



“JOINT PRESS RELEASE”

BY MINISTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICE HON. SIR DR PUKA TEMU KBE CMG AND
HON. ROBERT HAMAL SAWA MHR

*(Press release signed and authorized by Minister For Public Service Hon. Sir Dr Puka Temu KBE
CMG MP and Hon Robert Hamal Sawa MHR ABG Minister For Public Service)*

Date: Monday March 20, 17

The Minister for Public Service Sir Puka Temu and the Bougainville Minister for Public Service Hon Robert Hamal Sawa are pleased to announce the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in Buka on the 20th March 2017 between the National and Bougainville Government titled: **“The Over-Arching Framework For The Transfer Of Functions And Powers From The National Government To The Autonomous Bougainville Government Pursuant To The Bougainville Peace Agreement.”**

The signing further signifies the undiminished commitment by the National Government and the Bougainville for the Transfer of National Government Powers and functions to the Bougainville Government in fulfillment of the Peace Agreement, as expressively desired by the Prime Minister and President of Bougainville.

According to the Ministers, the MOU will provide greater control over the coordination and prioritization of the drawdown of national government powers and functions through a Joint Technical Working Group in order to bring the joint responsibility of the powers and functions and the National Government to provide financial and staffing support to the ABG on request of the ABG.

The Key elements of the MOU are:

- A commitment to enabling transfer;
- Joint planning for a smooth transition, sometimes including transfer in stages that are linked to staged capacity development with the ABG;
- Joint capacity building to ensure that the ABG officers are capable of undertaking their new roles;
- Full budget planning and funding to enable the ABG to implement the new powers and functions; and
- Transfer of assets and land etc in operational order.

It is expected that the MOU will strengthen the further development of National government powers and functions to Bougainville by eliminating the adhoc arrangements of the past and speeding up the further development of government institutions on Bougainville leading up to referendum in 2019.

The ministers further direct all state entities to place ABG on their priority list of activities under in accordance with arrangements of the overarching umbrella to ensure that this happens before the referendum in 2019.