



**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR MEDIA,
COMMUNICATION AND INTERGOVERNMENT AFFAIRS**

**Media Statement
Buka, 28 April 2017**

Today I announce that the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) has lifted the mining and exploration moratorium in the areas of Tore, Isina and Jaba.

As an autonomous region, Bougainville has an obligation to fulfill its full economic potential. Mining and exploration is a critical part of that process.

In making the decision to lift the moratorium, the Bougainville Executive Council has carefully considered the implications of development, the capacity of government to manage exploration applications and the needs of our people.

The strategic lifting of the moratorium in Tore, Isina and Jaba will play a critical part in enhancing Bougainville's economic future, without losing sight of the need for environmental protection and monitoring systems to regulate exploration and mining activities. To assist in this process, the Department of Mineral and Energy Resources, Department of Lands Physical Planning and the Environment and others are putting in place the administrative and regulatory processes to effectively manage new activities.

As President I assure interested companies and prospective investors that we stand ready to assist and facilitate investment in this important sector, provided that applicants honour our laws and fully comply with our regulatory requirements.

On behalf of the people of Bougainville I invite and welcome applications from prospective applicants to invest in our mining sector. Bougainville is open for business and I look forward to the development of long term economic partnerships to allow Bougainville to fulfill the economic potential she so rightly deserves.

The Bougainville Mining Registrar will start accepting applications from 10.00 am (BST), Tuesday 9 May 2017.

**HON. CHIEF DR. JOHN MOMIS, GCL, MHR
PRESIDENT**