:

- **Draft legislation to give effect to the ABG policy on Foreign Investment (the Bougainville Inward**

Investment Act).

- **Design the Investment Bureau (Board and Secretariat), including selection criteria for Board membership and process for decision making; validate assessment criteria and screening tools for the Secretariat.**
- **Develop a communications strategy to ensure the legislation, regulations, decision-making structure, application process and decision outcomes are well publicised to the international and domestic private sector, landowners and communities.**
- **Build networks and processes between key Divisions and the Districts to improve the management of inward investment.**

Governor supports seaweed farming



The Regional Member and Governor Joe Lera had contributed K290 000 last year towards seaweed farming in Bougainville.

His executive officer James Hasun, revealed this when launching the seaweed project at Petats Island on February 11th.

Mr Hasun said the project was an on- going project of the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG).

He urged the people to hold on to the seaweed as an important cash crop to sustain their lives. He referred to how the people of Tinputz held onto cocoa and copra in Buka as a main income generator.

Mr Hasun challenged the people of Petats to work together to maintain the seaweed project and use their money wisely to sustain their livelihoods.

The representative from the Division of Commerce, Raymond Moworu, confirmed that there was a demand for seaweed from overseas buyers.

Seaweed farming was identified as one of the economic projects to raise the economy of the autonomous region of Bougainville after the ABG government passed an economic development policy, Mr Moworu said.

“We had exported 213 tonnes of seaweed in 2013 and earned over K400 000, however, the price on the market has increased and the people would look at earning more from the exports this year, he said.

Mr Moworu added that there was hope for export as foreign buyers were interested in the seaweed farming.

The seaweed farm belongs to the community, hence, money driven from the project automatically belongs to individual farmers.



Media and Communications Bureau's Community Radio Officer Lyn Gegera interviews Petats Seaweed Coordinator Napan Ogis as NBC Bougainville Journalist Lulu Peits looks on.



Farmers checking on their garden. Photo by Tanya Lahies.

Tinputz District gets new facilities

Tinputz District now has government presence in the area following the opening of two important facilities at the end of January.



ABG Justice Minister Rev Joseph Noke officially opens the new cell facility as ACP Paul Kamuai and Executive Manager for Tinputz District Mr Vosivai look on.

This follows the opening of a new police cell block and a new district Administration complex. Tinputz district Executive manager, Blaise Vosivai said the new facilities were an opportunity for change. “ This opportunity is also a challenge for public servants to use the offices well and deliver highest standards of law and order services to the people and to the expectation of ABG,” Mr Vosivai said. Meanwhile, ACP Paul Kamuai also stressed the importance of looking after the new facilities. He added that Tinputz was a strategic location for policing and the prospects of more developments would be based on how the current facilities were looked after. ACP Kamuai thanked the regional member Mr, Joe Lera for making funds available for the construction of the police cell block. ABG Minister for Justice, Joseph Nopei opened the cell block while his counterpart the Minister for Community Development, Micah Mose, did similarly for the administration building. Representatives from the government and police along with other guests witnessed the event.

Tinputz landowners interested in mining



Joe Pais(right) and Joseph Kitovia (centre) shaking hands with ABG Vice President Patrick Nisira

The Bougainville Mining Act expected to be passed in March this year by the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) is already generating interests for mining activities in other parts of Bougainville. One such group is the Taonita/Tinputz landowners who met with the Acting President of Bougainville Patrick Nisira recently to express their interest to carry out mining in the area. Representatives of the Motaha, Nakaripa, Amara, Nakas and Mopiopio clans informed the ABG that because of their interest to boost the economy of Bougainville and fast track development in the region, they were willing to work with the Autonomous government to allow for mining in the area. A resolution signed in early January by the Clans represented and the ABG resolved that:

- the Expression of Interests (EOIs) expressed by the five major clan of Motaha, Nakaripa, Amara, Nakas and Mopiopio in support of ABG through mining be endorsed by the ABG.
- After the passing of the Bougainville Mining Act, the ABG to provide necessary required support to clans within the Tinputz and Wakunai interest areas for the purpose of creating a conducive environment for progressing the EOIs and
- The represented five major clans request that the ABG lift the current moratorium within the Tinputz, Wakunai, Kunua and Suir areas.

