



PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT

Peace, a remarkable achievement

Today marks 17 years of continuous peace in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville since the signing of the Bougainville Peace Agreement. By any international standard, this is a remarkable achievement. It is testament to the intention of the Bougainville Peace Agreement - defining the road PNG and Bougainville must walk together, from war to peace by peaceful means. A road marked by ongoing disposal of weapons, the creation of a special autonomy status to rebuild Bougainville in a distinctly Bougainville way, and a guaranteed referendum before June 2020 to determine

our future political destiny once and for all. Today marks the continuing power of dialogue over guns, of international processes over taking the law into one's own hands, and of the true power of reconciliation of the heart. Even today, major reconciliations continue to be conducted across Bougainville, reuniting brothers, reuniting families, reuniting tribes and reuniting different political factions. Bougainville must and will continue to play its part. We continue to stand united in peace. We continue to respect rule of law. We continue to

fight corruption and welcome good governance. We continue to define our own development plans while welcoming the support of the National Government and our international development partners to help implement them. Through this period and beyond, the Bougainville Peace Agreement continues to be the light that guides us towards a weapons-free, peaceful, well-governed and self-determined future. We are a young government, but we are aspirational. We believe in self-determination. We believe the hard work

of our ancestors must be continued. In this sense, today anniversary of the Bougainville Peace Agreement continues to remind us of the hopes, dreams and aspirations of all Bougainvilleans that came together on that day - committed to by the National Government, witnessed by the international community. We came from many different views, but more important was coming together. On this day, the 17th anniversary of the signing of the peace agreement, I call on all Bougainvilleans to unite and join the growing peace

movement. We cannot change the past, but we can all look to the future. A future where a blessed Bougainville is able to shine, grow and prosper as our Creator intended. Today, as you look at the achievements of Bougainville acknowledged in this Supplement, I ask all Bougainvilleans to reflect and to consider what you can each do to help Bougainville achieve its true destiny and dreams. **Chief Dr. John L. Momis CGL, MHR President Autonomous Region of Bougainville**

History of the BPA - Lasting peace by peaceful means

Lasting peace
 The Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA) is a lasting peace strategy - it has no end date. Through three pillars - autonomy, weapons disposal and referendum - the BPA is the foundation for ongoing peace and dialogue both within Bougainville and together with the National Government.

disposal to avoid a return to conflict
 3. Remain part of PNG: but with a high level of autonomy
 Therefore the BPA represents a compromise between all parties to the agreement with autonomy after weapons disposal, a deferred referendum after 10-15 years to conduct reconciliation, weapons disposal and given the chance to develop a homegrown government to solve Bougainville issues in a Bougainville way that would avoid a return to conflict.

Who signed the BPA?
 National Government
 Hon. Sir Mekere Morauta, KT MP (Prime Minister) and Hon. Moi Avei, Minister for Bougainville Affairs.

Bougainville
 Hon John Momis MP (Governor), Joseph Kabui (President), Hon Michael Ogio (MP for North Bougainville), Hon. Michael. Laimo (MP for South Bougainville), Hon. Sam. Akoitai, (MP for Central Bougainville), Joel. Banam (Chairman, Leitana Council of Elders), Mr. Gerard.

BPA implementation
 The Joint Supervisory Body (JSB) is the highest level of consultation and dispute resolution for the BPA. The JSB is co-chaired by Prime Minister O'Neill and President Momis. The ABG Department of Peace Agreement Implementation (DPAI) is the central ABG department

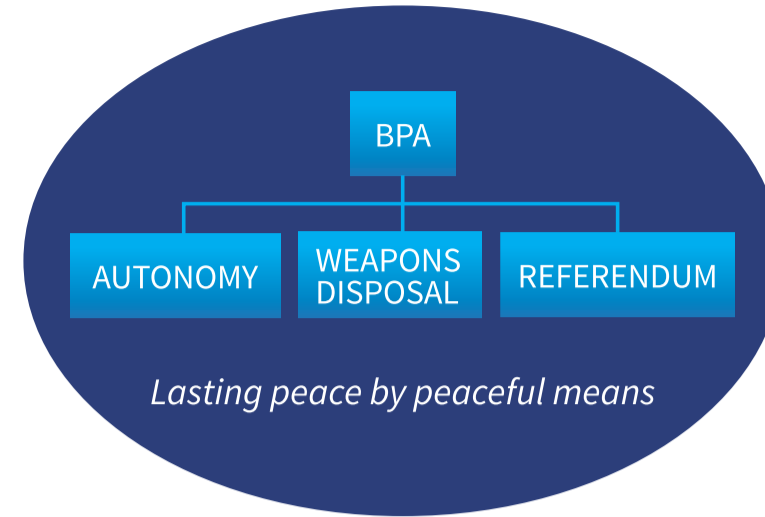


President Momis and Prime Minister O'Neill break bows and arrows as a sign of reconciliation.

for implementation, in collaboration with National Coordination Office for Bougainville Affairs (NCOBA) and the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister on Bougainville

What are the 'three pillars'?

own Constitution, can establish institutions of government, hold government elections, make laws, establish its own



1. Autonomy

The BPA changed Bougainville's status from a Province to a special semi-independent Autonomous Region. Bougainville has its

courts, public service and police service. Autonomy is a joint responsibility with funding support from the National Government. A period of autonomy was meant to help resolve divisions

and disagreement before a referendum was held. Compared to other autonomous regions, Bougainville has very high level of autonomy with a potential 25 powers to drawdown from National Government
 • Forty-four new laws have been passed including: Mining, Public Service and Community Government laws.

