



Outcome of the Joint Supervisory Body Meeting

Buka, Autonomous Region of Bougainville

12th September, 2019

The President of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville Hon. Chief Dr. John Momis, GCL, MHR and the Prime Minister Hon. James Marape have both agreed on the records of these discussions.

AGENDA ITEM 1 : REFERENDUM UPDATES (BRC).

The Chief Referendum Officer, updated the meeting on continued preparations for the Referendum, noting that the Prime Minister and President have agreed to defer the issue of Writ and the Date of Polling by a further six weeks as requested by the Chairman of Bougainville Referendum Commission through the exchange of letters.

The BRC had sought for additional time for the Referendum Roll to be Updated to be credible and have integrity that provides for a credible outcome of the Referendum result.

On that understanding, both Leaders have now agreed that the writs for the Referendum set for 16th August 2019 will be re-issued on 27 September 2019, with Polling date set for 12th October 2019 to be re-commence on 23rd November 2019.

Resolution:

- *BRC has assured JSB that is referendum ready and to take note of the work done by BRC.*

- *Endorse the exchange of correspondences between the Prime Minister and the President, ABG agreeing for the deferral of dates to 27th October, 2019 (issue of Writs) and 23rd November, 2019 (Conduct of Referendum) and the new dates as indicated.*
- *Endorse the definitions outlined on the two options.*

Direct the Post Referendum Taskforce Committee to develop details on the definitions for purposes of Referendum Awareness and Post Referendum Implementation Plan.

- *ABG to formally request to the National Government and the Department of Defence for the release of vessels to assist in polling particularly in the Atolls.*

AGENDA ITEM 2: WEAPONS DISPOSAL

(a). Joint Weapons Secretariat Update

The meeting notes that continued work on weapons disposal is progressing with the Joint Weapons Disposal Secretariat. The recent Veterans-Mekamui Unification Summit in Panguna is a demonstration of the commitment of the all factions to unite to dispose of weapons to ensure a free, safe and fair conduct of Referendum for Bougainville. By way of statistics, 30 out of 32 constituencies had been declared weapons free, and that all constituencies had committed to being weapons free by 1 September 2019.

Resolution

On the 25th of September, 2019, for all Mekamu held Weapons should be contained, thereafter a four (4) week grace period will allow for Weapons that are still in the hands of individuals, hence the National Guns Act will come into force.

The JSB notes the updates provided and agree that continued work in relation to Weapons Disposal must be maintained.

(b) National Reconciliation:

Progress is being made on the continued efforts to promote reconciliation. That Honourable. Puka Temu, National Minister for Bougainville Affairs remains committed to a symbolic national reconciliation ceremony.

It is important that internal reconciliation process within Bougainville Region take place before the main reconciliation ceremony between National Government and ABG and veterans.

Resolution:

The meeting noted the update provided and agreed that further discussion is necessary including an update on internal reconciliation efforts with a view to finalizing a comprehensive joint update for Leaders.

Leaders to decide on the date for the National Reconciliation to take place between the National Government and the ABG, and ex-combatant.

AGENDA ITEM 3: POST REFERENDUM TRANSITION:

Discussion on the Post Referendum Transition at Joint Ministerial Level continues with committee directing technical officials to look at legal issues.

The National Government Senior Officials Team on Post Referendum have also been meeting to discuss further various legal matters with the view that these matters must be looked at before a formal approach to the transition process can be agreed to.

Resolution:

In that context, it was recommended that JSB:

- *Note progress made;*
- *Approve the establishment of the Joint Secretariat to support the Joint Ministerial Taskforce on Post Referendum*
- *To approve for the Post Referendum Taskforce to identify facilitators/moderators to assist in the Post Referendum negotiation period,*
 - *A National Moderator*
 - *External moderator*
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- *Also JSB to note and consider what would be the more appropriate timeframe for post referendum negotiations process to begin*
- *A consideration for a post ratification process*
- *Extension of Invitation to other Ministers and Departmental Heads to attend the Joint Ministerial Taskforce Meeting 19th -20th September,*

AGENDA ITEM NO: 4 - RESTORATION OF DEVELOPMENT GRANT (RDG)

The recent JSB of March, 2019 directed for the UNDP to engage an expert to work on the formula on the Restoration & Development Grant, a report has been concluded by the expert and presented to both Governments.

Resolution:

- *Accept the experts report on the Restoration & Development Grant*
- *Direct to technical officials from Both the National government and ABG technical Officials to meet and assess the experts report to determine a final position on the matter*
- *The JSB to agree to reconcile and settle on the arrears to date on the Restoration & Development Grant (RDG) and Special Intervention Funds (SIF).*
- *New arrangement for the National Government to provide 100 million annually to the ABG for the next 10 years to be factored in the new financing arrangement.*

AGENDA ITEM NO:5- CONCLUDING REMARKS

The co-chairs thanked all present at this meeting and adjourned the meeting to a date to be announced later.

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Hon. James Marape, MP
Prime Minister
Government of Papua New Guinea

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a series of connected loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Hon. Chief Dr. John Momis, GCL, MHR
President
Autonomous Bougainville Government