



THE BOUGAINVILLE BULLETIN

Our voice, Our image, Our place

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ABG CHIEF SECRETARY UPDATE



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Referendum kwesten: Kisim moa pawa long atonomi o kisim indipendens?



Askim i go long ol pipol bilong Bogenvil bai olsem: ol i laik kisim moa pawa long atonomi long ol i gat nau, o ol i laik kisim indipendens na buruk lusim Papua Niugini.

Atonomes Bogenvil Gavman na Nesenel Gavman i bin wanbel long kwesten bilong referendum long wanpela spesel join supevaisori bodi miting long Port Mosbi, long 11-12 Oktoba.

Praim Minista Peter O'Neill wantaim Presiden John Momis i bin tok tu olsem tupela bai wok strong long inapim ol astingting bilong Bogenvil Pis Agrimen.

Askim bilong referendum bai i olsem:

Askim: Yu wanbel long Bogenvil kisim: *(Putim X insait long box)*

- 1 Bikpela pawa long atonomi
- 2 Indipendens

Tok klaia bilong proses em olsem:

- 1) Olgeta pipol inap long vot, ol i ken vot long referendum
- 2) Nesenel gavman wantaim ABG bai bungim tingting wantaim long risal bilong referendum
- 3) Nesenel Palamen bai mekim fainel disisen

Tupela gavman i bin wanbel olsem, long proses bihain long referendum, Nesenel Gavman bai mekim fainel disisen long wanem politikol stetus bilong Bogenvil. Dispela proses i bihainim ol as

tingting i stap insait long Bogenvil Pis Agrimen na Nesenel Konsitusen.

Bogenvil Referendum Komisen bai go pas long wokim desain bilong hau kwesten bai stap long ballot pepa.

Taim ol ABG Konstituensi Mema wantaim ol gavman dipatmen i gohet yet long mekim komyuniti awenes bilong referendum, insait long dispela awenes, ol i mas klaiaim gut tingting bilong ol vota, (ol lain inap long vot) bai ol i mas save gut, moa atonomi i min wanem? Na indipendens i min wanem?

Long Oktoba ol

Konstituensi memba i bin holim ol rijenel woksop long skelim ol wok i bin kamap pinis, na long luksave long wanem wok ol i mas mekim yet. Astingting bilong ol dispela woksop em bilong skelim sapos ol konstituensi na ol wod i 'referendum redi' o no gat, bipo long referendum vot i kamap long Jun neks yia.

Bihainim palamen disisen namba 5, ol i bin kamapim long septemba 2016 long Bogenvil Haus bilong ol Representativ, olgeta konstituensi i mas kolim ol yet 'wepon-fri na redi long referendum' bipo long disemba 31st 2018.



Our voice, Our image, Our place

Editor's Desk

Welcome to Edition 13 of the Bougainville Bulletin!

As another year comes to an end, it is only fitting we take time to stop and see how far we have come, and prepare the next steps to take that will bring us closer to our aspiration.

This process of review helps us as leaders whether political, administrative, community, youth or church leaders to analyze our strengths as well as our varying challenges, it helps us to realize what our roles are as individuals and unites us to work together.

With the referendum question agreed to in the special Joint Supervisory Body meeting in October this year, we now have the responsibility to ensure our people are well-informed on the two options of Greater Autonomy and Independence, and also to ensure that people clearly understand the process that will take place after the referendum. More details of on-going referendum preparations can be found on Pages 6, 7.

We also have for you the latest report from the Bougainville Chief Secretary on progressive developments made within the public service on Page 5, which provides information on the direction that the Bougainville Administration is taking to improve service delivery, combat corruption and reform the public service machinery.

Our "Bougainville Way: Essay Competition" received a good number of entries and would like to thank all those who participated. We have published the winning entries on Page 10.

On behalf of the Bulletin Team, we would like to wish all our readers and the people of Bougainville a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2019!

The Bulletin Team

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About the *Bougainville Bulletin*

The *Bougainville Bulletin* is a publication of the Autonomous Bougainville Government, produced by the Directorate of Media and Communication, Department of President and Bougainville Executive Council.

We encourage stories from the public, government and community organisations. To submit an article or letter for publication, please contact us:

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Bougainville Way

Essay Competition

► Winners Announced on page 10 ◀

Theme: What does the "Bougainville Way" means to me?

How can we be One Bougainville? • What makes being Bougainville special and unique? • What unites us all? • What is the 'Bougainville Way'?

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New Bougainville Affairs Minister visits Region

"The collaboration between the ABG and the National Government continues to gain momentum as both governments prepare for the referendum."



President Momis made this statement as he welcomed the new National Minister for Bougainville Affairs and Goolala MP, Hon. William Samb, to the region on

his first official visit in October.

President Momis said he was determined to continue to grow the relationship between the two governments.

"A strong and equal relationship will enable the referendum to have credibility as the process unfolds in the coming months," Momis said.

"The Ministry of Bougainville Affairs is the link between the ABG and

the National Government, and Minister Samb's arrival on Bougainville shows PNG's commitment to peace building on Bougainville," Momis said.

"The October JSB meeting was a success that saw both governments agree to important referendum issues, including the referendum question people will vote on: independence or greater autonomy for

Bougainville."

He added that the last JSB resolutions paved the way forward to successfully implementing the Bougainville Peace Agreement and administering the referendum.

This visit is the Minister's first visit to Bougainville in his capacity as Minister for Sports and Bougainville Affairs.

ABG committed to law and order

President Momis has reaffirmed the government's commitment to maintaining rule of law under the Peace Agreement.

"Keeping people safe, maintaining rule of law - these are the first priorities of a government to its people."

"Cabinet has approved an additional K6 million to develop the capacity of police to respond to law and order issues, including training, housing and staffing," Mr Momis said.

He also added that the money was well spent to equip and empower Police with the trained staff to step up to the task of arresting law breakers.

"We are on a path to self-determination, to define our future. This includes becoming weapons-free under the Peace Agreement, maintaining good governance and respecting people's desire for peace and unity to prevail."

"Law and order is essential for encouraging development and investment needed to grow Bougainville and increase revenue for government service delivery."

The President assured people that any consideration of re-arming police would be a careful process in full consultation with the community and officials.

"Our aim is to maintain peace, and I call on those who want to step outside the law to carefully reconsider their actions start supporting our political aspirations."

Momis: Sanap bungwantaim - em impoten long referendum



Ol pipol bilong Bogevil i mas sanap bungwantaim long taim bilong referendum. Dispela bai helpim gavman long painim gutpela rot bilong self-determinesen bihain long ol toktok bilong referendum i pinis.

Presiden Momis i tok sapos moa long 90% bilong ol pipel i vot, dispela namba i gat strong o pawa bilong toktok wantaim nesanel gavman.

"Bihain long vot bilong referendum yumi gat wok yet bilong

totok wantaim Nesanel gavman bipo long Nesel risal bilong referendum", Momis i tok.

"Kisim bikpela namba bilong ol vot bilong referendum i wanpela rot wei i ken kisim sapot bilong intenesenel komyuniti. Dispela i ken soim tu long Nesanel gavman, em tingting na laik bilong yumi ol pipel long bihainim nupela rot bilong lukautim yumi yet", em i tok.

"Na i no pasin tasol bilong sanap wantaim i kisim luksave, no gat, narapela bikpela samting tu, em long gohet long mekim wok bilong Bogenvil Pis Agrimen", Momis i tok.

Na em i tok moa, dispela em stretpela pasin i bihainim lo bilong Atonomes Bogenvil

Gavman long givim luksave long BPA, maski no gat inap moni o resosis, na dispela i mekim hat long karim aut ol wok o arenjmen bilong toktok long atonomi.

Long toktok bilong em, Presiden Momis i kirapim tu tingting bilong ol kain grup o feksens (factions) husait i stap ausait long ABG na wok long kamapim problem. Em i tok long ol i mas wok bung wantaim gavman.

"Ol i mas luksave olsem, yumi stap long wanpela taim wei yumi ken mekim histori bilong yumi yet. Tasol ol dispela lain i wok long go engensim wok bilong gavman na lo bilong gavman", Momis i tok.

"Bipo long vot, mi laikim olgeta pipel bilong Bogenvil long putim

olgeta strong long wok bungwantaim, tasol moa yet olgeta i mas sanap strong wantaim. Yumi mas pasim tingting long wanem samting yumi laikim long referendum olsem bai driman bilong yumi i ken karim kaikai long lukautim yumi yet", Momis i tok.

"Tasol mi mas tok klia long yupela, birua i mekim yumi i bruk bruk em i no kam long ausait, nogat, em i kam long yumi yet. Yumi mas lukim olsem yumi yet i no ken kamap namba wan birua bilong yumi yet", Momis i givim dispela tok lukaut.