Mr Nisira said he was pleased with the interest shown by the Tinputz/ Taonita landowners. He said their expression of interest gives the ABG options to look at alternative mines to gather revenue for developing the region while continuing negotiations on resolving the issues of Panguna Mine. “We are spending so much money in dealing with the issues of Panguna Mine, it is time we start considering other options other than Panguna Mine,” Mr. Nisira said.

A life of Hope after Prison Bars

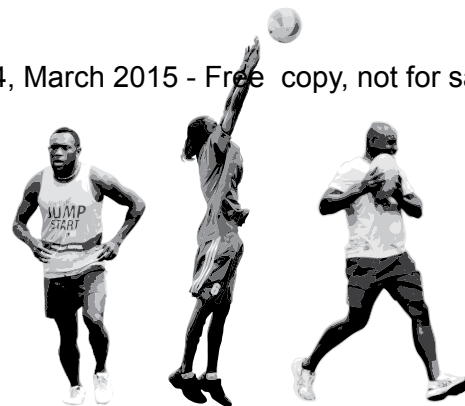
Do you ever wonder what life would be locked up in cell and the keys thrown away for good?



Gregory must have wished he never committed his crimes, however, if you’ve been behind bars you’ll know such thoughts are fatal for mental stability. According to Gregory he took every day as it came and paid his debt every agonising minute that went by. That was Gregory’s story...not anymore...I am going to tell you about Gregory’s story today. Like every other person imprisoned by chains, iron bars, trauma, physical disability, or mental slavery as sang by the Legendary Reggae sensation, Bob Marley, the little speck of hope can be the illuminating chance on your dark corner of life. This is what happened to Gregory during his rehabilitation process in one of the Solomon Island’s correctional institutions. For Gregory his chance came in the form of a ministry outreach program operating around parts of the capital of Solomon Islands, Honiara. “The Sycamore Tree Ministry were doing ministerial work around that time and as part of my rehabilitation I volunteered to assist in their outreach program.” According to this humbled reformed advocator of Peace, the intervention by the Ministry exceeded his expectations and saw the program he tried to help actually helped him find his way back to reality. After being pardoned and his sentenced reduced Gregory worked awhile with the Ministry helping other people find their way back. “The good Lord saved me for a reason and it was only fitting I also help others who were still trapped in their own prisons.” Listening to this humble yet God fearing man tell his story reminds me of the biblical story of Moses and his plight in Egypt during the rule of the Pharaoh. Just as the bible tells of Moses trying to set his fellow Israelites free from slavery and oppression, Gregory came back home to help set his fellow Bougainvilleans free from self inflicted trauma and hate. “Even tough the conflict is over, some people are still holding on to old grudges that is causing trauma for themselves and making them potentially dangerous to the community as a whole.” Gregory believes in progress and peace and is doing his share of restoring peace and encouraging progress through the Sycamore Ministry throughout Bougainville. He also believes that only when people are rehabilitated then the problems associated with violence and other social problems can be minimised. At the moment the Ministry is self funded but Gregory hopes to seek other funding sources from the Government and Private sector. He has already met with major players in the ABG and is anticipating a good feedback from these players. According to Gregory, the Ministry is doing a lot of awareness and ministerial duties in South Bougainville and moving to establish in Central Bougainville while other outreach programs are being scheduled for other parts of Bougainville once funds are made available. He is appealing to other ex-combatants to pursue positive programs that will not only help build a better future for Bougainville but also restore their faith in themselves and open their hearts to greater calling. Gregory continues to minister to the people of Bougainville and give hope for perfect peace.

- Ben Korok





Sports continues to be a driving agent in advocating peace and reconciliation in the region



This was the case

with the Jomik Cup tournament in February, which attracted more than 700 sports enthusiasts to the Hutjena oval for the seven-day event.

With the aim of promoting peace and unity among

Bougainvilleans, the games ended on a high note with Central Bougainville's Ioro United bagging the 1st prize of K10, 000.

In a tough tussle, Destiny Rangers narrowly missed out on the second spot with a 2 -3 loss to the Panguna Boys. In the other play-off, Dolphins FC beat Jolash FC to

secure the third spot. This is the second time the Jomik cup has been played since it was first staged in Konga in Siwai District in 2012. The Jomik cup is held bi annually and will be played again in 2017.

