



THE BOUGAINVILLE BULLETIN

Our voice, Our image, Our place

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Independence-Ready Mission Program launched in Bougainville



“The responsibility to prepare Bougainville towards its aspirations for independence lies with all Bougainvilleans.”

- President Toroama

President Ishmael Toroama speaking to the public at the Christmas Park in Arawa Town during the recent launching of the Central Bougainville Independence-Ready Mission.

The responsibility to prepare Bougainville towards its aspirations for independence lies with all Bougainvilleans.

This was the message delivered by the Autonomous Bougainville Government at the launch of the Constituency Independence-Ready mission program at Taneii Village in the Tonsu Constituency on April 1, 2021.

In November 2020, the

Bougainville House of Representatives passed a Motion in parliament titled the ‘Bougainville Independence Mission’, which calls on all Bougainvilleans to prepare Bougainville towards attaining its full sovereign powers.

The Bougainville Independence Mission calls upon each Constituency Members to provide leadership to ensure that their constituency is

independence through the progress of socioeconomic development in their respective constituencies.

ABG President Ishamel Toroama encouraged the Constituency Members and community leaders to be agents of change to promote progress in social welfare, good governance, economic and infrastructural development.

He said maintaining peace and stability

along with progress in socioeconomic development is key to constituencies being Independence Ready.

Following the official launch of the Bougainville Independence Mission program, all Constituencies will be required to establish their Constituency Independence Ready Committees to oversee the preparation of the independence-ready

process at the ward levels.

The Committee will comprise of the Constituency Member as the Chairperson, Community Government Chairpersons as the Deputy Chair or Deputy Co-chairs, and representation from wards, churches, youth, women and other interest groups in the community.

Each Constituency on Bougainville has its own unique features in terms of geography, terrain, population, language and interests therefore each Constituency may decide on a variation in their criteria and the manner in which they make their constituency independence ready.

Each of the Constituency Members and the Independence Ready Committee must uphold Standards of Good governance, accountability and transparency.

The Independence Ready Process will be open for public observation by PNG and Members of the International Community for Bougainville to secure international confidence that it is capable of being an independent Sovereign State.



Our voice, Our image, Our place

Editor's Desk

Hello Readers!

Welcome to Edition 17 of the Bougainville Bulletin.

Bougainville has embarked on a new path towards actualizing self-determination. Under the Bougainville Peace Agreement, Bougainville held a referendum in 2019 to determine its future political status. The result of the Referendum showed a profound desire for independence, 97.7%.

The BPA states that the next step is for the Governments of Papua New Guinea and Bougainville to consult over the result of the Referendum.

While this is happening at the government level, Bougainvilleans must also prepare themselves to be ready for independence – and this calls for a change in our way of life.

This is a task that is now being mandated to each and every Bougainvillean through the Bougainville Independence Mission.

This Edition brings to you stories about this Mission, what it is, who is involved and how it will work. It is part of the Government's strategy to ensure that internally, Bougainville is ready for independence.

We also bring to you our first column from the ABG President Hon. Ishmael Toroama where he shares his vision for Bougainville.

This Edition also features a number of business and SME related stories and information to help our business-minded readers know more about what is happening across the region. A key upcoming event is the Bougainville Economic and Investment Summit which you can read about on page 7.

We also bring to you our Community Corner on page 19, which features a story that was sent to the Bulletin Team from one of our readers in Tsalato Constituency, North Bougainville.

With COVID19 still on the rise in Bougainville and in other parts of the world, it is vital that all our readers continue to practice the Niupela Pasin measures. Most importantly, remember to keep a safe distance from others in public places, mask up and wash hands frequently with soap and water or use a hand-sanitizer.

We wish our readers well and hope you enjoy this Edition.

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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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- Past copies can be downloaded at: www.abg.gov.pg/bougainville-bulletin

The editor reserves the right to publish all stories. The *Bougainville Bulletin* is produced with funding support from the Bougainville Program, a development partnership between the Autonomous Bougainville Government and the governments of Papua New Guinea, Australia and New Zealand.

STOPIM CORONAVIRUS!!!

1. Stap tasol long haus bilong yu
2. Kisim save long coronavirus
3. Stap gut na stap seif

Wasim han olgeta taim
Taim yu kus, pasim maus wantaim han skrew

Stap 1.5 mita longwe long narapla oltaim
Noken sekhan wantaim ol narapla
Noken holim pes, nus o maus

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ABG continues progress for Joint Government Consultations

The Autonomous Bougainville Government has made steady progress in its preparations for the Joint Post Referendum Consultations with the National Government.

President Ishmael Toroama said that the ABG has already initiated the first steps to the process by the reinvention of the former Department of Peace Agreement Implementation.

The department will now be known as the Department of Bougainville Independence Mission and will be the key department in facilitating the Bougainville Consultation Team during the joint consultations.

“With the progress the government has achieved I must also urge the

people of Bougainville to play their part to help Bougainville attain political independence,” President Toroama said.

“Our vote during the referendum has created a political revolution that we must all be a part of because the 97.8 percent has become the identity of our choice to be politically independent as a sovereign nation,” President Toroama said.

In the last parliament sitting in February, ABG Minister for Bougainville Hon. Ezekiel Masatt reaffirmed that his Ministry is mandated to pursue political independence for Bougainville.

“We are now in the independence phase of the peace process. As far as I am concerned, referendum is long gone,” he said.

“Bougainville’s destiny is not the referendum, but our destiny is the majority choice our people made in the referendum.”

Masatt said as official representatives of the independence aspiration, his Ministry and Department must now carry that identity.

“This is history in its making because for the first time, government institutions of Bougainville bearing the name “independence” will formally engage with the Government of PNG to consult over the result of the referendum, Independence,” Masatt said.

The last Joint Supervisory Body meeting had agreed that the dates for the consultations will be in April however, due to the increase in COVID cases around the country, these dates are likely to change.

PM Marape: PNG to pay K621 million owing to Bougainville

Prime Minister Hon. James Marape says the National Government is committed to fully paying the K621 million owed to Bougainville in Restoration Development Grants (RDG).

He also reiterated his Government’s commitment to give a separate K100 million every year to Bougainville in Special Infrastructure Funds.

The announcement was made by the Prime Minister after the Joint Supervisory Body meeting in Arawa on February 5, 2021.

“This JSB affirmed, without any shadow of doubt, that the K621 million - confirmed by an independent United Nations’ assessment - is the actual amount owed by the PNG Government to Bougainville in as far as

the 2001 Peace Agreement is concerned.”

PM Marape stressed that this was different from the K100 million per year commitment by his Government in 2019 for development of key infrastructure on Bougainville.

A number of other commitments were also made by the National Government after the JSB meeting including:

- **Fisheries Minister Hon. Dr Lino Tom presented K5 million to ABG for fisheries development;**
- **Transport Secretary Roy Mumu presented K5 million to North Bougainville for purchase of a vessel under the Government’s National Shipping Service to transport**

ABG progresses economic reforms

The prospects of economic growth in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville will see great improvement following several reforms the Autonomous Bougainville Government will be introducing.

The ABG’s current Inward Investment Act is currently being reviewed to determine its practicality in generating revenue and improve economic growth on Bougainville.

President Ishmael Toroama said that the current Act lacks incentives in key sectors in Mining, Fisheries, Agriculture, Manufacturing and Tourism.

“Our current act is a copy paste version of the act in Papua New Guinea. We need our own act that is tailored to suit our objectives to stimulate our economy,” President Toroama said.

“We are currently looking at models throughout the world that are similar to our circumstances and practical for Bougainville to emulate,” President Toroama added.

This review will also look at existing investments that Bougainville has had since 1974 as well as the recent investments by the ABG.

Under President Toroama, the ABG has already initiated several key high impact economic development projects on Bougainville specifically the Bana Special Economic Zone, Tonolei Integrated Agriculture Project and the Manetai Limestone Project.

While these projects will prove to be very

lucrative for Bougainville it will take a substantial amount of time for them to be developed before they reach the production stage.

However, the ABG has also sought to develop its fiscal capacity in the “Low-Hanging Fruits” economic sectors as a strategy to generating steady revenue for Bougainville at a faster pace.