"Yumi no gat samting bilong pret long en. Yumi gat olgeta rait aninit long konstitusen long vot long self-determinesen", Momis i tok.

Better roads for communities



People living along the laun Primary School and Pitpit Bridge in Tinputz District have received a great boost following the completion of seven kilometres resealing of the main trunk road.

The K7 million project to repair and reseal the national highway in Tinputz has been delivered as part of the PNG-Australia partnership. The works between the laun Primary School and Pitpit Bridge have also upgraded the drainage and enhanced safety for all road users.

ABG Minister for Technical Services, the Hon. Luke Karaston, said: "The resealed road and improved drainage gives real benefits to the community and will better connect Buka and

Arawa." Head teacher at the laun Primary School, Raelyn Kaumu, is happy with the recent works on the road outside her school.

"This priority project is a great example of how a safer, more reliable road network supports the delivery of essential services" she said.

"The improvements to the road, including road safety measures, mean my students are now safer on their way to and from school. The resealed surface also means less

dust in my classrooms. This project is a fantastic boost to our community," Ms Kaumu said. The road upgrade will now allow for cocoa farmers to transport their beans to the markets much easier.

Ion Sammy, a local cocoa smallholder, is very impressed with the change that the new road surface is already bringing to her community.

"The smoother, safer road is reducing travel times and improving my connection to markets in Arawa and Buka."

The project was able to provide employment and training to 45 local residents in a wide range of roles and was delivered through the Papua New Guinea-Australia Transport Sector Support Program.

New investment for agriculture

The Department of Primary Industries and Marine Resources (DPIMR) is working with market farmers to bring in new crops and techniques to increase the supply of fresh vegetables in Bougainville.

DPIMR has completed the first phase of support: training local farm advisors and supporting weekly visits to 33 farmers across Bougainville.

Working in partnership with the Bougainville Partnership Commodity Support Facility and New Zealand's Volunteer Service Abroad, 16 agricultural advisors have upgraded their skills. The advisors are now using these new skills to give weekly advice to farmers.

Some improvements include introduction of composting to increase soil quality, nurseries and the test growing of new vegetable varieties.

Acting Secretary for DPIMR, Wendy Sawa, said regular visits from the trained local advisors have been a winning formula.

"Our advisors have increased farmer confidence. They have encouraged them to try new things and increase farmer investment," Ms Sawa said. "This is increasing the supply of fresh produce to schools, restaurants and supermarkets."

"Farmers have also experimented with new crops. Lettuce and radish are now being grown in Bougainville and these are being eaten by farmers and sold in markets and to restaurants and stores."

One Siwai farmer is now supplying 500 cabbages a week to a nearby school, while a farmer group near Buka is now regularly supplying lettuce to supermarkets and restaurants.

The first phase resulted in important lessons being learnt by both farmers and DPIMR.

The next phase will see these lessons shared across Bougainville through new agricultural radio programs on NBC and the introduction of more community based fresh produce advisors.

"We are partnering with NBC Bougainville and ABG Media and Communications to produce a radio show just for farmers. It will give farmers a chance to learn and share their stories and successes. It's a very exciting time for the ABG and fresh produce farmers," Ms Sawa said.

DPIMR will also be testing different organic approaches to manage pests and increasing the accessibility of improved seeds in phase two of the program.

Lo i lukautim emblem (Upe) bilong Bogenvil

Palamen bilong Bogenvil i gat lo bilong lukautim ol symbol o mak i makim Bogenvil. Dispela lo i tambuim ol pipol long yusim ol dispela mak olsem bilas nating. No gat, ol pipol i mas soim rispekt na noken yusim ol dispela mak olsem samting nating i no gat velu na meaning.

Mekim nating o yusim nating mak bilong Upe, i bin kirapim tok pait na bel-kros long olgeta hap bilong Bogenvil taim sampela lain i putim dispela ol mak long ol slipa na ambrala na salim long ol stoa long Buka taun. Dispela i bin kamap long begin bilong dispela yia.

Long mun Jun, Bogenvil Haus ov representativ i bin pasim o kamapim wanpela stia tok olsem: Fleg bilong

Bogenvil, Emblem, na Anthem i stap ananit long lukaut bilong Proteksen Bill 2018.

Dispela nau i tok klia olsem; em i rong long ol pipol o ogenaissen long yusim, o soim, o bagarapim Fleg bilong Bogenvil long rot bilong yusim tasol bilong mekim bisnis, o yusim olsem tred mak o logo. Pasin olsem i soim i no gat rispekt long ol dispela spesel symbol o mak bilong Bogenvil.

Penelti bilong dispela

rong em, K100,000 long ol koporesens/bisnis haus na K10,000 long ol wan wan man meri.

Lo i protektim tu Bogenvil Emblem na Anthem i no gat atoriti o tok orait bilong yusim bai kisim sas bihainim lo.

Dispela niupela lo i givim pawa long Bogenvil Eksekutiv Kaunsil i ken kamap wantaim ol kain rul o lo, em ol pipol mas bihainim taim ol i yusim Fleg, Emblem na Anthem.

Husait wan wan manmeri o ogenaissen i laik yusim wanpela bilong ol dispela spesel symbol o mak bilong Bogenvil, olsem Anthem, i mas kisim tok orait i stap long pepa. Dispela tok orait i mas kam long Minista husait i bosim dispela ministri.

Dispela niupela lo bilong lukautim Bogenvil Fleg, Emblem na Anthem (Proteksen Bill) i kisim ples bilong Provinsel Symbols Ekt bilong 1978.

Corruption crackdown gets Bougainville referendum-ready

The Autonomous Bougainville Government has sent its strongest message yet that it is cracking down on corruption as part of getting referendum ready.

Chief Secretary Joseph Nobetau, in his six-month update to the people said corruption must stop now.

"Four Department Heads have recently been investigated for allegations of serious misconduct by Independent Boards of Inquiry established under the Bougainville Senior Appointments Act," Mr Nobetau said.

"Corruption is not only against the law. It is stealing from Bougainville – it is selling out on our dream, our future, and the idea that we are destined for a higher level of behaviour."

As a result of the independent investigations, the Secretaries for Community Government and Personnel Management, as well as government officers, have been dismissed. The Secretary for Treasury and Finance has been cleared of any wrong doing and



Chief Secretary Joseph Nobetau.

reinstated. At time of printing, investigations into the Secretaries for Peace Agreement Implementation and Technical Services are still underway.

The Chief Secretary said one of the biggest issues faced this year has been the uncovering of mass payroll fraud.

"An independent audit by the National Departments of Personnel Management and Finance have revealed our worst fears," Mr Nobetau said.

"Bougainvillean public servants have been stealing from government and selling out Bougainville over many years – claiming allowances they were not entitled to, paying

salaries well in excess of their classification level, paying themselves and not turning up for work." Mr Nobetau said the administration was standing shoulder to shoulder with the Minister for Public Service, who said the fraud was nothing short of theft.

With just over six months until Bougainville's target referendum date and the need to demonstrate good governance to the international community, the Chief Secretary has made an impassioned plea to fellow public servants, politicians and the people.

"I am committed to ensuring that the fraud squad investigates allegations of corruption

and that where criminality is found, that individuals be held to account. Nobody is above the law. Nobody has the right to take what is not rightfully theirs. And nobody has to right to steal from law abiding Bougainvilleans. To do so brings shame to the person and Bougainville as whole."

"I want to assure tax payers and proud Bougainvilleans that those responsible for wrong doing will be held to account and that we will do better."

"Changes have already been made to ensure the payroll fraud never happens again."

"The good news is that our eyes are not closed and we will not look the other way. The majority is better than that; the majority wants a brighter future for Bougainville."

"I expect that in time both disciplinary and criminal charges will be made."

The Chief Secretary said since removing 'ghosts' from the payroll had given the government more money for public

services like clinics, schools and roads.

Mr Nobetau said changing attitudes and mindsets as part of government reform was not easy, but was Bougainville's aspirations under the Bougainville Peace Agreement.

"We are on a united, but difficult mission to move Bougainville from a provincial government to an autonomous government to preparing for Bougainville's future political status."

"We cannot do that while public servants are busy lining their pockets with public money."

President Momis said he fully supported the Chief Secretary and that under the Organic Law on Leadership he was obligated to report all possible breaches.

"The Chief Secretary has my support to continue to liaise with the Ombudsman Commission to ensure the highest standards of good governance under the Bougainville Peace Agreement," Mr Momis said.

Public service reviews plans for better service delivery

The Bougainville Public Service has gone through an in-depth review to re-align plans and priorities with the government's Strategic Development Plan (2018-2022).

