



JOINT SUPERVISORY BODY MEETING
Wednesday 8th of May, 2024
APEC HAUS, Port Moresby

JOINT RESOLUTIONS

We, the elected leaders gathered in this JSB of 8 May 2024, express our appreciation for the sustained peace between our governments and people, attributing to the Bougainville Peace Agreement of 2001. We emphasize on the importance of following our Melanesian ways to conflict resolution, encouraging transparent dialogue and consultation to achieving lasting peace.

Acknowledging the importance of the 2019 referendum result of Independence, we affirm our commitment in advancing continued dialogue and consultation on this matter.

Therefore, having discussed in detail related issues to this meeting's core agenda of ratification; we endorse the following resolutions;

POST REFERENDUM RATIFICATION MATTERS

1. Report on Ministerial Consultation

Having deliberated on the JSB agenda of the Joint Ministerial Consultation Report to which discussions were held on the Sessional Order, Moderator, Joint Report on Post Referendum Consultation and Bi-Partisan Committee for Parliamentary Awareness consistent with dispute resolution procedures in S.333&334 of the National Constitution, this JSB meeting resolves;

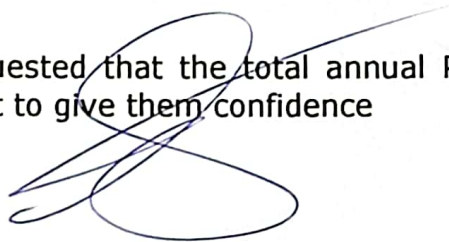
1. To endorse for the engagement of a Moderator
2. The Co-Chairs of the JSB to seek United Nations support for the Moderator
3. The functions of the Moderator is to support the two governments in;
 - a. Resolving outstanding issues relating to the Sessional Order and related matters to bring the results of the 2019 Referendum for Independence to the National Parliament.
 - b. Facilitate and provide oversight in preparing the Joint Consultation Report and other matters, as legally required under S342 (1).

- c. Assist the Bi-Partisan Committee in joint awareness messaging to Members of the 11th National Parliament,
4. Directs the Ministers for Bougainville Affairs and Bougainville Independence Mission Implementation to;
 - i. Recommend potential candidates to the Co-Chairs of the JSB
 - ii. provide oversight to the Joint Technical Team
5. Directs the Joint Technical Team:
 - a) develop the Moderator's;
 - i. Mandate
 - ii. Terms of Reference
 - iii. Timeline
 - iv. Joint consultation report
 - v. Joint key messaging
 - b) Work in consultation with the Department of Prime Minister and NEC, NCOBA, Department of President and BEC, Department of Independence Mission Implementation, Minister for Bougainville Affairs and Minister for Independence Mission.
 - c) Deliver the Moderator's TOR, within a week of the signing of this JSB resolutions.

AUTONOMY IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

2. Bougainville Public Service Personnel Emoluments 2024

- a. The JSB acknowledged that despite the shortfall of K6million in the ABG PE budget since 2018, the National Government sustains ABG's PE through their internal reprioritization until the end of every financial year.
- b. The JSB also noted that there would be an increase in PE with the execution of the new determination of the ABG Head of Departments.
- c. The ABG requested that the total annual PE is captured in the annual budget to give them confidence



3. Fisheries Revenue Sharing Arrangement

The JSB acknowledged an update by JTT on Fisheries matters and resolved that the Ministers of both governments responsible for Fisheries, the two Chief Secretaries and responsible agencies will work on a mechanism to conclude the fisheries revenue sharing arrangement. The outcome of the two Ministers' meetings and technical officials shall be tabled at the next JSB

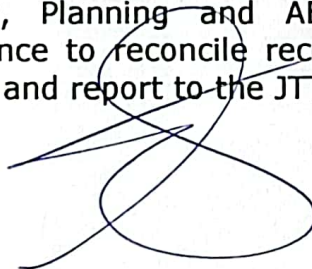
4. Cocoa Levy

- a. The JSB acknowledged the brief by ABG on a developing concern regarding cocoa levy fees in Bougainville. The issue arises from the inconsistency between:
 - the advice of the State Solicitor that Bougainville Agriculture Commodities Regulatory Authority (BACRA) has no legal authority to collect cocoa levy fees on cocoa transship out of Bougainville which is inconsistent with section 296 of the National Constitution which states that, national laws cease to apply in Bougainville once the ABG enacts its own laws. With ABG having the BACRA Act, it has the constitutional authority to regulate and collect cocoa levy fees in Bougainville.
- b. The JSB resolved that the National Government effect this and give 100% cocoa levies to ABG. Chief Secretary was tasked to correct this issue to retain the 70/30 arrangement.

5. Financial Matters

i. Payment of outstanding RDG arrears to the ABG since 2019

- a. The JSB noted the ABG's proposition on outstanding RDG arrears, recognizing the work needed to advance settlement of the arrears,
- b. The JSB directs officials from the Departments of National Finance, Treasury, Planning and ABG Department of Treasury and Finance to reconcile records of outstanding arrears since 2019 and report to the JTT for settling.



ii. Prime Ministers Commitment

The JSB resolved that the PMs Commitment be merged into the annual RDG and retire RDG arrears.

6. BCL Shares

- a. The JSB acknowledges the GoPNG officials' explanation that the BCL Shares Transfer certificate continues to be delayed due to:
 - Indecisiveness of where to park the shares (either with ABG or Bougainville Minerals Limited), with considerations on cost implications of the stamp duty tax required for transfer.
- b. The JSB notes the GoPNG officials' undertaking to:
 - i. Comply with the NEC decision to transfer the BCL Shares to Bougainville Minerals Resources Limited,
 - ii. Kumul Minerals Consolidated Holdings to pay for the stamp duty tax of K1million.
 - iii. Issue the BCL Shares Certificate immediately upon payment of the stamp duty tax of K1million.

7. Any other Business

The JSB notes the updates provided by:

1. DHERST
2. ICT
3. Housing
4. NEFC

and directs that the responsible Ministers and agencies conclude all remaining tasks.

We affirm these resolutions as the true records of the Joint Supervisory Body Meeting on this 8th day of May 2024.

Signed:


Hon. James Marape
Prime Minister
JSB Co-Chair


Hon. Ishmael Toroama
President
JSB Co-Chair