The government has already identified three key areas; Gold, Water Bottling and Bio Diesel apart from cash crops such as cocoa and vanilla etc.

“We already have Bougainvilleans involved in some of these businesses and the ABG can develop them within the shortest time possible and generate internal revenue,” President Toroama said.

“We will develop these sectors under State Owned Enterprises or under a Joint Venture with credible investors,” President Toroama said.

“These reforms as well as these initiatives are going to drive economic development as well as international best practice standards on investments in Bougainville,” President Toroama said.

“They are to protect the interests of both the investors and Bougainville,” he added.

Under the President’s Six Point Strategy, Economic Development is the second point that calls for the revival of economic activity on Bougainville and the generation of internal revenue thus enabling Bougainville to be economically independent.

people and cargo to the Bougainville atolls;

- **PM Marape added K2 million on top of K1 million given by South Bougainville MP and Information Communications and Technology Minister Hon. Timothy Masiu for development of Bana Special Economic Zone (SEZ); and**
- **PM Marape announced K3 million support for the forthcoming Economic and Investment Summit in Bougainville this year.**

The Prime Minister also announced that K18.7 million had been allocated to Bougainville for the completion of the Buka Ring Road and the Kokopau to Buin road.



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SECRETARY

MR SHADRACH HIMATA

Bougainville Administration realigns priorities to implement independence-readiness

The Bougainville Public Service is undergoing a re-alignment exercise with the aim of reflecting the government's priority to deliver independence for Bougainville.

Acting Chief Secretary to the Autonomous Bougainville Government Shadrach Himata is leading this re-alignment exercise.

"As the head of the Bougainville Public Service, I am tasked with the primary role of aligning the public servants to state building and nation building," he said.

"The role of the Public Service in State Building and Nation Building is a noble call for all legislators and policy makers as they craft legislations and create an enabling environment to sound public policy initiatives that safeguard the public welfare, protect national security, and maximize public interest."

Himata said that these exercise will be guided by the Six Point Strategy of the Toroama-Nisira government.

Currently, work is being done to build capacity at the community government, district and ward levels and bring the government closer to the people. "Going forward, we will build capacity at the Community Government, District and Ward level. The Bougainville Public Service will have less presence at the Headquarters level, with more focus now in the Constituencies, Community Governments, Districts and Ward Councils."

The Chief Secretary also announced that from this year onwards, all planning and budgeting for Bougainville will take a bottom-up approach.

"This exercise will commence at the ward planning committees up to the District

and Community Governments to the finalization of the budget plans at the Headquarters in Buka. The District Planning and Budget Priority Committees will be activated, capacitated and supported to take carriage of this exercise. Our 2022 ABG budget will be framed with "independence for Bougainville" as the main theme following this approach," he explained.

The Department of Community Government will be the lead department to drive this public sector reform.

"To guide this development going forward, we are developing a Rural Urbanization Policy for Bougainville. The Department of Community Government has been tasked with this assignment and assisted by the Department of Justice. This policy will be launched this year."

"If our people can enjoy the privilege of an urban setting at

their rural door steps, we can attest that Bougainville is ready for independence."

Four Regional Development Authorities will also be established to address all programs by the ABG Constituency Members and the four National MPs to ensure basic service delivery is delivered right at the village level.

"They (Regional Development Authorities) will become economic and development growth hubs," he said.

"These Development Authorities will be self-accounting, run their own payroll systems and print own cheques for payments and development projects. They will also establish their own treasury functions to ensure accountability, equitability and transparency in their operations."

Bougainville to get 70% of taxes

The Autonomous Bougainville Government is soon to receive a total of 70 per cent of taxation revenue collected in Bougainville.

The decision was reached by both governments at the meeting of the Joint Supervisory Body in Arawa in February.

Previously, the ABG used to receive only 30 per cent of the total taxation revenues collected in Bougainville as per the arrangements under the 2001 Bougainville Peace Agreement.

The JSB had resolved to reverse this existing formula and have 70 per

cent of the total taxation revenues remitted back to Bougainville, while the National Government will receive 30 per cent.

Prime Minister Hon. James Marape welcomed the new taxation arrangement saying that this is part of the National Government's commitment to empower Bougainville.

"It is complementary to my view in life that when you want to decentralize and empower a sub-national government or a specific region, in this case Bougainville, you must also ensure revenue-raising mechanisms so they are

empowered," he said.

"This is, in my view, a small but milestone achievement that complements our view of economic independence, and empowering regional governments or sub-national governments.

"In this instance, Bougainville is a special Government in our country, which is fully exercising the view my Government has of empowering people."

PM Marape commended Bougainville President Hon. Ishmael Toroama for pushing for this change in the taxation arrangement.

Masiu announces plans to expand ICT in Bougainville

National Minister for Information and Communication Technology, Hon. Timothy Masiu says his Ministry has plans to help the ABG achieve full radio, television and internet services in Bougainville.

Minister Masiu made this statement in the February sitting of the Bougainville House of Representatives.

"We plan to expand NBC radio and television coverage on Bougainville Island."

Currently the FM coverage of NBC Bougainville is limited to the urban areas, however, according to Minister Masiu, this can be increased with the installation of a

taller tower of 60 meters at the Hutjena Studio.

Other rural areas across the region can be covered through the shortwave (SW) service, however the challenge lies in finding the shortwave receiver radios that operate on 3 megahertz.

Apart from these, the Minister also announced plans to construct two towers in Wakunai and Panguna to increase FM coverage across these communities.

Other areas that they will be exploring include rollout of tower infrastructure for improved mobile and broadband services and improved communications in the Bougainville Atolls through VHF radios.



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

HON. ISHMAEL TOROAMA

President and Minister responsible for Inter-Government Affairs, Media and Communication

My dear Bougainvilleans, welcome to my first column in the Bougainville Bulletin.

Through this column I will be sharing my vision as the President of the Autonomous Bougainville Government with a particular emphasis on my Six Point Strategy.

The Six Point Strategy is made up priorities that I have envisaged as the way forward for our government to progress as we prepare for independence. The six points are;

- 1. Political control of Bougainville's Destiny which is independence
- 2. Economic Growth
- 3. Administration Control
- 4. Mobilizing Private Sector & Civil Society
- 5. Long Term Vision & Planning
- 6. International Relations.

I will also be sharing my thoughts on Bougainville's Independence Readiness in our communities and societal Bougainville.

Our main priority at his juncture is maintaining permanent peace on Bougainville. This necessitates a credible outcome of the

Referendum which in turn institutes stability and unity within the government and the people of Bougainville.

We have already shown that we are united through the very successful outcome of the Referendum where 97.7% of Bougainvilleans voted for us to be an independent sovereign nation.

The outcome of the Referendum does not mean we rest on our laurels, this is where the real work begins where we must strive to maintain stability and initiate socio-economic and political progress on Bougainville as we prepare for independence.

In the last five months since the inception of the Fourth Autonomous Bougainville Government, my government steadily gained footing in stabilizing and progressing important development initiatives.

We have made progress in initiating some very important development projects in the economic sector. The Bana Special Economic Zone and Manetai Limestone Project are two initiatives the ABG is developing at this time. There are several projects that will be developed in the future as well.

I must also raise my

concerns on the rise in law and order problems on Bougainville. I take the current breakdown in law and order as a direct challenge to the government.

Let me make it clear that I will not tolerate lawlessness and corruption on Bougainville. The days of anarchy and lawlessness are a thing of the past. I will be empowering the law and justice sector agencies to improve their capacity to deal with the law and order situation on Bougainville.

As responsible citizens and as a people working towards achieving an independent Bougainville we must always remember that we are all called to act in the best interest of Bougainville and that is to materialize the 98% of the Referendum outcome.

In the last five months into running this Government I can sense the change that is transpiring as the ABG's political and Bureaucratic machinery shifts into advancing preparations for Bougainville's Independence.

So far our inter-government relations with the National Government has been cordial. I must take this time to congratulate the Prime Minister

Hon. James Marape for his commitment to the joint implementation of the Bougainville Peace Agreement.

The Bougainville Peace Agreement is the blueprint for our journey to self-determination, it is the foundation of the autonomous arrangements on Bougainville and it is the road map to our ultimate political future.