The review workshop was led by the Department of President and Bougainville Executive Council's Strategic Planning and

Policy Directorate. The workshop created an opportunity for all departments to report on progressive development, achievements and challenges in their corporate plans over the last six months.

Chief Secretary to the Autonomous Bougainville Government Joseph Nobetau said this review workshop was part

of the process of reforming the Bougainville Public Service, and addressing the need for more effective, evidence based policy development and planning.

"The ABG Public Service has made some good progress, and I am pleased to see this," Mr Nobetau said.

"However, the fact is that the public service

needs to be more responsive to government, more strategically focused on service delivery and more accountable to the people of Bougainville," the Chief Secretary said.

He further added that a key focus for the government over the coming six months will be supporting the referendum on Bougainville's long term

political future.

The review workshop was also attended by National Parliament Members for Bougainville and key donor partners, which paved way for productive discussions and information-sharing sessions on a way forward for effective planning and service delivery for Bougainville.



BRC BOUGAINVILLE REFERENDUM COMMISSION

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Chairman bilong Bogenvil Referendum Komisn Bertie Ahern i bin wokim wanpela visit ikam long Bogenvil long mun Oktoba.

Raun bilong em ikam long Bogenvil em bin long bung wantaim ol lida long neseno gavman na ABG, na tu long lukim ol wok re i kamap long referendum.

Mr Ahern bin bung wantaim prime minister Peter O'Neill na tu

wantaim president bilong Bogenvil John Momis. Emi bin gat sans long stap tu long laspela miting bilong joint supervisory body na wantaim tu trensisenol komiti bilong Bogenvil Referendum Komisisin.

Insait long dispela ol bung, Mr Ahern i tok emi hamamas tru olsem na makim em olsem man i go pas long lukautim referendum komisn. Emi tok tu olsem emi gat

bikpela komitment long wokim high standard wok bilong em olsem chairman.

Ol narapela lain bai stap wantaim Mr Ahern long Bogenvil Referendum Komisn em oli kolim ol long ol komisina. Bogenvil emi makim Ruby Mirinka na Patrick Nisira long sanap makim ol long dispela komisn. Neseno gavman i makim Thomas Webster na Robert Igara long makim ol tu long

referendum komisn.

Tupela elektorol komisina tu long png na bogenvil, Patilius Gamato na George Manu bai stap tu insait long Bogenvil Referendum Komisn.

Displa ol lain hia oli gat bikpela expiriens na save long wok bilong gavman, menesment, komuniti developmen na save bilong sanap makim maus na tingting bilong ol pipol. Bogenvil Referendum

Komisn nau igat bikpela wok long mekim klia long ol pipol dispela tupela opsen, long soim pasin rispekt long ol tingting bilong ol pipol, bai oli pilim fri na noken poret long autim ol tingting oli gat.

Long ol interest grup husat igat tingting long wok campein, Bogenvil Referendum Komisn bai klostu taim tok klia long proses long behainim na rejista bipo long ol campein i kamap.

Enrolment and Verification Procedure

Five Key Steps to the Final Voter Roll

- 1) Enrolment agent visits each hamlet, village and ward with the working roll to confirm names of eligible voters
- 2) Voters check if their names and details are on the working roll. Those whose names are not on the roll, or who have not previously enrolled, complete a Claim for Enrolment Form.
- 3) BRC prepares a preliminary roll based on the information collected. The preliminary roll is displayed in each urban area for voters to confirm and verify their names.
- 4) Those whose names do not appear on the preliminary roll, or whose information is not entered correctly are given a new Claim for Enrolment to complete.
- 5) Following the completion of the objection period, BRC makes the necessary corrections and certifies the voter roll.

NRI reports: Informed decision making vital for referendum



Dr. Thomas Webster speaking at the launching of the reports at Kubu, Buka Island.

The Bougainville Referendum Research Project under the National Research Institute launched the second round of referendum reports.

Project Team Leader Dr. Thomas Webster explained that the reports provided a comparative study of Bougainville's autonomy arrangements with other autonomy arrangements around the world.

"An autonomy governance arrangement was agreed to under the Bougainville Peace Agreement and has been implemented up

to the referendum when the future governance arrangement will be decided by the people of Bougainville."

"Independence is an option to be included in the question with a fall back option of the current autonomy governance arrangement," Dr Webster said.

In welcoming the reports, ABG Vice President Hon. Raymond Masono said that these research findings will help to broaden the understanding of the Referendum issue and enhance preparations towards the Referendum.

"We continue to acknowledge the work done by Dr Webster and the NRI in these studies that they have conducted to increase understanding of the referendum not only in Bougainville but also in PNG."

"When Bougainvilleans vote in June next year, they must make their decisions based on informed choices and such reports give our people the information required to make an informed decision," said Masono.

The reports titled Options for Bougainville's Autonomy Arrangements: A study from a global comparative perspective and Financing for Fiscal Autonomy: Fiscal Self-Reliance in Bougainville will be distributed in Bougainville through schools and community governments.

Wok bilong rausim masket imas kamap bipo long referendum

Gavman i tok em Gi stap long mak bilong rausim olgeta masket bipo long referendum.

Ekting sekreteri bilong dipatmen bilong pis agrimen i implementesen, Dennis Kuiai, i tok, proses o wok bilong rausim ol wepon o samting bilong pait i kamap pinis long olgeta wod long Bogenvil na i stap long mak bilong pinis long Disemba 2018.

Mr Kuiai i bin tok, ol ektiviti i behainim stret join wepons disposal plen, we ol i bin agri namel long gavman na join supavaisori bodi taim ol i bin miting.

"Deit ol i makim long rausim ol wepon em 31 disemba 2018, na olgeta konsituensi i mas mekim ol rekonsiliesen na ol ektiviti bilong helpim na rausim ol wepon. Dispela pasin bai i

ken makim olsem ol i redi long referendum", Kuiai i bin tok. Mr Kuiai i tok olsem simbolik rausim wepon eksasais i bin kamap long Torokina, Siwai na Atolls distrik. Dispela i soim olsem, ol pipol ol i redi nau long narapela level we ol i ken tok, eria bilong ol, em wepon fri eria.

Long wankain taim, ol foma kombeten na feksens (factions) olsem Meekamui i komitim ol yet long rausim ol wepon. Ol i tok olsem, em i wanpela moral obligesen o stretpela pasin long rausim ol wepon. Dispela em i gutpela bilong ol pipol na bilong Bogenvil olgeta.

Ol i makim 31 Disemba 2018 olsem taget deit bilong i gat 'wepon-fri' deklerasan long ol hap i stap aninit long Meekamui zone.

Autonomy review - progress but more to do

President Momis says he is satisfied with the findings of the second review of Bougainville's autonomy arrangements.

The review was undertaken by four independent experts who looked at Bougainville's autonomy arrangements in line with the requirements of the Bougainville Peace Agreement. The experts visited Bougainville in August and delivered their report to the two

governments in October.

They found that while the ABG had done a lot of work, more was still needed. They highlighted the need for stronger financial management within the ABG, and better coordination between the ABG and the national government.

The President said he was particularly happy with the report's findings on 'good governance' - a benchmark for both

governments to agree on the final date for referendum. The experts found that "overall, ABG has met many standards for good governance [and]...in some cases, for example local government, the ABG has surpassed international standards. For others, such as accountability and transparency, ABG is at a similar stage of development to PNG as a whole."

"I welcome this independent report," Mr Momis said.

"They have recognised our many accomplishments but also showed us the areas we need to improve."

"I commend the experts for their thoughtful ideas and urge all Bougainvilleans to take the time to read this important report into the implementation of Bougainville's autonomy arrangements

under the BPA. I believe that the report will be vital in our consultations with the National Government after the referendum."

The review is a requirement of the Bougainville Peace Agreement. As per the arrangements, the two governments will meet soon to discuss the report's findings.

Read the report on the ABG website: www.abg.gov.pg/reports

Australia supports Bougainville youth



Grant recipients seated from left to right - Desmond Ponpon (Community Development), Pastor Andrew Opis (Seventh Day Adventist Church), Linzy Kiapin (Bougainville Partnership), Jeffrey Kop (Australian High Commission) and Natasha Mandanny (Bougainville Partnership)

The ABG and five Papua New Guinea youth organisations across Bougainville were given the support to implement local youth activities.

Supported by the

Bougainville Youth Federation. Each District youth association received K100,000 each with the Bougainville Youth Federation receiving K200,000.

The agreements were signed following a weeklong project management-training program held in Arawa. Youth leaders learned about financial management, good governance and youth programming to make sure the funds are well spent.

Youth activities will be implemented in partnership with the

ABG's Department of Community Development and local service providers.