2. Weapons disposal

First weapons disposal plan (2003) In 2005 the United Nations Observer Mission on Bougainville (UNOMB) said weapons disposal complete to clear way for ABG elections, noting not all weapons contained as some factions were outside the peace process. In November 2015, ex-combatant leaders at Tsiroge committed to completing

weapons disposal.
Joint Weapons Disposal Plan
 Agreed by both governments at JSB December 2017.
 1. Separation of weapons of war, from modern weapons
 2. Monument building
 3. Registration of all firearms
 4. People with unregistered weapons to be prosecuted under National Firearms Act.

3. Referendum

Key points
 • **Must be held before 15 June 2020**
 • **Target date 15 June 2019 (Final date to be confirmed by both governments).**
 • **Referendum will be held over two weeks, not one day**
 • **Result is non-binding**

What is a referendum?
 Referendum is like an election,

but instead of voting for a candidate or person, people will vote on a question put on the ballot paper. For the Bougainville referendum, one question must be if people want Bougainville to be independent from PNG. The Bougainville referendum is non-binding. This means the people's vote will not automatically be the final decision. It will be a negotiated outcome between the two governments that will decide Bougainville's final political status.

The two governments must decide on the following key referendum issues:
 1. The final date for referendum (the 15 June 2019 is an agreed target only)
 2. The question or questions to be put to the people of Bougainville (but one question must include an independence option).

15 key BPA achievements

- Establishment of special autonomy arrangements including: Bougainville Constitution, Bougainville Public Service, 44 unique laws to guide Bougainville development
- Bougainville Mining Act: puts landowners at the centre of the decision-making process to about use of communally owned land for mining
- Bougainville Senior Appointments Act: establishes independent body to oversee senior appointments to government, and compels all allegations of corruption to be investigated and acted upon
- Community Government: a unique local-level government, empowering local and traditional decision-making
- Ongoing disposal of weapons
- Established the Charter for the Bougainville Referendum Commission and commenced preparations for referendum voter roll
- Restoration of government service delivery under a central Strategic Development Plan
- Health: reopening of over 35 health centres including the new Arawa Hospital
- Education: Construction or reopening of over 300 classrooms and schools
- Transport: resealing of Buka, Arawa and Buin towns, Buka-Arawa resealing including the construction of 17 bridges
- Communications: restoration of Short Wave signal and FM in urban centres
- Agriculture: Bougainville cocoa won two international awards in 2017, significant investment in fisheries with the national government
- Major reconciliations completed, with communities completing referendum ready peace and reconciliation activities
- Economic growth: establishment of Department of Economic Development and working group. Convening of Tax and Revenue Summit 2017, reopening of Aropa Airport
- Good governance. Second autonomy review, completion of major audits to expose corruption, establishment of Bougainville Strategic Development Plan and coordination of international development partners to align with Bougainville priorities.

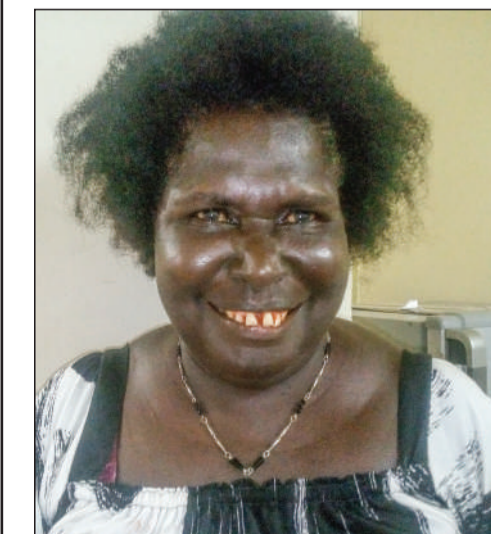
What does the BPA means to me?

Martin Utohu, Siwai



Peace agreement we ol bin siginim em orait. Emi bin kamapim tripela samting, autonomous gavman, weapons disposal na referendum. Mi sa lukim olsem displa tripla samting, autonomy emi no karim gut kaikai nau, referendum em yumi go nau long em, na weapons disposal em woklo kamap isis isi. Mi hamamas long dispela, sapos nogat peace agreement, ol displa samting bai nonap kamap. Mi laik tok tu olsem development bai nid long kam daun yet long ol community blong yumi na bai yumi ken redi long referendum. Nogat narapla man bai kam halivim yumi, em yumi yet bai nap long stretim yumi yet na yumi mas continue long behainim bogenvil pis agrimen.

Regina Naroy, Nagovis



Bpa long meaning blong em long mi, em very important. Mi hamamas long bpa bicos emi mekim mipla free long move around, free long toktok long narapela village, ol school kamap, hausik em op, ol servis em kamap gut. Mi kam long ples olsem wanpla mama na mi tok yumi mas lukautim. Ol memba tu mas wok strong long rausim olgeta weapons insait long ol constituency blong ol. Yumi olgeta imas lukautim displa pis no matter yu wanem kain man or meri insait long community, yumi mas no ken turu disturbim dispela pis yumi bin wok hat long kamapim. Imas gat bikpela luksave tu long ol mama long ol bikpela wok mipla ol mama wokim long halivim peace process blong bogenvil.