The last JSB in February of this year was a success. We managed to iron out several pressing issues that have lain idle over the last 15 years. We have managed to make headway with these JSB agendas;

- 1. Post Referendum Joint Inter-Government Consultations process Framework
- 2. Financial Issues
- 3. Bougainville Economic & Investment Summit
- 4. Tax Initiatives
- 5. Fisheries Matters
- 6. Transfer of BCL Shares to ABG
- 7. SME Funding
- 8. Transfer of Powers & Functions Matters
- 9. National Elections Outstanding of

K5 million (2012 and 2017)

10. By-Election for AROB Regional seat

11. Invitation for Foreign Missions in PNG including Japan, EU, China, US, Indonesia, Solomon Islands and others, to establish their offices in Bougainville.

The introduction of the One Line Budget under our financial arrangements will give us greater access to managing our government grants and work towards creating economic opportunities for Bougainville.

There are still issues on our financial management mechanisms and they will be addressed.

The most important agenda in the last JSB was resolving the issue of the Joint Inter-Government Consultations between both governments. The consultations will begin soon at a time that is convenient for both governments.

I will keep on updating you on the progress of our independence mission as we go along.

This is a time for us to stand together to achieve our political goal.

God Bless us all.

ABG lifts moratorium over Manetai

The Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) announced recently in April, the partial revocation of the region-wide mining reservation over the former Manetai limestone project area.

ABG Minister for Mineral and Energy Resources, Hon. Rodney Osioco, says this decision is consistent with the government's aspirations to boost economic activities in the region.

"The Manetai Limestone project is part of a number of strategic programs spearheaded by my Ministry and Department towards Bougainville's goal of economic growth and development," he said.

Minister Osioco explained that the process for partially lifting the mining moratorium had gone through a lengthy and transparent process where the Bougainville Executive Council was required by law to seek the advice of the Bougainville Mining Advisory

Council on the proposed lifting of the moratorium.

Following this, the BEC was then required to provide the Bougainville House of Representatives the opportunity to debate the matter in parliament.

Minister Osioco says the process is now complete following the publication of notice in the Bougainville Gazette by ABG President Hon. Ishmael Toroama, on April 6, 2021.

The entire process was initiated by landowners to show their support and readiness to contribute to developing Bougainville's economy through the redevelopment of the limestone project.

The lifting of the moratorium over the Manetai limestone project site now opens up the area for relevant development license applications for the limestone resource. Applications can be lodged through the Bougainville Mining Registrar's Office.

ABG to deal with registered businesses only

The Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) will only engage in business with service providers who are registered with the Investment Promotion Authority (or IPA).

Acting Secretary for ABG Finance and Treasury Graham Kakarouts issued a formal notice in January this year for all business houses and companies to comply with this requirement in order to do business with the government.

"The Department of Finance and Treasury would like to advise and notify that for good governance and to assist tax collection agencies to collect tax revenues for the governments, both

national government and Autonomous Bougainville Government, all service providers that provides goods and services to ABG must be formally registered with Investment Promotion Authority and other registered organizations," he said.

He said that the departments, district coordination offices, ministries, constitutional offices, and government agencies are advised to inform current and potential service providers that they register their businesses when dealing with ABG.

The directive also includes services providers that lease properties (for

accommodation and property rentals) and vehicles to ABG.

The Investment Promotion Authority currently has a branch here at Buka Town and the service providers that have not registered can visit them for any business registrations queries.

He said that this requirement as per this directive are to be complied with by first quarter of 2021 (January to March 2021) and the Department of Finance and Treasury will not entertain claims raised to individuals and unregistered companies' starting April 1, 2021.

Read more on why you must register your business on page 12 of this edition.



Bougainville fisheries industry: A sleeping economic giant

The Bougainville Fisheries industry is set to undergo major changes following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Arawa in February.

The MoU was signed between the Autonomous Bougainville Government and the National Fisheries Authority and covers capacity building arrangements of Bougainville's fisheries sector to implement powers and functions within Bougainville waters.

In 2020, the ABG passed its Fisheries Management Act 2020 and the signing of the MoU now gives effect to the Fisheries Directorate to build its capacity to a fully operationalization structure that will eventually merge into the proposed Bougainville Fisheries Management Authority (BFMA).

The Bougainville Fisheries Management Authority was established in 2018, but was left handicapped due to a lack of capacity and proper regulations for the sector.

Under the new MoU, a number of key activities will now take place including building a proper staff structure for personnel, development of regulations, fishery

management plans, database systems and field survey work relating to the development of the fisheries industry in Bougainville.

ABG's Fisheries Director Christopher Binabat, says there is a huge potential for the fisheries sector to drive Bougainville's economy.

"The fisheries sector is a sleeping economic giant. There is a number of revenue generating methods in this industry such as transshipment of fish in internal waters and fisheries licenses that can earn a lot of much needed revenue for Bougainville's development," he said.

"Following the MoU signing, we are now in a better position to develop the necessary frameworks and systems with the assistance of the National Fisheries Authority and together build Bougainville's fisheries industry and collectively contribute to Bougainville's economy."

In 2018, a series of independent research were conducted by the National Research Institute, of which a key finding was that Bougainville has the potential to earn up to K100million per year from fisheries licenses alone.

Bougainville Economic and Investment Summit

Bougainville is focused on the long term aim of moving towards total economic security to strengthen its aspirations for independence.

This is one of the key aims of the forthcoming Bougainville Economic and Investment Summit being planned for this year.

The Summit is intended to assist Bougainville to strengthen economic services and investment opportunities in areas such as tourism,

fisheries, agriculture, forestry and other relevant non-mineral resource sectors.

Acting Secretary for the Department of Economic Development Stanford Komena says the Summit will help Bougainville develop a roadmap for sustainable economic growth and development.

"The Summit will provide a forum for key stakeholders including government, business communities, potential investors and other



The 2017 Bougainville Revenue and Tax Summit hosted at Hutjena Secondary School.

academics to discuss the economic and investment potential of Bougainville," he said.

"The summit will also support findings and recommendations from the 2017 Revenue and Tax summit and allow all stakeholders to collectively create an economic road map for Bougainville."

At the last Joint Supervisory Body meeting in Arawa, the

National Government made a commitment of K3million to support the preparatory works to organize the Summit.

ABG's Department of Economic Development is working together with the National Departments of Planning & Monitoring, Treasury, and Commerce & Industry, and also with ABG departments and stakeholders to organize this Summit.

Hagogohe Constituency prepares for economic independence



The Literacy and Financial Training at the Hagogohe Constituency on February 20th 2020.

Preparing his constituency to be ready for independence is what the member for Hagogohe Hon. Robert Hamal Sawa is currently doing and he has done that by funding the registration fees for more than a hundred and sixty small-to medium-entrepreneurs

(or SMEs) in his constituency.

Member Sawa officially closed the four-day program of financial literacy and small business management training at Hagogohe Constituency that happened in late February this year.

"It is my dream

that the Hagogohe Constituency becomes economically empowered and that the people of this constituency partake in job creation opportunities and this is a priority which I want to see happen for this year," Sawa said.

"I want to assure the people that the

Hagogohe Corporative Society that with assistance from the Department of Economic Development, we will observe and monitor the SME projects very closely to ensure that there are no obstacles to stop the continuation of the operations of these projects."

Hon. Sawa wants the people to have a 'leave-no-one-behind' mentality and urged for everyone to also inspire others who are not an SME to also become empowered to be part of such economic activities.

"So I want to encourage everyone, let's work as a team and together let's build the foundation of Hagogohe

Constituency," he urged.

He said that being an active SME does not mean that they forget about other agricultural cash-crop activities like copra and cocoa farming, but to continue with those activities as those cash crops will be sold to the Hagogohe Cooperative Society once it is established.

He congratulated the 168 entrepreneurs who graduated with a Certificate in Financial Literacy and Small Business Management and for a very successful training.

"I want the proper list of all the SMEs who graduated today and I will register all your SMEs with IPA," he said.