Department of Community Development representative Mr Desmond Ponpon said that applying the Bougainville Youth Policy implementation has been difficult in the past, due to a lack of resources.

"We thank the Australia Government for their partnership and again making the funds available to support youth to reach their potential", Mr Ponpon said

Australia's

development partnership with the Government of Papua New Guinea is working closely with the Autonomous Bougainville Government to contribute to Bougainville's future stability and prosperity.

Mr Ponpon said Bougainville's journey must include youths as they contribute a major part of a sustainable future.

"I urge each district youth association to represent their youths well at all levels and ensure the funds are utilised for a positive outcome", Mr Ponpon said.

Church leaders see peacebuilding role in Bougainville



Church and women's leaders from across Papua New Guinea travelled to Bougainville on a fact-finding mission to better understand their role in supporting a peaceful, violence-free referendum.

The mission, supported by UN Women, saw 24 leaders from the PNG Council of Churches, government, civil society and research organisations in Buka from 20-23 August.

Beatrice Tabeau, National Programme Specialist with UN Women, said that she hopes this is the first of many such peacebuilding missions.

"The link between churches, peace building, gender equality and

women's empowerment is a vital one," Ms Tabeau said. "The mission to Bougainville not only provided national church and civil society leaders a better understanding of the situation in Bougainville, but also learn about successful peace and security initiatives happening now in Bougainville."

"Our hope is that these can be replicated throughout other parts of PNG."

Churches played a vital role providing health and other services during the Bougainville conflict. In recognising these past contributions, and assessing current needs, it is clear that faith-based organisations

have a role to play in supporting peace building.

The visit included open dialogues with President Momis and members of the Bougainville Executive Council, with Chief Secretary Joseph Nobetau and ABG departmental heads, and a third with development partners and civil society organisations working in Bougainville.

The mission was made possible through support from the UN Peacebuilding Fund and the Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative. The initiative focuses on the empowerment of disenfranchised groups in Bougainville, mainly women and youth, and people with disabilities.

Women contribute to peace

Over 200 women across Bougainville were trained to address gender based violence at a human rights forum that was held from the 15 to 19 October in Wakunai, North Bougainville.

These women are part of the Bougainville Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRD) group and have been trained by the Nazareth Center for Rehabilitation in North Bougainville to lead educational, advocacy, awareness raising and similar activities at the community level.

This training was done with the aim of addressing gender-based violence, gender inequality, women's rights, community development and building peaceful communities.

ABG President Hon. John Momis congratulated the women during the one-week forum at Wakunai.

"The traditional roles of Bougainvillian

women have always been custodians of the land and providing the safety net within the community," he said.

"Their roles have been redefined to include peacemaker after their contributions to the Bougainville peace process."

"Women are an important stakeholder in peace building on Bougainville, it was through your joint efforts with our leaders, ex combatants and government that peace was initially attained."

"I call upon once again on your resilience and unwavering support to continue to play a vital role in preparing our people before the referendum is held next year," he added.

President Momis told the women that Bougainville must meet international best practice standards on human rights, due processes and democracy.

Bougainville youth determined to 'be the change'

Youths across Bougainville have been encouraged to work together to help drive the message for unity, self-reliance and peace as well as advocating on preparation towards referendum.

This was the message stressed during a two week Regional Youth Forum conducted for Bougainville youth leaders in Arawa in August this year, under the theme of 'Safe spaces for Youth'.

ABG Department of Community Development in partnership with the UNFPA through its Gender Youth Promotion Initiative (GYPI) project were able to provide this program for the youths to tap into opportunities to sustain themselves.

Regional Youth Co-ordinator with the Department of Community Development Ms Stacey Tarura said the forum

aimed to engage and enhance youths as game-changers to address the political disenfranchisement of today's youth.

"This two week program was basically to engage the youths to discuss issues and express themselves at their level and to empower and equip them with information to assist them in disseminating information on referendum."

"Executive members from each District Youth Associations consisting of the President, Secretary and Treasurer were brought into attend the training to learn from each other and also to expose them to opportunities that they could tap into to assist them in the communities," Ms Tarura said.

ABG Departments, donor partners and stakeholders as well as the Bougainville House of Representatives were also



Participants of the Model Youth Parliament with the Speaker of the House of Representatives Simon Pentanu

included in the program to make presentations on their roles and responsibilities and how the youths can have access to services they provide.

Youth leaders who attended the workshop said the sessions were very informative and vital for the youths because they have always felt left out of decision making.

"It is really fortunate for us (youths) to attend this training because for far too long we have been left out in the dark of what is going in Bougainville, especially at the political level as we prepare for Referendum," Freda Basse, President for Buka Urban Youth Association revealed.

She added that it is the cry of the youths to be part

of the decision making body and ABG should look at including seats in the parliament to represent the voice of the youths.

Similar sentiments were shared by Torokina District Youth President Mr Jericho Kenaus who called on the ABG authorities and stakeholders to utilise the youths to carry out the referendum awareness.

"I am grateful to attend this training and urge our leaders of the day to work with the youths because almost 60 percent of the population in Bougainville is made up of youths and our votes count in the coming referendum," he said.

Apart from the forum, there were other activities which included the Model

Youth Parliament that was held at the Bougainville House of Representatives this month.

The Model Youth Parliament gave youths an opportunity to sit in parliament and debate on pressing issues thus having the feel of how real parliament sessions are held.

"This was the first time to actually sit in parliament, however, we hope that this session continues next year and that the youths are included in decision making. I also appeal to the ABG leaders to make time available to observe such sessions and hear the cry of the youths," said Ms Basse.

The model youth parliament will continue next year.

Bogenvil mama kisim Gold Medal Awod

Volentia Menensa bilong Bogenvil Yuniti Laibreri i kisim awod bilong Praid ov Papua Niu Gini gol medal. Dispela prais em i kisim bilong luksave long gutpela wok em i mekim long komyuniti.

Miss Deborah Mumia i kisim dispela awod long han bilong Gavana General long Port Mosbi long 18th Oktoba 2018.

Awod em luksave bilong kontribusen Miss Mumia i givim long komyuniti long tripela yia olsem volentia long

kirapim na ronim komyuniti laibreri.

Long wanpela spesel bung kaikai long Buka long Novemba 1, klostu 70-pela manmeri i makim komyuniti ogenaiesen i kam wantaim long soim amamas long Deborah na Yuniti Laibreri Komyuniti lidasip long Bogenvil.

Laibreri Siaman, Mr. Stan Basiou i tok, em i laik tru long wok wantaim planti volentia husait i gat bikpela



Gold medal winner Deborah Mumia with Unity Library Chairman Stan Basiou.

laik bilong wok olsem Deborah.

"Ol dispela volentia i givim taim bilong ol yet long ronim laibreri, na bikos long dispela wok na sakrifais, yumi inap

long ridim ol buk na o narapela samting long kisim save long Bogenvil na long ol narapela samting bilong wol em yumi stap long en", Mr Basiou i tok.

Long totkok bilong em, Miss Mumia i tok, dispela awod em i luksave long wok bilong em, family bilong em, na ol planti volentia husait i wok long laibreri.

Miss Mumia i tok, "Wok Volentia em wanpela wei yumi

ken kontribut long developmen bilong Bogenvil. Yumi no ken sanap na wet long gavaman long wokim olgeta samting. Yumi mas helpim yumi yet tu."

"Mi no spesel, mi save kirap long moning long go salim kaikai bilong belo bipo long mi kam long laibreri. Tasol mi skulim mi yet, mi tra'im pinis, em i hatpela wok."

Laibreri nau i save go aut long ol skul na ol komyuniti long Bogenvil long skulim ol tisa na sumatin.

Bougainville Way

Essay Competition ► Winners

First Prize Winner (Primary School category):

Danniela Michaelyne, Kuraio Primary School, Grade Six

POEM: Tears-Joy-Peace

Together we stand and strive for freedom
Together our tears drop for freedom
From the mountains to the seashores of Bougainville
Blood and tears flow down for freedom
"Hooray! Its peace, peace, peace!"

No more war, no more tears, no more bloodshed
"Its peace, peace and joy!"

Join hands together, join our voices together
Hand in hand, into our voyage to freedom

Let's stand together in a Bougainville way
Special we are, unique we are in a Bougainville way
One people, one color, one culture makes one identity

Its our journey, its our vision
Join hands together and sing out with joy
Joy to freedom

From the mountains of south to its seashore
From the mountains of central to its seashore
From the mountains of north to its seashore
Out to the Atolls

Let us join hands together and walk with peace, joy and harmony
In a Bougainville way to freedom, freedom for an ironical nation -

BOUGAINVILLE!

