



DEPARTMENT OF PRESIDENT & BOUGAINVILLE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SECRETARY

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Autonomous Region of Bougainville

CIRCULAR INSTRUCTION

**TO: ALL GOVERNMENT HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS
ALL BUSINESS HOUSES
ALL EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS
OFFICE OF THE BOUGAINVILLE ELECTORAL COMMISSION
ALL PUBLIC SERVANTS
ALL COMMUNITY GOVERNMENTS
GENERAL PUBLIC**

DATE: Tuesday 24 March 2020

**SUBJECT: 21-DAY LOCKDOWN PERIOD FOR NON-ESSENTIAL SERVICES AND
DELAY OF 2020 ABG GENERAL ELECTIONS DUE TO COVID-19
OUTBREAK**

This circular serves to inform all heads of government agencies that consistent with the National Executive Council decision on 22 March 2020 of a nationwide State of Emergency, the Bougainville Executive Council on 23 March 2020 has decided on the following measures to effectively control and contain any further spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19):

- State of Emergency declared as of Monday 23 March 2020 for 21 days according to the Bougainville Constitution;
- Resolved that all activities prescribed by the Prime Minister under the National State of Emergency are adopted;
- The 21-day State of Emergency period will further affect the issue of writ for the 2020 ABG general elections hence the writ will NOT be issued on Friday 27 March 2020; therefore the 2020 ABG general elections will be delayed.
- Imposed a ban on all flights and ships coming into Bougainville for 21 days except for delivery of cargo and medicines, and deployment of volunteers and technical officials who might be required to provide support in emergency response to COVID-19 in Bougainville;

- All public servants are allowed to take paid leave of absence from work, effective Tuesday 24th March to 14 April 2020. The government through the Office of the Chief Secretary will issue any further instructions after 14 April 2020 on future work arrangements.
- All Department Heads can authorize employees to continue priority work at home and submit reports of progress through online communication.
- Essential service agencies such as health workers, customs and border security, police, correctional services and any other agencies that receive instructions from the government are to work as and when required.

All other public servants are encouraged to stay at home and adhere to basic health and hygiene and practice social distancing.

Official information on this State of Emergency in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville will be released through the Controller – Assistant Police Commissioner for the Bougainville Police Service, Francis Tokura.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Col. Raivet". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "R".

Col. Thomas Raivet (Rtd) MBE, DMS
Acting Chief Secretary