Update from the Attorney General and Minister for Bougainville Independence Mission Implementation Hon. Ezekiel Masatt

“The referendum vote on independence is the most unifying fact that binds all Bougainvilleans together. Never in the history of Bougainville that Bougainvilleans of all walks of life stood together to declare their one and only destiny; Independence for Bougainville. Today I must remind us that just as the vote for independence, we must deliver on our obligation to see the Declaration Day of Independence within this generation of Bougainville leadership.” – Hon. Ezekiel Masat, Minister for Bougainville Independence Mission Implementation, February 2021

The Trident Strategy towards implementing the Bougainville Independence Mission

The government through the Parliamentary Committee on Post-Referendum Consultations and Dialogue had passed the motion in Parliament in December 2020 on the Bougainville Independence Mission. It was also agreed that the Bougainville Independence Mission will be implemented by taking on a trident approach:

1. Internal Bougainville approach – preparation within Bougainville by Bougainvilleans

“The ground preparation is an extremely serious matter for Bougainville. We must not wait for the Government of Papua New Guinea to give independence on a golden plate. I challenge all elected members of this House not to wait for the consultation and the ratification to reach its conclusion. I plead with my fellow Members of this House to move as a matter of urgency in their constituencies.” –



Hon. Ezekiel Masatt.

Hon. Ezekiel Masat, Minister for Bougainville Independence Mission Implementation, February 2021

Bougainville Independence Mission – the Bougainville Independence Mission is a concept that was endorsed by the Bougainville Parliament in November 2020. It focuses on preparing Bougainville towards attaining full sovereign powers.

Constituency Independence Ready Concept – this concept has also been endorsed by the Bougainville parliament under the Bougainville Independence Mission. It directs Members of the ABG to take lead and oversee the Constituency Independence Ready preparations in their respective constituencies. Political leaders will work together with the Administration, civil societies, Churches and external partners towards nation-building in Bougainville. The Constituency Independence Ready concept aims to ensure that all Bougainvilleans participate at all levels within Bougainville.

Consultation forums –The Consultation forums create the opportunity for government and stakeholders at all levels to participate in the planning and framing of the post referendum strategy for Bougainville. It is a platform that ensures all post-referendum planning is all-inclusive, collaborative and consultative. The Consultation Forum is made up of representatives of stakeholders in Bougainville including

ABG Ministers and Members, Community Government, Bougainville Veterans, Mekamui, Women, Youth, Churches, Business houses and expatriate Bougainvilleans.

2. National Approach – preparation within PNG

Joint Supervisory Body – the two governments have just held the first meeting of the Joint Supervisory Body in February 2021. The JSB is co-chaired by the Bougainville President and the PNG Prime Minister. Both leaders have reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring that all activities, discussions that take place during this post-referendum period, will be guided by the Bougainville Peace Agreement. The Leaders agreed that three (3) JSB meetings will be held this year with the next one planned for June 2021 and the third in December 2021.

Sharpe Agreement – An agreement that allows Bougainville to immediately legislate the powers that are already available to Bougainville while preparing to deal with the Sovereign powers during the consultation process. Bougainville plans to establish the Office of the First Legislative Counsel for Bougainville to concentrate on drafting legislations for Bougainville.

Joint Communiqué – this is a reaffirmation of the

Governments of Bougainville and Papua New Guinea to resolve the independence aspirations of Bougainville. It covers the key agendas for consultation on the future political status of Bougainville, methods of endorsement and the Documents to be signed between Bougainville and Papua New Guinea. Bougainville is focused on the independence agenda with the objective of signing an Independence Treaty with Papua New Guinea.

Joint Consultations – Through the Joint Supervisory Body, the two governments have agreed for the first Consultation Meeting to take place in March 2021 in Kokopo, East New Britain province. A summary of possible agenda items to be discussed at the Joint Consultations include, but not limited to: (Source: from Ministerial Statement, December 2020)

- Bougainville Independence Treaty
- Ratification (definition and processes)
- Economic/Fiscal independence
- Legislative deficiencies
- Bougainville Constitutional Commission
- Independence Package

3. The International Approach

The Bougainville Government recognizes international partners as key stakeholders in progressing Bougainville’s aspirations for development. The JSB meeting in February directed the National Foreign Affairs Department to establish an office solely responsible for Bougainville matters and facilitate development cooperation and trade arrangements for Bougainville with all development partners.

Toktok klia bilong strongim Bogenvil Indipendens Misin



Wanem rot nau bai yumi mas behainim long go kamap long arere bilong dispela driman bilong Bogenvil?

Yumi ol pipol long wanwan peles o ward insait long ol konstituensi or komuniti gavman bai yumi inap long halivim olsem wanem?

ABG tru long Bogenvil Eksekutiv Kansel igivim tok orait long tripela rot long bai yumi behainim.

1. Nambawan rot insait long dispela tripela rot em long wok rere insait yet long ol konstituensi bilong yumi insait long Bogenvil.

• **KIRAPIM BEK OL BRUK LUS KOMITI** – Em long kirapim bek konstituensi approach wea ol ABG memba wantaim ol komuniti gavman na ol ward memba imas sanapim bek gen ol bruklus komiti long wanwan konstituensi o komuniti gavman.

• **KOMITI MEMBASIP**
• *Siaman em bai ABG Konstituensi Memba*
• *Deputy/Deputy Co-Chair em bai Siaman bilong Komuniti Gavman*
• *Ward rep*
• *Sios rep*
• *Youth rep*
• *Women rep*
• *Arapla interest grup rep*

Bikpela wok bilong dispela komiti nau bai long go aut long ol wanwan ward o komuniti na

kamapim toktok klia long wok rere bilong wokabout igo long indipendens.

ATTITUDE CHANGE, SEKHANIM BIRUA NA SENISIM PASIN

Yumi redi long senisim pasin or nogat insait long taim yumi wokabout igo long kisim indipendens. Strongim pasin bilong sek han.
Ok ol kain pasin bilong kilim nating man meri em bai halivim wok rere bilong bruk olgeta or nogat ?? Pasin bilong stilim ol kar ?? Pasin bilong stil na hensapim ol bisnisman-meri.

Pasin blong dirink hombru na simuk garas nogut, em bai halivim Bogenvil long kisim indipendens or nogat?

LUKAUTIM LO NA ODA

Yumi mas lukautim lo na oda. Halivim polis, halivim ol chief, ol mama, ol pikinini, lo yut na olgeta pipol bilong yumi. Imas gat luksave na pasin rispek long wanpla narapela manmeri. Tete insait long Bogenvil emi kamap olsem wanpla kalsa wea taim igat hevi, yumi kirap na kisim lo ikam long han bilong yumi yet. So insait long wokabout bilong yumi long redi long indipendens, yumi mas luksave tu long wok bilong ol kainkain kot na tu imas gat bikpela luksave long ol rot bilong kamapim gutpela sindaun insait long ol komuniti



bilong yumi hia long Bogenvil.

KIRAPIM NA STRONGIM WOK BILONG EKONOMI

President Ishmael Toroama emi tok aut pinis long sixpela het tok bilong gavman. Wanpela long dispela ol het tok em long kirapim na strongim ekonomi na kamapim moni bilong ronim gavman na ol sevis bilong ol pipol. Gavman na pipol bai mas wok bung wantaim long inapim tru dispela het tok. Yumi noken kamap ol les manmeri.

LUKAUTIM NA RONIM GUT OL SAMTING (GOOD GOVERNANCE)

Insait tu long indipendens misin yumi mas strongim prinsipol bilong gud gavanens. Ronim na lukautim gut ol samting bilong gavman, sios, skul, klan or pisin na tu yumi yet wanwan manmeri insait long komuniti. Yumi mas lukautim pablik propati wantaim tu ol private propati na ol institusen wea emi stap long halivim yumi.

HUMAN RISOS DIVELOPMEN

Pasin bilong strongim ol pipol

long go long skul na kisim save imas go het. Taim bilong skul, ol pikinini imas go long skul. Noken salim ol long go wok kopra o wok kakau o wok gaden o pasim ol wantaim ol pasin tumbuna tasol. Taim bilong holidei orait oli ken halivim long ol kain wok long peles. Yumi mas strong long kamapim ol manmeri bai gat gutpela save long ronim peles bilong yumi.