Ellizen Manio, Lemankoa (High School category)

Poem

Bougainville Island
Land of the green and palmy trees.

On the horizon
margin the sky,
and shiny seas
Bougainville Island,
We all salute you.

Flowers and moonlight,
Swaying palm trees
Jungles and rivers
White coral sand

This is our island
This is our home.

Dark were the days
When man lived in fear
Fear of the arrow,
Stone, club and spear
Sadness and sorrow
filled every heart

That was our island
that was our home
Bougainville we will be
loyal ever to you.

Essay (Adult category)

Mary Cathleen Dickson, 33 years, Lemankoa-Haku

"What the Bougainville way means to me"

From difficulties to prosperity

Bougainville the forgotten island. An explorer Anthon De Bougainville discovered Bougainville and left with records.

Then my valley was changed, I was opened and known to the rest of the world. Then bloodshed came upon the people of Bougainville at Hahalis. Here the John Teosin highway was constructed from Buka to Haku, for the payment of bloodshed. That was in 1964. Development was very fast.

In 1964, the first House of Assembly was formed in Port Moresby. Our members elected were; Hon Donatus Mola, Hon Joe Lue and Hon Paul Lapun. They brought Bougainville to a sound standard.

In 16th September 1975, PNG gained independence. After that year, self-determination and decentralization on September 01st 1976 was given or handed down, spear headed by John Momis.

In 1988 to 1990, another bloodshed erupted. Sadness and sorrow filled every heart. That

was Bougainville. I lost much precious things. We were back to base in 1991. It was our way to suffer again for prosperity.

The people are spiritually lost, for we hardly produce joy, peace, goodness, faithfulness, patience, kindness, humility and self-control.

In June 2019, Bougainville will see one very important event known as referendum. People have to vote yes or no. This is what Bougainville way means to me. God is the answer. And it will be our way.



The Bougainville Flag

The Story of the flag - By Moses and Marilyn Havini

The Bougainville flag was chosen in 1975 from many excellent entries received in a nation wide competition. The selection panel appointed by the Bougainville Provincial Assembly which included the then Fr. John Momis M.H.A., Regional Member for Bougainville (PNG Parliament), Mr. Peter Sissiou, President of the Arawa Town Council and Mr. Leo Hannett, Planner, Bougainville Provincial Government.

The flag was designed with the cultural expertise of Naboin Paramount Chief, Jonathan Havini and Nakas Chief Moses Havini. Design and graphics were produced by Marilyn F. Taleo Havini.

THE FLAG DESIGN

FLAG BACKGROUND: COBALT BLUE

Representative of sea surrounding and isolating Bougainville Islands as a distinct entity in the Pacific; ('Blue Water Concept' of clear and distinct geographical and physiological identity and/or boundary is one requirement for indigenous peoples application for self determination and independence).

SYMBOL known as a KAPKAP:

The KAPKAP is a symbol of authority - a traditional shell disc crafted by ancient Bougainvilleans and worn on the brow or on the chest by Chieftains and Queens, it beautifully offsets the

distinctive black colour of skin. Surmounted on the mother of pearl shell (nacre) would be an intricately carved turtle shell circular disc with a design that radiates from a central tribal clan totem.

WHITE DISC

The outer edge of the mother of pearl remains exposed as a circular white rim on the flag design and represents the white sands and reefs of Bougainville. These reefs provide sustenance and are an essential life-giving environment for Bougainvillean people.

GREEN PATTERN BAND

Representing the islands, mountains and land based resources of Bougainville; set within the Kapkap design to radiate from the centre in traditional pattern. This green band stands for the land of Bougainville: Land is life.

BLACK CENTRE GROUND

Symbolic for the people of Bougainville - among the blackest people within the Pacific and distinctive ethnically as a society united under one flag.

CENTRAL SYMBOL - UPE:

The Upe is unique to Bougainville and therefore distinctive as the central TOTEM of the flag. On the flag, the Upe is substituted in place of a particular clan symbol at the centre of the flag and Kapkap. Normally, the symbol placed in this central position on a

Kapkap would indicate the particular clan and authority of the chief or queen who wears it. The symbol has been appropriated to mean that the Bougainville PEOPLE are now mature and have 'come of age' to be recognised as a political identity. Therefore, the Upe (sometimes spelt Upi) has come to represent the collective population or nationhood.

The Upe is a unique ceremonial hat worn by young adult boys at a customary initiation, usually soon after puberty. Some areas of Central Bougainville (especially Wakunai, Rotokas, Keriaka and Kumua) continue this custom today, but it was also widely practiced throughout Buka and North and Central Bougainville until recent times.

The Upe ceremony is one customary practice that was, and is, a common heritage to ALL tribes of Buka and Bougainville. While the shapes and styles slightly vary according to different tribes, the design, customary practices and rituals emanating from the Upe ceremony are the same throughout Bougainville.

Because the Provincial Government had already adopted the Upe as the symbol of emerging Nationhood in 1973, I incorporated it (with elders and leaders permission) for the 1975 Bougainville Flag competition.

RED AND WHITE STRIPES:

The red and white stripes on the Upe have several layers of meaning easily discernible to all Bougainvilleans whose clan identity can be linked to either the use of red or white colour symbols to accompany a clan totem. Further meaning applied to the red stripes includes:

Leadership: The outer protective covering of an Upe is made up of alternating red and bleached white pandanus leaf stripes. Future chiefs can wear four stripes and their pages, or assistant chiefs can wear two. Thus the use of stripes indicates Leadership.

Gender Equity: Three stripes have been chosen for the Upe on the flag for special significance. In ceremonies and on figurative carvings, traditional decoration worn by men and women on any ceremonial occasion identifies gender by the following means: men will dye their hair with a central red stripe whereas women wear two red stripes on their hair - one either side, off centre. Also, women traditionally use red and white stripes in the making of their patterned traditional capes Tuhu (pidgin 'Karuka').

Thus the overall symbolic meaning of the flag is that men and women of Bougainville, together in maturity, hold the authority to stand as one people beneath their flag as a distinct political entity.

The symbolism on the flag has continued to

remain a unifying factor in Bougainville through the continuing changes of Bougainville's political status:

- Beginning as the flag of the Republic of North Solomons (1st September 75 to July 76).

- It was retained to become the flag of the North Solomons Provincial Government (July 76 to October 89).

- The Bougainville Interim Government (BIG; 1989 to May 1990) claimed the flag as symbol for the Republic of Bougainville (or Meekamui) throughout the Bougainville Crisis

- The flag was raised during the second UDI which was proclaimed on May 17, 1990.

- The PNG Government continued to recognise it as the Provincial flag and, as such, it continued in use by the Bougainville Transitional Government (BTG)

- Bougainville Reconciliation Government (BRG) raised the flag officially reuniting ALL Bougainville under one banner in 1999.

- The Autonomous Bougainville Government raised the flag once more at the inauguration of the Autonomous Bougainville Region (ARB) and the ABG June 15th 2015. 2005.

Updated by:
Moses and Marilyn
Havini
September 2009
BOUGAINVILLE

Haku Reconciliation



Atolls Constituency is weapons free and referendum-ready

The Atolls Constituency in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville is now weapons-free and referendum-ready according to the criteria set by the Bougainville House of Representatives and agreed to by the UN.

The Constituency member for the Atolls and Vice President signed the declaration at the Han Island, Carteret on the Friday 23 November 2018, ahead of the deadline for the remaining 20 Constituencies in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville to be declared referendum-ready by 31 December 2018.

The member made the declaration amidst much celebration in the presence of 3 colleague members and 20 government officials, chiefs

from Carteret, Mortlock and representatives from Nuguria and Tasman Islands. All communities in the Atolls were represented.

"This is no doubt the biggest gathering of the ABG leaders and government officials in any community in the Atolls Constituency ever," Mr Masono said in his welcome remarks.

The Minister for Bougainville Peace Agreement Implementation Albert Pungchau could not make it to Carteret due to bad weather on Friday morning and delegated the keynote address to the Deputy Speaker, Francisca Semoso.

The declaration was preceded by a reconciliation of 10 crisis related cases

between islanders who found themselves on opposing sides of the Bougainville Conflict. Although there were no loss of lives on either sides, (perpetrators and victims), nevertheless the conflict also fitted islanders against those supporting the National Government and those supporting the Bougainville Revolutionary Army. The whole population of the Carteret converged on Han Island for the ceremony witnessed by the Minister for Public Service Robert Hamal Sawa, Deputy Speaker Francisca Semoso and the newly elected member for Halia Constituency Gordon Batek and other government officials.

"This is significantly historical day for the Atolls

Constituency as we become only the third Constituency to be declared ready and the first to comply with the criteria in the referendum check list," Mr Masono said.

Mr Masono also thanked the ABG for assisting with funding but lambasted DFAT for not releasing funds earmarked for reconciliation in time for the occasion.

"Sometimes, I wonder whose interest are supposed to be supporting whilst in Bougainville, the ABG's or their own?" he said.

But he heaped praise on the Chairman and members of the Organizing Committee for delivering against all odds and the people of Carteret and Atolls for their support in hosting this important event.

Siwai reconciliation

The people of Siwai District, South Bougainville, have come together to reconcile, dispose of weapons and forgive ahead of next year's referendum.

Supported by the Bougainville Partnership, the ceremony was held on 8 June at Amenu District Office and witnessed by the people of Siwai, along with representatives from the Autonomous Bougainville Government and Australian Government.

During the ceremony Peter Tengka, Executive Manager for Siwai District and chairman of the Siwai District Peace and Security Committee acknowledged the efforts of his committee and their commitments to conduct mass reconciliations.

"This activity has confirmed our readiness for referendum. Independence is determined through reconciliations between parties who have grudges against each other from the crisis," said Mr Tengka.

A significant highlight of the ceremony was the disposal of weapons, consisting of rifles, shotguns, claymore mines and other explosives.

A total of 174 cases have been registered from seven wards in Siwai. So far there have been 104 cases reconciled, with 70 deferred to the next reconciliation.

Selau Reconciliation



The power of reconciliation

Story of Christopher Vane

Christopher Vane is a victim of the Bougainville Crisis. A former combatant, he was shot and wounded. The physical scars on his body remind him of the atrocities and mayhem of those years. Even though the Crisis is over, he continues to endure fear and insecurity. This is his story.



When I move around the village or even go to the garden, I am always suspicious that my enemies are watching me, said Christopher.

I get angry very quickly. Someone or even my family members

aggrieve me, I grab a gun and threaten them with it. My children fear me the most. They don't interact with me like father and children normally do.

Occasionally, ex-combatants fire their guns in the air. I grab

my gun and quickly take my family to take cover or hide. This random firing of guns by former combatants brings fear into the lives of people and restricts their freedom of movement.

In 2017, members of the local Torokina District Peace and Security Committee (DPSC) approached me. Knowing my history, they asked me if they could mediate my case. I was overwhelmed with joy and tears started to fall from my eyes. I told them that I had been waiting for this moment, and I agreed to their

proposal. In April 2018, I finally reconciled with the person who shot me.

After the public reconciliation ceremony in Torokina, the burden of insecurity and fear that has plagued me for years was finally gone. My enemy has now become my close friend. Even my children have become closer to me than ever before. The community has totally changed and you won't hear anymore gun shots now. I have joined the ward committee to round up remaining guns and ammunition. Together with the

Torokina DPSC, we are planning to dispose of all weapons before referendum.

Positive changes are now taking place within my family. We are helping each other with developmental projects. For example, if one family needs help in transporting their cocoa nursery seedlings, we'll all chip in and help. Just today, we had a family meeting about income earning opportunities - this is something that we didn't do before. We are planning together for our future.

Saut Bogenvil Memba tok sori long ol pipol bilong Solomon Ailan

Nesesanel Deputi Oposisen Lida na Memba bilong Saut Bogenvil, Tmothy Masiu, i tok sori long ol pipol bilong Solomon Ailan. Dispela tok sori i kam wantaim tok tenkiu tu long gutpela lukaut na pasin ol pipol bilong Solom Ailan i bin mekim long taim bilong Bogenvil krais. Mr. Masiu i tok sori

long gavman na pipol bilong Solomon Ailan olsem ol pipol bilong Bogenvil i bin ronwe brukim boda na go stap long ol ples long Solomon. Dispela i bin bringim sampela pret na hevi long ol pipol bilong Solomon. "Mi tok sori long gavman na ol pipol bilong Solomon Ailan long olkain wari na

hevi ol lain Bogenvil i bin bringim, taim ol i go kam long taim hevi o krais i bin kamap bikpela tru. Na tu long taim pait i stap strong namel long ol soldia bilong Papua Niu Gini na Bogenvil Revolusenari Ami (BRA)", Mr. Masiu i tok. Masiu i givim dispela tok sori long

Ambasada bilong Solomon Ailan long PNG (His Excellency) Mr. Barnabas Anga. Dispela i bin kamap long bung bilong ol Solomon Ailan komyuniti long Pot Mosbi long amamasim o makim 40 yia independens anevesari bilong ol, long mun Julai bilong dispela yia. Long taim bilong

Bogenvil krais, gavman bilong Solom Ailan na ol pipol bilong Solomon i bin soim pasin bel sori long ol pipol bilong Bogenvil. Ol i givim kaikai, hap bilong slip, na givim marasin long ol lain i kisim bagarap long pait, na tu long ol arapela manmeri husat i nidim lukaut na helpim.

Seasons Greetings

On behalf of the Office of the President and BEC, The Members of the ABG House of Representatives and the ABG Public Servants we would like to wish our valued readers a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year 2019.

Tribute to lives lost at sea

The Carterets Islanders Tale

By Isaiah Manish Igish

The sun sets over the vast Pacific Ocean. Its magnificent view brings to life the warmth memories of families.

Not knowing what tomorrow may bring, the 23-foot banana boat floats aimlessly following the direction of the current. Lost and weary at sea, all hopes of survival is hanging by a thread. Five-men have been lost at sea for 28-days. Teamwork, faith and perseverance had driven them to cling on to hope.

The men from Carterets were homebound to the Tulun (Carterets) Islands from Buka. It was during the Autonomous Day on June 15th 2012, when these men from Iagain took on a voyage they will always remember. Sixty-one-year-old Anthon Lesley, a seasoned open sea skipper, was in charge of the 60-horse powered boat.

Carterets Island sits 30 degrees North-East off Buka. The 57 nautical miles distance takes approximately three hours to reach aboard a 60-horse powered dingy.

Normally on a fine weather, after traveling for two hours, Buka Island will be hidden under the clouds and Carterets Island would sprout up the vast open sea like a drifting coconut. It would take another hour to reach the island and berth.

Three hours into the trip, Lesley realized the boat was off-course.

Without seeing land after traveling the hours required, the skipper knew equipment or accessory on the boat wasn't functioning well.

Lesley used his 30-years' of experience as an open sea skipper to make a quick check on the equipment and stock. The two major causes for drifting at sea - shortage of petrol or a faulty engine - were ruled out. There was enough petrol and no mechanical fault with the engine. The weather was fine.

With these two checked, he directed his attention to the compass he was using to navigate the open sea. He soon realized that the compass was tampered with.

The compass was salvage from a wrecked fishing vessel. He used the same compass on many occasions while navigating the open seas across the Bougainville Atoll islands. "The water in the compass which helps the arrow give direction is actually alcohol. Vodka," Lesley tells me while

puffing his 'brus-to-brus' (tobacco). "I think the night before our trip some drunks got the compass from the boat and emptied the alcohol content. They replaced it with home-brew (moonshine)."

"The home-brew was the reason the compass didn't function well."

Lesley started his seasoned career as a skipper in the late 1980s.

He was the caretaker of the Iagain Island community boat for eight years on Carterets Island.

During the height of the Bougainville Crisis, Lesley was working as a skipper with the then North Solomon Provincial Health Division at Sohano. He was also a static guard.

The Provincial Hospital was formerly based on Sohano Island and later moved to Buka Island in 2000. "During the crisis, there were lots of people who came to Sohano to receive treatments for wounds and other

sickness," Lesley recalled. He retired from his work at the Provincial Health in early 2012.

After retirement, Lesley occasionally operated passenger boats servicing Buka and Carterets Island. One of those trips ended with this ordeal at sea - drifting for a month.

Every person on Carterets Island will relate to the term 'tirip' (drift). At least three out of ten heads have drifted while either traveling to Buka from the island or otherwise.

Many families from the Atolls will relate to the drifting experience. Many have lost loved ones at sea who have never returned. Currently there is no passenger vessel servicing the Atolls. In the 1990s North Solomon Provincial Government owned MV Sankamap used to make monthly trips to the Atolls - Carterets, Nissan, Nuguria (Fead), Mortlock, and Tasman.

Anthony Lesley and his crew were lucky because they had enough materials and supply on board to help them survive.

"During this trip, we were transporting mangroves sticks and ropes for a seaweed project on the island," Lesley said while pointing to the location where the project once stood.

"When I realized the compass was faulty, I killed the engine and told the boys 'yumi tirip nau' (We're now drifting)."

"We had a tank (25litres) remaining so I reserved it."

The skipper said the boys gave up after the first three days of drifting.

"All hope was gone. We had food on-board but no one bothered to eat.