SOSAL SEVIS NA GUTPELA SINDAUN

Em tu long sait bilong strongim ol wok bilong helt na skul. Yumi mas kamapim na strongim helti na educated populesen insait long Bogenvil. Mipela imas sindaun long ples wea emi helti na imas pasim rot wea ol kainkain sik na birua inap long kam na bagarapim yumi.

Yumi yet tu imas strong long kamapim ol gutpela haus na tu gutpela sindaun insait long peles bilong yumi wanwan.

Em hia em ol sampela tingting long halivim yumi taim yumi wok rere insait long wanwan konstituensi bilong yumi long kirapim konstituensi indipendens redi misin.

Atolls Economic Survey and Bougainville Inward Investment South Awareness with Department of Economic Development, and Tourism and Arts and Culture, Education and Community Government.

The survey and awareness was carried out to collect data on each districts about the status of different government infrastructures and services while the awareness was to inform communities about the functions of Bougainville Inward Investment and different investment opportunities in Bougainville all as a preparation leading up to the Economic Summit to be held this year in Bougainville.



Bougainville Tourism visiting different cultural groups and reviving cultures in preparation for the Siwai Cultural Show to be held this year.



Rupummo Model Village in the Kopii Constituency of Siwai District developed in 2009 under the Bougainville Healthy Community Project.

Empowering women SMEs in Bougainville

'To promote, encourage, and enhance the participation of women in business activities to improve quality of life - this is the main aim of the Central Bougainville Women in SME association.' Chairlady Delwin Ketsian, shares this story with the Bougainville Bulletin.

The Central Bougainville Women in SME was registered in September of 2019 as an association for MSME women in Central Bougainville with the intention of mobilizing and empowering women who are into income generating activities.

The Association organizes and provides any relevant business management or business-related training for its members to improve their knowledge and ability to efficiently run their business.

"Through this association we can receive, organize and prudently administer any funds or grants that can be given to women in SME either from the National Government, ABG or donors in pursuant of its objectives," Delwin explained.

Women in SME are also given the space to contribute any ideas, opportunities or suggestions through the association.

"It's a voice for business women including our informal sector, into any discussions with the government whether ABG or National Government or any major private entity for any partnership in various business activities that an SME member is involved in."

The Association also ensures that all its members comply with standard government regulations for local businesses.

Speaking on the experience of the association and its

members during the COVID19 pandemic, Delwin says that their objectives were greatly affected by this, however the women were able to strive and survive the pandemic.

"Women are always smarter in managing their own activities. They are able to meet challenges, set deadlines, taking risks and managing them well and still be able to flow their SME management," she said.

Delwin says the association has a set of programs lined up for this year for its members and other interested persons.

"Our focus for 2021 is to get all women SMEs, both formal and informal onboard, making sure we are compliant with government regulations, organize relevant trainings like basic booking, financial literacy training to prepare members to access loans, or MYOB trainings for medium enterprises," she said.

"Our focus strategy is to up skill informal sectors from start-up to formal, and current formal business activities to go into major enterprises."

The association also uses women who have special skills to train and pass on these skills to other interested women as capacity building.

"One of such activity is Flower Arrangement Training using two informal sector mothers with their skills. We market



their products on our Facebook page on social media and call for any interested women or men who are willing to learn this skill with fees for attendance," Delwin explained.

In 2020, the National Government announced a stimulus package to support local MSMEs across the country. Delwin says that a challenge that most women business owners may face is the equity component of the loan.

"We will be seeking assistance from our members, either Constituency, Regional Womens or National Member to meet our 30% equity for SME loan or business loan," she said.

While government support over the years has been bleak, the Central Bougainville Women's Association has plans to venture into its own business

arm generating income from its assets and business activities.

"An incubation center is one along our line of visions where women SMEs will utilize, manage their activities of any type whilst the Association benefits from rentals," Delwin shares eagerly.

"We had some exciting discussions with City Pharmacy Limited (CPL) Group of Companies Chairman, Sir Mahesh Patel and his CEO Navin, during his last business tour to Bougainville in March. We are aiming for higher achievements after the fruitful engagements."

The Central Bougainville Women's Association urges local informal and formal sector women SMEs across Bougainville to join and be a part of important activities of empowering women in business at all levels.

Bougainville Food Supplies: A new business enterprise in Buka

A new business house in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville is the Bougainville Food Supplies Ltd.

The Bougainville Food Supplies (BFS) is part of the BNG Trading Company and started in March 2020.

Back then, Papua New Guinea was just being hit by the COVID19 pandemic, and Bougainville was no exception. Consequently it had a huge impact on our local business operators around the region and business houses in Buka also felt the impact which influenced their entire operations.

Since then, most business houses have done their best to adapt to the 'new normal' while

trying to get back on their feet after the continuous emergency periods.

The Bougainville Bulletin had a short interview with Supplies BFS Branch Manager Ritesh Chand to tell its readers what BFS offers here in Bougainville.

Q: What products are sold at BFS?

A: Bougainville Food Supplies sells quite a variety of products, ranging from dry foods to freezer goods, bakery goods, a variety of detergent products, including products from Australia's woolworths' brand plus others.

Q: Where is BFS located?

A: At the former Pemana Building at the Airport Road, Ieta Village in Buka Town. BFS is only available in Buka.

Q: What is the method of payment?

A: BFS only accepts direct deposit done by customers and payments using EFTPOS or cheque. BFS does not accept cash payments.

Q: When asked what makes BFS different from the other wholesale companies in Bougainville, this is what they had to say.

A: We don't compare us with other companies, but yes we bring some



branded products into Bougainville, we are trying to make life easier for our customers and people of Bougainville with affordable and quality products. We are here to serve with our quality products and services.

Q: What are the Company's goals, mission?

A: Service is the main plan and to bring quality food and product lines at an affordable price for

Bougainville people.

Q: Would you agree that BFS has supplied goods to stores during the pandemic outbreak? A time where shipment of cargo was an issue?

A: Yes To know more about the products that are supplied from Bougainville Food Supplies Ltd you can visit the website <https://www.bngtrading.com.pg/> to see what products that are also sold at BFS

Six reasons why you must register your business

Bougainville has begun to see a rise in small-medium-entrepreneurs (or SMEs) over the recent years.

In the rest of Papua New Guinea, SMEs have made their mark in assuming a significant role in contributing to the overall economy.

While this is positive, there are factors that exist in our local context that hinders the growth of this sector. Access to business finance, transport and enabling infrastructure, high costs of utilities and even law and order issues are key challenges for our local SMEs.

For Bougainville, a lack of knowledge is also a key challenge that our

local SMEs are faced with. The Bougainville Bulletin team decided to collect some basic information that our local SMEs across the region may need in progressing their start-ups.

We will start by sharing some insights on the importance and benefits of business registration.

There are many reasons why a small business should register with Investment Promotion Act (IPA). Here are some of the reasons;

1) Registering your business name makes it easier for your customers to identify you.

2) Registering your business makes it a legal entity.

3) Many customers or clients of businesses are very strict with making payments and will only make payments when a business is registered and pays tax on a regular basis.

4) Makes it easier for seeking financial support from the banks e.g. National Development Bank (NDB), MiBank, BSP, and other recognized banks in Papua New Guinea.

5) Investors can find or search for your

business name on IPA- when interested in investing in your business or project.

6) An opportunity to attend workshops organized by financial institutions or other related organizations (public/private)

To register your business, you must do so with the Investment Promotion Authority (or IPA). They have a branch here in Buka Town. All you do is visit their office and fill in the correct application form and lodge your application. A K200 lodgment fee must be paid when you submit your application. When your application

is processed, you will receive your Certificate of Incorporation.

The next thing you must do is get your Tax Identification Number (TIN) from the Internal Revenue Commission (or IRC). This will require you to fill in the correct application form. You will receive your Certificate of Compliance once your application is processed.

Once you have your Certificate of Incorporation (for business name) and Certificate of Compliance (for business operation), you are ready to do business with your clients whether it's in the public or private sector.

Kute Shipping Company - This year marks twenty years of Kute's services in Bougainville



When the Bougainville crisis came to a halt in the early 2000, fuel shortage was still very problematic because there was no ship traveling into the region to transport fuel from the suppliers that were located outside of Bougainville.

Many strong entrepreneurs ventured into ways of using raw products to making fuel for vehicles especially to use.

Coconut was a popular cash crop back then for producing energy fuel to operate vehicles. But that idea only lasted when the Buka Metal Fabricators (or BMF - a well-known local business from Lontis, Haku Constituency) was operational.

The concept phased out when BMF's operations ceased and that's when the shipment of fuel cargo became a very strong option for transporting fuel into Bougainville. But it was an expensive exercise and only the determined took the challenge to address the shipment issue.

The 'Restoration Period' also began, which gave a sense of hope for business houses to rebuild and start all over again.

This ignited a momentum of rebuilding a nation. One active business man known as Michael Boko, also became part of that sensation.

There were many people who became part of the "Restoration Period" - a time where strong business minded people wanted

to bring Bougainville back to its former glory.

And providing fuel service was an ideal but very expensive business venture to operate, however, Michael and his family fully committed their time and efforts to support and build the new business.

Michael tells the Bougainville Bulletin some of his experiences of how first started out his business in his early years.

"I started with a drum of diesel in 2000. After selling that diesel drum, I increased it to two drums - one diesel and second drum was Mix-50. After selling these two drums, I increased my order to five drums and started supplying fuel to Buka Police Station and Kubu Power House formally (Buka District Power House). Most of my customers are from Haku, Solos, Torokina and Keriaka - even today I still have these customers coming to support the business," Michael recounts.

Today, Michael Boko's company is one of the main suppliers of fuel into the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. To get to where he is today, was not an easy journey. Michael shared some highlights of his memories of this business journey he has taken over the years.

"My favourite memories was starting a business with a single diesel drum and getting paid

with K20.00 and eating kaukau with dry coconut to survive and grow my business into what it is today.

"After operating from my residence, I faced some issues and started looking for land to operate from.

"I started my office at Keno Foundation while growing my business from K20 fortnight. Eventually, my wages was increased to K120.00 until I grew my business to the standard as it is now."

Transporting fuel from Kokopo in East New Britain Province to the Autonomous Region of Bougainville is one of the jobs that the Kute Shipping Ltd does, and has been one the main fuel providers for Bougainville since the restoration days.

The company has also made its mark in the shipping venture and has been in the frontline of shipping services in Bougainville for many years now.

It has been there during the shortage of fuel supply when services in the region were starting to pick up and business houses were re-building their brand and activities once more.

During its first years of service the company started with a small ship just enough to carry 10-20 drums of fuel. When it bought a new ship in 2014, the number of drums have also increased hence the capacity to load the drums

have increased.

Here, Michael tells the Bougainville Bulletin some of his experiences when he first started the shipping service.

"I first started my shipping company after the Rabaul Shipping Disaster where three Rabaul Shipping vessels were burned in Buka. Rabaul Shipping Company was one of the main shipping companies that were providing shipping services to all business houses in Buka and Bougainville community as a whole.

"Before that my plan to own my shipping company was started after realizing a lack of shipping services to our Province. After the burning down of Rabaul Shipping Vessels, my company faced a lot of struggle in shipping my company fuel and oil to Bougainville to serve the population and also on supplying fuel oil to Kubu Provincial Power House.

The dream came true after giving the company one tenth to God to help build the Malasang Main Center Catholic Church at Tsitaloto community. After the opening of the church, me and my wife first purchased our company vessel Major Dundee in 2010, and now, we own two other two vessels namely JMC Trader and M&C Trader which now operates between Bougainville, Rabaul and throughout Papua New Guinea."

OBEC prepares for 2021 Community Government Elections



The Office of the Bougainville Electoral Commissioner has commenced its preparations for the conduct of the 2021 Bougainville Community Government Elections.

Bougainville Electoral Commissioner George Manu, while giving a brief update on the preparations currently being done, said all preparations are on track and he is positive that OBEC will again deliver this election as per scheduled.

"I am pleased to announce that OBEC has already started its pre-planning and preparations towards the conduct of the 2021 Community Government Elections," said Mr Manu.

"As with other elections that we have facilitated in the past, we are again focusing on delivering another successful and credible election.

Mr Manu said tentative dates for respective electoral activities have already been set and OBEC is now working towards implementing those events as planned.

According to the tentative schedule, the Public Notice of Election will be issued around the second week of August, to be followed with a five days nomination period.

After nomination, candidates

will have 28 days to do their campaigns. Polling and counting will take place towards the end of September.

Mr Manu said these set dates are subject to change due to funding availability, before adding that confirmed dates for these respective activities will be announced in the coming weeks.

The conduct of the CG elections will be done in accordance with the Bougainville Elections Act (2007), the Bougainville Community Government Act (2016) and the Bougainville Community Government (Elections & Other Matters) Regulations (2016).

"These are the legal documents that govern the conduct of the CG elections thus OBEC, as the mandated authority to conduct the election, will be abiding by these laws to deliver a successful and credible election outcome."

This year's CG elections will be the second to be held in Bougainville following the adoption of the Bougainville Community Government Act by the Bougainville House of Representatives in 2016.

The first CG elections were conducted in April of 2017 (for

non-urban CG areas) and June 2018 (for urban CG areas).

This election will be similar to the 2017 and 2018 CG elections, except for a number of minor concepts that we will be implementing this year, said Mr Manu.

One of this will be the concurrent facilitation of elections in both the non-urban and urban community government areas.

The other will be the usage of an electoral roll during polling in all wards in Bougainville.

During the 2017 CG elections, ward consultants were engaged to identify voters that were eligible to vote in the elections.

Work on updating the roll is set to commence in May this year and will be done by ward recorders of respective wards in Bougainville.

To be eligible for enrolment, a voter should be:

- At least 18 years of age; and
- Is a Bougainvillean; and
- A citizen of PNG; and
- Is not of unsound mind within the meaning of any law relating to the

protection of the person and property of persons of unsound mind; and

• Ordinarily resides in the ward and has so resided for at least the last 6 months.

• A person who is serving a sentence of imprisonment is not entitled to vote in an election of a Community Government.

More detailed information on the conduct of the CG elections will be issued by OBEC in the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, the Bougainville Electoral Commissioner is urging all Bougainvilleans to prepare for this election.

He said community governments are the second tier form of government below the ABG therefore people should take ownership of this election.

"During the first CG elections, there were a number of uncontested seats. This time I want to encourage more than two candidates to contest in a particular seat," he said.

According to the Bougainville Community Government Act, if there is a vacancy then the runner-up automatically assumes this vacant position.

Community Government leaders in Central and South Bougainville have been challenged to shape the societies in Bougainville to prepare for independence.

Attorney General and Minister for Bougainville Independence Mission Implementation Hon Ezekiel Massat issued this challenge during the induction of Community Government leaders, executive officers and district administrators on the implementation of Bougainville Independence Ready Mission in Central Bougainville.

"People have voted for independence and that has given us the mandate to start preparing our people for independence," he said.

The induction is the first for Central Bougainville

Community Government Induction on Bougainville Independence Mission



Independence Ready Mission was launched on 9 April 2021.

The launching is based on a motion that was passed by the Bougainville House of Representatives to

prepare Bougainville for independence.

According to Mr Massat, this independence mission will be implemented through the trident strategy. This trident strategy has three parts: internal prong, domestic prong and



international prong.

"We will be the ones implementing the internal prong and this is to prepare our people for independence," Mr Massat said.

He added that the Bougainville constitution says that Bougainville and must act on the interest

of Bougainville and as such the community Government had an enormous responsibility to shape these societies that we want into an independent nation.

Mr Massat urged the Community government leaders, executive officers and district administrators to work together and to appreciate the government's call to implement this mission.

The induction was facilitated by the ABG Department of

Bougainville Independence Mission implementation with the assistance from the Department of President & BEC, Department of

BPA, public servants of Bougainville were given an added task upon their core public service

he will have to seek legal clarification about the existence of community governments before the government can know how to properly fund their existence.

Masatt to clarify community government establishment

Bougainville's Attorney General and Minister for Bougainville Independence Mission Implementation, Ezekiel Masatt, said he will be seeking legal clarification over the establishment of community governments before the Autonomous Bougainville Government can know how to fund their existence and work.

The Community Government concept is a lower level of government, similar to the Local Level Government system in Papua New Guinea.