"Being a cheerful person, my tricks didn't help."

"After the third day, they realized that we needed to keep fighting on for survival."

When survival instincts kicked in, the idiom 'where there's a will, there's a way' came into effect. Every cargo they had brought with them came in handy. It was like they had packed to get 'lost' at sea.

They used the mangroves sticks to build a shelter (Carterets is a coral island with no mangroves).

The taupalin they used was salvage from Peter Sharp's MV Solomon Queen - before it got burnt down on Buka Passage in 2012. The taupalin was used as shelter and used to fetch water during the rain.

An aluminium bowl on board was used as a pot, tying it onto two sticks to be held on both ends



over a fire. A shovel was used as the fireplace and mangroves as firewood. When cooking it was a balancing act waltzing with the waves for the two individuals as they keep the bowl of rice steady.

"We had one meal a day. It consisted of two spoons of rice and water. And that's it," Lesley said.

For a week there was no rain so they had to do without clean rainwater.

Jethro Toukena came up with the idea of flavouring the salt water but it ended the same - salt water.

"We had no hope but to drink salt water," Toukena said. "I tried different mix with Tang, Sugar and Milk powder but it still tasted salty. You could only make two sips. We nearly

died of dehydration."

While drifting they were able to catch fish in an improvised manner. A nylon rope was used as a string and an Ox & Palm Bully Beef Key was used as a hook for deep-sea fishing. Crazy but that's survival instinct.

Lesley avoided waves during thunderstorms by throwing the anchor down. The boat would turn to face the oncoming waves and remain afloat, swaying to the beat of the waves and wind.

Carterets fishermen are known sailors. They used sails mounted on canoes to go fishing, trawling or island-hopping. With that experience, the men built a sail from the materials on-board to navigate the bad weather.

During the month long tribulation at sea, they kept drifting between the waters of Bougainville and New Ireland. "We drifted past Carterets, Nissan and Fead. We came near Anir in New Ireland but the strong currents pulled us back into Bougainville waters," Lesley said.

If the current had not pulled them back into Bougainville, they would have drifted the open Pacific Ocean to the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). One afternoon on their fourth week at sea, a seagull landed on the boat's sail to rest. The other bird flew past without stopping. Lesley's traditional fishing skills came into play.

"I recalled back to when we went out fishing," he said.

"When a bird ate enough at sea, it will fly straight to land without stopping."

"I watched as this seagull flew right past us so I started sailing following the direction of the bird. When the bird disappeared I took mark on the cloud it was flying towards."

"When night fell, I picked a star in the same direction and sailed towards it. When the star came over our heads, I picked another star and that's how we travelled all night."

"After hours of sailing, we decided to rest so the boys threw the anchor."

And just like that,

they found land the next morning."

"When sunrise, one of the boys came out of the shelter to pee and saw land."

"He shouted 'LAND!'"

"I was surprised! All around us was just reef!"

"We came in through a passage and through to the reef. If we had hit the surf breaks (sea-buruk) it would have been a different story. "I started the engine and used the last fuel to reach the island," said Lesley.

They were on land and it was Bougainville soil. The men had anchored on one of the atoll islands on Fead (Nuguria). From Fead, they made their way back to Carterets.

Masiu: Bougainville cocoa standard must be restored



National Member for South Bougainville, Timothy Masiu wants to bring Bougainville back to its former status as the leading cocoa producer in Papua New Guinea.

To achieve his dream he aims to distribute and

plant one million cocoa seedlings throughout South Bougainville over the next four years.

Masiu has progressed this vision by entering into an understanding with Soroken Plantation to supply cocoa seedlings for distribution and planting.

"This may take four years, but I am pleased to say that this is a starting point," an excited Mr Masiu said.

He acknowledged the efforts of the late Peter Tsiamalili Senior and his

family and employees for the partnership and commended them for their tireless efforts in maintaining the plantation operations.

Early in the year, Mr Masiu signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the PNG Cocoa Board (PNGCB) under which the board will be responsible for the implementation of the cocoa seedling program that aims to plant up to one million cocoa trees over the next four years.

Also under the MOU, cocoa board will subsidise the price of cocoa seedlings and freight for the transportation of cocoa produce to markets.

Member Masiu and PNGCB Chief Executive Officer, Botto Gaupu visited Soroken Plantation in May for the signing of an agreement between the plantation and the board for the supply of cocoa seedlings.

The Soroken plantation will supply one million cocoa seedlings free, to the Member's cocoa

seedling nursery program, made possible with funding from the national government through the PNG Cocoa Copra Institute (PNGCCI).

At the same time, Mr Gaupu also announced that K150,000.00 has been paid to Soroken Plantation as guarantee for the supply of seedlings.

Mr Gaupu explained that K50, 000 was for the maintenance of cocoa nurseries and K100,000.00 is for the distribution of seedlings.

Newly elected ABG members



Hon. Albert Toro
Member for Taonita Teop Constituency



Hon. Gordon Batek
Member for Halia Constituency



Hon. Steven Topesi
Member for Kongara Constituency

Education

Nupela dairekesen bilong edukesen



Dr Justin Kehatsin

Wantaim 30-pela yia experiens long wok tisa, nupela Edukesen Sekreteri bilong ABG, Dr. Justin Kehatsin i amamas long

kam bek long ples. "Mi amamas long kam bek long rijen long helpim pipol bilong mi", Dr.Kehatsin i tok. Dr. Kehatsin i bin

tis long Lae long PNG Univesiti bilong Teknolosi (PNG Unitech) long 20-pela yia aninit long lenguis na kominikesen dipatmen (Language & Communication Department) bipo long em i kisim niupela wok wantaim ABG. Em i gat ol bikpela tingting long dipatmen na long edukesen sekta. Olsem na em i askim long senis long pasin bai i mas kam long ol sumatin na tisa na ol komuniti long pasin bilong ol long edukesen.

"Sampela ol skul i no wok long kamap gut bikos ol tisa i les long tis o ol sumatin i les pinis long lainim bikos ol tisa i no givim taim bilong ol", Dr. Kehatsin i tok. Em i bin tok tu long ol komyuniti i wokbung wantaim ol tisa bilong ol. "I nogat planti sapat long sampela komyuniti wei ol i bin mekim nogut long ol tisa", Kehatsin i tok. "Dispela pasin i mas stop bikos edukesen bilong ol pikinini bilong yumi i no kamap gut".

Niupela edukesen bod long Bogenvil

Niupela Sekreteri bilong Dipatmen bilong Edukesen Dr. Justin Kehatsin i tok olsem, hai level Bogenvil Edukesen Bod bai adresim o toktok long ol isiu i kamap long ol skul.

Bod bai ripot long Bogenvil Eksektiv Kaunsel. Dispela bai mekim Bod i kamap namba wan lain bilong mekim ol disisen insait long ABG Dipatmen bilong Edukesen.

"Dispela niupela Bod i gat tingting bilong givim best na namba wan edukesen tru long ol pikinini bilong yumi", Dr.Kehatsin i tok.

"Aninit long wok siaman bilong Mike Pearson, yumi gat strongpela bilip olsem, wantaim planti ekspirians bilong em long edukesen, em bai i go pas na lukautim dipatmen i go kisim niupela level.

Health

ABG Health tops polio response

The ABG Department of Health in partnership with World Health Organization (WHO) has topped the provinces in Papua New Guinea in its vaccination campaign against polio. Deputy Secretary for Department of Health, Public Health and Clinical Services, Mr Aloysius Pukenei, reported that Bougainville well exceeded its target for vaccination coverage. "Bougainville leads the national list for polio vaccination coverage, indicating that almost every child has been immunized," Mr Pukenei

said. Mr Pukenei said that all the three regions (North, Central and South) have at least nearly ninety nine percent of the children population immunized. "Within fourteen days of the polio campaign starting, our team has immunized about 99 per cent of the targeted children population and this includes children from birth to the age of fifteen years. Mr Pukenei acknowledged all partners, media and the public for their contributions and support for this very significant achievement.



Bougainville

CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL 2018

21st - 22nd September, Hutjena Oval, Buka, AROB

in pictures



Business houses unite



Robert Critchley presenting on a panel with Stella Tunim, Central Business Association and Secretary of the Department of Economic Development, Steven Tsivete, at the Australia PNG Business Council Forum in Brisbane earlier this year

Business houses in north Bougainville have united under the Buka Business Association. Elected Vice President Sean Wong said that until now, businesses did not have a unified voice to represent their interests to government and further economic development in

Bougainville. "We aim to become the voice of the private sector in the north of Bougainville," Mr Wong said. The association will represent members to both the ABG and National governments, build relations with other private sector associations both in and outside Bougainville,

and work to build the capacity of member businesses. Membership is open to any business operating in the north of Bougainville. President and Managing Director of Sankamap Export Limited, Robert Critchley, said the Association had already represented private

sector interests at the ABG's Revenue and Tax Summit held last year, and the Australia-PNG Business Forum earlier this year. "This is an exciting time. Now that we are fully established, we look forward to building our relations with other associations within and outside Bougainville to further

represent member views," Mr Critchley said. The forming of the association demonstrates the ambition among the Bougainville business community to improve the environment for doing business and further economic development in Bougainville.