The Community Government is established under the Community Government Act.

Minister Masatt who was responding to queries at Roreinang in South Nasioi Constituency in inland Central Bougainville, said while the idea is similar, he will have to seek clarification on its

existence before the ABG can know how to fund it.

Both the Women's Representative of Ward 13 in South Nasioi, Unise Miringtoro, and the Chairlady of the local Community Government, Ismania Ketsin, had asked, if members of the community government could be compensated with a salary for their work.

The Autonomous Bougainville Government had relied heavily on the work of community governments to make the region ready to take part in the 2019 Referendum, and it is once again calling for a partnership to ensure public acceptance of the Independence-ready mission being championed by President Ishmael Toroama and his administration.

"We are humbly asking if we

the members of the community governments can be put on the government payroll because we work hard for the government. During the Referendum, we were at the forefront championing awareness and helping to get people ready to take the vote. Which government department can accommodate us the community governments?" Mrs. Miringtoro questioned.

"The community governments work very hard for the people but they are not funded sufficiently. South Nasioi is the biggest constituency in Central Bougainville and we have hard-working community government officials who can do with a little bit of compensation," Mrs. Ketsin said.

Minister Masatt said the concern by the people of South Nasioi was genuine, however,

he will have to seek legal clarification about the existence of community governments before the government can know how to properly fund their existence.

"The community government in Bougainville is similar to local level governments in Papua New Guinea but they both operate on different arrangements. The Local Level Government Act only applies to provinces in PNG and not to the autonomous region. We have the Community Government Act instead.

"Given this difference, I will have to seek legal clarification on the matter and look at the implications of funding it. We would then have to adjust it to make it work better for the people and in support of the government and its programs," Minister Masatt explained.

Schools urged to improve performance

Headmasters and principles across all Bougainville schools are urged to ensure proper mentoring and supervision of teachers to improve performance in this academic year.

This was one of the expectations outlined by the Senior School Inspector for Bougainville Edward Masiu in the Department's newsletter to schools.

"I expect Headmasters and principals to ensure that mentoring, monitoring and supervision of teachers are adequately and genuinely done to make sure that our teachers perform as expected," Masiu said.

"I also expect all our schools to keep Staff Attendance Records this year. The principal or the deputy administrator

can be in charge of this. Teachers' attendance can be monitored through this and talked to if improvement is needed from them or reports sent to the head office if no improvement is done.

"This is to help deal with the high rate of teacher absence experienced throughout our high/secondary schools in the region in the past years."

Masiu also highlighted key expectations required to set standard in all Bougainville high and secondary schools, including:

- **Compulsory speaking of English in our schools**



- **Improving Students disciplinary issues from last year through various school programmes**
- **Full school uniforms for all our schools in 2021.**
- **Improve on students' and teachers' grooming.**
- **Conduct more teacher-parents consultations exercise**
- **Improve students' and teachers' welfare.**
- **All schools to aim**

- **for better academic performance in 2021**
- **Conduct more school-based in-services.**
- **Improve on lesson presentations.**

He encouraged all teachers, headmasters and parents to work together as a team to make 2021 a successful academic year for Bougainville education institutions.

Updeit ikam long Memba bilong Ioro Hon. Theonila Roka Matbob



ABG Memba bilong Ioro Constituency Hon. Theonila Roka Matbob emi givim namba wan updeit igo long ol pipol bilong em long Ioro na tu long ol pipol bilong Bogenvil long ol wok kamap insait long Ioro insait long Central Bogenvil.

"As tingting emi long givim yu updeit long ol issue istap, wok yumi ol pipol imas wokim na ol wok redi long kamap," Memba itok.

Hon. Theonila emi mekim sampela toktok klia long ol wok kamap insait long gavman na hau ol pipol iken wok bung wantaim gavman long inapim dispela tingting bilong Bogenvil long sanap em yet.

Proses blong go insait long independence emi wok bilong ol pipol na gavman wantaim. Ol kain wok mas kamap emi;

- **Wok kamap imas strong long olgeta ples, na ol femili.**
- **Ol famili, kominiti, ward na clan imas gat ol grassroot benk or treasury**
- **Imas gat meeting blong ol ward insait long wanpla**

taim olgeta 3pla mun

Memba emi tok aut tu olsem pasin bilong toktok na luksave long ol narapela imas kamap strong insait long Ioro Constituency.

"Yumi ol pipol imas tingim olsem inogat wanpla man or meri long arasait bai kam na bagarapim yumi, yumi yet bai bagarapim yumi," emi tok.

Narapela bikpela samting we Memba emi toktok strong long em long Constituency bilong em, em long kirapim ekonomi start long wod level.

"Meaning bilong ekonomi long wol tudei emi no wankain long hau planti bilong yumi inap long bihainim. Na displa kam wantaim bikpela pasin blong rausim risos na salim igo outsait long kisim moni (revenue).

"Tasol emi wanpla hap tasol yumi wok long lukluk long em. Sapos yumi lukluk long how yumi wok long mekim bisnis long ol liklik maket go inap long salim gold bar, yumi wok long lukluk long ol maket wea gavman no kisim takis long ol.

"Gutpla example em yumi yet long Ioro, insait long tupla wik tasol, moa long 30 kilo gram gol save lusim solwara blong yumi

na go long PNG. Na olgeta displa transaction inogat tax yumi inap givim igo long gavman. Traim calculatim 10% blong value blo 30kg gol na bungim olgeta tupla wik insait long 1 yia? Na traim calculate sapos olgeta bisnis long ailan save baim tax? Na sapos yumi save wok na kamapim moni blong yumi yet long constituency na baim K2 per head tax igo long ol VCC blong yumi? Igat bikpla moa potential long ol displa hap long kamapim bikpela reveniu blong gavman. Tasol hamaspla man iwokim tax, emi soim olsem gutpla training long save gut long meaning blong ekonomi," Memba emi mekim ol dispela toktok.

Long wankain taim tu, Hon. Theonila Roka Matbob em tu Minista bilong Edukesen insait long eksekutiv gavman. Long hia, Hon. Theonila emi givim liklik updeit long ol wok kamap long sait bilong Edukesen insait long Ioro Constituency.

"Wok bilong yumi nau insait long displa tem em ino liklik wok. Bai yumi Ioro mas putim bikpela sapot long wokim kamap driman blong Bogenvil long eduksen.

Dispela tem, bai yumi lukluk

long tripla post insait long eduksen plan, wea mi wokim pinis nau na yumi stap long implementation o mekim kamap stage. Displa tripla pose em:

- 1) **Adult education (skul blong ol bik manmeri)**
- 2) **Contextualization of Education Curriculum (mekim lainim long skul behainim pasin blong yumi Bogenvil stret)**
- 3) **Establishment of tertiary institutions for Academy and Business (bikpla skul blong kamapim bikpela save na tu long bisnis)**

Ol narapela wok kamap insait long Ministri bilong Edukesen em:

- **Sanap bilong TVET (Technical Vocational Educational Training College) we emi bai base long Tinputz long Not Bogenvil.**
- **Toktok yet wantaim ol major universities long opim ol campus blong ol long Bogenvil klostu taim.**

Niupela Pasin

(New Normal) in Papua New Guinea

Stay healthy in SCHOOLS

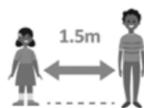


Protect yourself and your friends in school.

1 If you are sick, do not go to school. Tell your parents what you feel and stay at home.



2 At the school, maintain physical distancing of at least 1.5 meters between you and your classmates and playmates.



3 Wear a mask to protect yourself and others.



4 Wash your hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based sanitizer.



6 Avoid touching your face. Wash your hands with soap and water every time you touch your face.



7 Sneeze and cough into your bent elbow, or use a tissue and dispose into bin immediately.



8 Avoid sports activities that involve physical contact with other players and others.



9 If you feel scared or worried about the pandemic, talk to your teacher and parents immediately.



Reporting to be made easier for teachers with new technology

The ABG Ministry for Education is venturing into internet technology as part of its efforts of decentralizing education in Bougainville. The Ministry is currently developing an online application called Bougainville Education Reporting Mobile System that allows school principles and teachers to send various school reports directly to the Department

of Education head office. ABG Minister for Education Theonila Matbob explained that this new online system is basically a mobile application that allows users to send reports and other documents via the internet. The application is being developed by a young Bougainvillean Jordan Becks, who is also the First Secretary of the Education

Ministry. "Once the mobile application (or software) is launched, it will be available for download on Google Play Store. Teachers can download the mobile application (or software) and simply attach reports and other required documents and send it to the Education office," she explained. "The application is designed to also work

effectively under 2G mobile internet connections so even teachers in rural areas that limited mobile network can use this platform." Minister Matbob says this innovation will save funds for schools as they will not have to travel all the way to Buka Town just to drop off school reports. "By using this online platform, schools can save their money and avoid unnecessary costs of

travelling, accommodation etc. Also, classes do not have to be disrupted by an absence of a teacher," she said. All reports sent via this new platform will be received instantly by the ABG Department of Education plus the Ministry. The Bougainville Education Reporting Mobile System application is expected to be launched in May 2021.

Update from the Member for Torokina Constituency – Hon. Fabian Saleu

The people of Torokina must realize their dreams for the constituency to be one successful constituency in Bougainville.

ABG Member for Torokina Hon. Fabian Saleu made this bold statement in his recent quarterly update.

“My plan and aim is to see Torokina Constituency Progress in the right path, putting aside differences and finding better solutions to the many aspect of integral human development with the spirit of togetherness,” he said.

The Torokina District is one of the least developed areas in Bougainville with factors such as lack of road access to main centres, vast mountainous topography, failure of past successive government in the district and people’s lack of

support towards the leaders cited as development challenges in the district.

“Because Torokina district has not seen any real tangible development, this has contributed towards people’s lack of trust on leadership thus all past leaders were not given any support. People’s lack of support is also partly a result of high illiteracy rate in the district,” he explained.

The Member had recently completed his consultation rounds in the district where he visited a total of 9 wards.

During these visits, the Member and his team met with ward leaders, chiefs, and the general community and provided updates on progress of the government and listened to people’s views on their development priorities.

“Consultation was based on the priority areas of each ward for five (5) Years Development for each wards and the Constituency,” Saleu explained.

Key development priorities that were identified by the people during these consultations include:

- The establishment of Torokina High School
- Land mobilization
- Accessibility and linking roads to other centers especially Torokina to Bato in Bana
- Improving feeder roads within Torokina
- Establishment of jetty bridges to aid sea transport
- Tourism ventures as Torokina is renown for its war remains as well as volcanic views and beaches

Interested ILG holders in Torokina have shown interest in giving their land to the Government to develop impact projects as an alternative to the failed Torokina Oil Palm project

Member Saleu said that these community consultations will continue until they cover all wards and consult with all people in Torokina. He said the wards that are yet to be visited by his team include Laruma, Marova, Kenaia, Tsito and Vuakovi.

These consultation visits are also part of his efforts to ensure that his Constituency is well-prepared towards being independent-ready.

Consultation visits by Member



Ketsuarapa ward, Atsitsuli Ward & Paptana Ward meeting and consultations photos.



Peace & Reconciliation with the followers of King Noah Musingku ABG Ex-com Rep Francis Makita.



Visit of Koiare Ward vanilla Project.



Atsinima ward meeting and first priority consultations.



Witnessing of the presentation of the certificates to trainees who have undertaken training with XXX Security Firm own by Xavier Tsiwa. They are working in collaboration with Police and Combatants to curb the law & order issues in the communities and wards.



Addressing the chiefs, ex-combatants and youths with ex-com Rep. George Diva.



Koromaketo Ward Meeting and Consultations. Present were Chiefs, ward member, ex-combatants, youths and police

Rot seifti tips bilong ol pikinini na sumatin

Moses Nomi Kehu Letter to the Editor

Long Friday 27 November 2020, Cletus Tagarana na Nakaripa Chief em ibin gat sekhan o Paul Gatana.

Long sait bilong sapotim Naboin Chief Cletus Tagarana igo pas long ol, na Kalipa Clan, Paul Gatana igo pas long ol.

Em long Malakua Nambawan Malasang, Tsitalato Constituency.

Dsipla bung na sekhan ibin kamapim nau long ples klia em chief Cletus Tagarana em Naboin tru bilong Malakua Land.

Chief Paul Gatana em Nakaripa bilong Malakua land. Chief Philip Buritua em Natasi bilong Malakua Land na Chief Stephen Rekana emi Nakas bilong Malakua Land.

Yumi noken sindaun hait na bai yumi komplein nabaut.

Mi bin hamamas tru long lukim ibin gat bikpla sapot wantaim tingting na kaikai, igo long tupela sait long ol husat ibin sekhan. Em long Naboin Chief

Cletus Tagarana na Nakaripa Chief em Paul Gatana.

Long sait bilong sapotim Naboin Chief Cletus Tagarana wantaim tingting na kaikai, Tanakela Land Naboin Chief Kenneth Tseraha na olgeta Naboin long Kotonkus oli bin pasim wanpela pig na karim laip yet igo long ples bilong sekhan long Malakua.

Em long Malakua Nambawan Malasang, Tsitalato Constituency.

Dsipla bung na sekhan ibin kamapim nau long ples klia em chief Cletus Tagarana em Naboin tru bilong Malakua Land.

Chief Paul Gatana em Nakaripa bilong Malakua land. Chief Philip Buritua em Natasi bilong Malakua Land na Chief Stephen Rekana emi Nakas bilong Malakua Land.

Yumi noken sindaun hait na bai yumi komplein nabaut.

Mi bin hamamas tru long lukim ibin gat bikpla sapot wantaim tingting na kaikai, igo long tupela sait long ol husat ibin sekhan. Em long Naboin Chief

Keep our towns clean

Keeping our towns clean is everyone’s duty to ensure that our surroundings are hygienic and healthy to live in. It is a social responsibility to ensure that the environment is preserved and living conditions are sustained through the years.



- Do not throw rubbish and spit betel nut in public places.
- Participate in community cleanaton

A clean and healthy environment modifies our character and imparts good qualities in us and also stop the risk of diseases developing and spreading.





BULLETIN Sports



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Northern Rugby League - clubs hia long Northern Region i rere long competition



Northern rugby league, Nemi niupela league long kamap long dispela yia na em bin gat nambawan Annual General Meeting (AGM) bilong em long March long makim niupela eksekutiv na tu long toktok long bikpela Northern Rugby League competition bai kamap klostu taim.

Acting President bilong Northern Rugby League, Valeri Holi itokaut long dispela bikpela Northern Rugby League wea bai kamap na emi laikim ol clubs insait long North region long redi long dispela bikpela

rugby competition.

Ol clubs long Haku, Peit na Hagogohe na ol rugby clubs husat laik joinim competition bilong Northern Rugby Competition blo 2021 ibin go kamap long dispela bikpela miting.

Mr Holi askim lo olgeta clubs long makim ol ofis bera bilong association na lukluk tu long 2021 NRFL season kalenda na tu long toktok long NRL constitution na ol sub committees appointees olsem judiciary panel na selection committee.

Mr Holi itok olsem wanpela important samting ol members bilong Northern Rugby League i mas toktok long en tu em NRFL seasonal kalenda.

Mr Holi i tok strong tu long ol clubs husait i bai pilai long dispela competition long ol imas pulumapim form bilong expression of interest long kamapim wanpela league na displa tu em i wanpla requirement aninit long policy belong PNGNRFL. Dispela ibin wanpela impoten agenda bilong miting.

Taim olgeta clubs pulumapim

ol expression of interests forms belong ol na PNGNRFL emi givim tok orait bilong em, orait nau oli ken statim dispela Northern Rugby League competition, Mr Holi itok.

Mr Holi itok aut olsem emi tambu tru long ol clubs bilong ol narapela league insait long Bogenvil long pilai long Northern Rugby League, tasol ol niupela clubs husat ino pilai long ol narapela rugby league oli ken registerim interest bilong ol long pilai long Northern Rugby League competition.

STAY SAFE ON AND OFF THE FIELD



Stay home if you are sick



Bring your own if equipment and gear (if possible)



Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your elbow.



Wash your hands or use sanitizer before and after events and sharing equipments.



Tell a coach or staff member if you don't feel well.