Niupela Minista bilong Ekonomik Developmen

ABG President Chief John Momis i tokaut pinis olsem Memba bilong Haku, Robert Tsika Tulsa, em niupela Minista bilong Ekonomik Developmen. Making bilong Mr Tulsa i senisim foma Minista na memba bilong Tsitalato Konstituensi, Fidelis Semoso. "Displela disisen em bilong holim strong rijinel representesen insait long kabinet na go-hetim ekonomik developmen bilong Bogenvil", Presiden Momis i tok. Em i tok moa "dispela senis long lidasip bai bringim kamap niupela tingting o rot bilong

kamapim moni taim yumi wok redi long referendum, na wanem samting bai kamap bihain". "Long Bogenvil, long lukautim yumi yet, yumi nidim moni", em i tok. Presiden Momis i tok, nau yet moni bilong Bogenvil i sanap long mak bilong K20 milien tasol baset bilong Bogenvil oltaim i stap long mak bilong K300 milien. Ol i skelim olsem, nau yet gavman i nidim K900 milien long lukautim na mentenim ol sevis sapos Bogenvil i laik kamap independen. Wantaim liklik reneviu o moni tasol



Hon. Robert Chika Tulsa

Bogenvil i kamapim, na no gat gupela helpim i kam long Nesenel Gavman long givim moni bilong Restoresen na Developmen Grent - i kam aninit long Bogenvil Pis Agrimen, i min olsem bai i no gat inap moni long baset bilong ABG. Presiden Momis i

tok olsem, wok bilong kirapim na muvim ekonomik sekta long kamap self-rilaient, em bai responsibiliti bilong niupela Minista. Dispela em wanpela namba wan ki prairiti bilong gavman. "Mi tok amamas long Minista Tulsa na ol pipel bilong Haku. Ol i soim ol i gat strong long kisim dispela salens", em i tok. "Mi bilip em i ken provaidim lidasip long kisim ministri na dipatmen i go long niupela level", Momis i tok. Presiden Momis i tok tenk yu long Mr Semoso long sevis bilong em long Dipatmen bilong

Ekonomik Developmen olsem wanpela sinia memba bilong Bogenvil Eksekutiv Kaunsel. "Dispela foma memba i bin kamap wantaim planti impoten developmen aidia na ol wok kamap. Nau long dispela taim, yumi laik kisim niupela rot bilong stiaim Bogenvil na Atonemes Bogenvil Gavman", Presiden Momis i tok. Residen Mesitret bilong Buka, Bruce Tasikul i bin sainim ol pepa (swearing in ceremony) bilong makim Robert olsem niupela Minista bilong Ekonomik Developmen long dei 25 Oktoba.

The three must to do experiences in Bougainville

Taken from the blog Travel Inspired this is Adam Constanza – Freelance Content Creator & Travel Writer who has shared his experience of fun activities to do in Bougainville.



The moment you touch down and adjust your watch to Bougainville time (one hour after PNG time), an adventure begins: volcanoes, waterfalls, caves, WW2 relics, island hopping, snorkelling. Add in Bougainvillean's welcoming nature and the raw, unexplored character of the region and you're assured a trip like no other. There's heaps to explore, so here's a list of Six Must Do Bougainville Experiences to help you dive straight into planning your trip.

First though, fancy seeing more? Subscribe to my YouTube Channel: Travel Inspired YouTube Channel

1. Stay a night or two on Pokpok Island



There's something truly magical about Pokpok Island, with children splashing and giggling in the shallows, chickens roaming the beach, and hornbills and white cockatoos flapping overhead. And don't worry, the island gets its name for being the shape of a crocodile, not because it's a haven for them. Uruna Bay Retreat, the only tourist accommodation on the

island, offers a place to kick back and soak up Pokpok. Accommodation is a 3-bedroom beachside house with kitchen and bathroom. For bookings contact: urunabayretreat@gmail.com

2. Trek overnight in the mountains of Rotokas

To delve a little deeper into the forest-covered mountains of Bougainville you'll need a couple of days, a passion for adventure, and an experienced guide, and there's no one more knowledgeable than Rotokas Ecotourism to organise your trip. Hike up to the village of Sisivi and enjoy a local welcome as you stay overnight in a village style house, then continue your trek onwards for a full-on day of waterfalls and caves hiding deep within Bougainville's lush forest canopy. Get set to wade through rivers, tread up cascades on grippy, porous volcanic rock, and maybe even climb the vines to the entrance of the Ukoto caves.

Or perhaps scaling a volcano is more your style? With smoldering Mount Bagana to the south and Bougainville's highest peak, Mount Balbi to the north, Rotokas Ecotourism organises treks up both where you

can pitch a tarp or tent amongst the jungle on a 2-3 day camping adventure. For bookings and more information, visit: <https://rotokasecotourism.com>

3. Go snorkelling – off the beach, off the boat, or off the islands



Papua New Guinea offers incredible snorkelling, and Bougainville is no exception. There are many top snorkelling destinations, and most of them you can have all to yourself! Gaze upon graceful angelfish, anemonefish protecting their patch, and shoals of shimmering neon blue, yellow and silver damselfish.

The islands off Arawa, including Pokpok Island as well as the outer reef, offer particularly magical snorkelling spots. Your boat skipper will be able to advise the best spots in the area.

In Buka, organize a trip out to White Island, Christmas Island or Sun Island.

An insightful local guided trip to Rigu Lagoon, 20 minutes from Arawa, provides a look at Japanese trenches, machinery and other artefacts, as well as a



chance to hear fascinating stories about the lagoon itself.

From Buka Island a short 5-minute boat ride takes you to Sohana Island, a WW2 Japanese seaplane base, which can be circumnavigated by foot in less than an hour, with no guide required. To arrange a tour of Rigu, contact DJ Garden Lodge in Arawa at: www.facebook.com/djgardenlodge. To discuss other tour options, contact Bougainville Experience Tours at: <http://bougatours.com>

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Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/travelinspiredone> Youtube: Travel Inspired YouTube Channel

I call Wellington, New Zealand home after living there for the last 10 years. In late 2016, I flew to the Autonomous Region of Bougainville in Papua New Guinea for a period of 2 years to support small-scale tourism, while also on the lookout for hiking, cycling and snorkeling adventures. To follow my adventures, as well as everyday experiences as a freelance content creator, travel writer and someone living overseas, checkout my social media links and website. Feel free to SUBSCRIBE to my Travel Inspired YouTube Channel today for weekly videos.





Getting referendum-ready through sports



Photo and story by Isaiah Manish Igish

Sports partnership is vital in bringing awareness on the Bougainville Referendum, a senior rugby league administrator in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville said.

Bougainville Rugby Football League development officer Gregory Ragu said sports partnership was crucial in preparation for referendum.

He was speaking during a ceremony that would pave way for partnership between

the Bougainville Rugby Football League and the Bougainville Rugby Union (BRU) in August.

During the ceremony, BRU presented K1000 to BRFL in supporting its sister code to take part in the NGI trials which was planned to take place in Kokopo, East New Britain Province.

"It is important that all sporting codes in Bougainville partner in the development of youths in preparation for the referendum on June 15, 2019," he said.

Ragu said it was about

time all sporting codes work together for the development of youths in the region.

He said the Bougainville Rugby Football League President Avis Vanua accepted the support from rugby union president Peter Tsiamalili Jr and the Black Orchids.

The funds came from Black Orchids runners-up prize money won during their participation in the Solomon 7s in Honiara, Solomon Islands, in July.

It was an historic

moment for sports partnership in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

The vice-president of Bougainville Rugby Union Charlie Havara said the occasion showed unity in the development of any sporting code in the region.

Havara said the gesture led the way for other codes to partner in developing youths in Bougainville.

Black Orchids coach and BRU rugby manager Kelly Havara said rugby union was leading the

way for uniting all codes in Bougainville.

"Black Orchids is an icon of rugby sevens in the Pacific. This partnership is setting the foundation to reach the next level of sports administration and development," he said.

"The main idea is to progress in sports. We are supporting BRFL to participate in the NGI trials.

"The money came from our participation in the Solomon 7s. We got S\$20,000 (K8000) as runners-up prize.