



# THE BOUGAINVILLE BULLETIN

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## Panguna LO's on Jubilee Report

By Anthony Kaybing

The nine Landowner Associations of the areas affected by the Panguna Mine have joined in condemning the "seemingly shallow" report by NGO Jubilee Australia.

The Jubilee Report claims that the voices of mine-affected communities 'have been distant from recent public discussion' about the possible reopening of the mine, closed since 1989 as a result of the Bougainville conflict.

The report is also critical of ABG's consultation with landowners which Jubilee says have largely excluded communities around the mine.

In an independent statement by the nine chairpersons of the Landowner Associations, they say they support Bougainville President Chief Dr John Momis for criticising the report.

The signed statement by the nine Associations said that the report "Voices of Bougainville: Nikana Kangsi, Nikana Dong Damana (Our Land, Our Future)" implies that the

ABG is forcing the mining agenda without proper consultation with the landowners. This is not true.

The report incorrectly refers to the United Panguna Mine Affected Landowners Association (UPMALA) which consists of nine landowner associations from the six mine lease areas which the chairpersons clarified saying that UPMALA had ceased in 2013 and that there are four and not six mine lease areas.

The Landowner Associations questioned why the report was done secretly without proper consultation with them and the ABG which would have provided an objective and accurate view of the research.

The nine associations said the 65 subjects of the report whose views opposed the reopening of the mine are "not anywhere near a majority and cannot be used to represent every single landowner in Panguna."

"These interviewees were not picked randomly so there is no possible

way the report could be representative of everyone's views," they said.

Chairpersons are now calling on Jubilee Australia to apologize to the people of the mine affected areas for presenting a wrong and misleading picture of what the landowners really think about mining.

The nine landowners are Bernadine Kiira, Chairlady of Lower Tailings Association; Theresa Jaintong, Chairlady of Siokatei Association; Jude Genu, Chairman of Uruawa/Rorovana Association; John Simiko, Chairman South West Coastal Corridor Association; Lawrence Daveona, Chairman Special Mine Lease Association; Lawrence Uakai, Chairman Bolave Fish Owners Association; Paul Tavuo, Chairman Mid Tailings Association; Michael Pariu, Chairman Upper Tailings Association and Peter Miriona, Port Mine Access Road Association.

## President Momis slams Jubilee Australia Report

The Autonomous Region of Bougainville (ABG) President, the Honourable Chief John Momis, has slammed recent Jubilee Australia report on Bougainville's Panguna mine, as misleading and irresponsible.

The Report was released by Jubilee website: [www.jubileeaustralia.org](http://www.jubileeaustralia.org) and launched at public functions in Sydney on Thursday 25 September.

President Momis criticized the Report as factually inaccurate, biased, methodologically unsound, and dishonest in claiming that the views of 65 individuals interviewed by the authors, represent the 10,000 people in the Mine affected areas or the 300,000 people of Bougainville.

**"Far from being excluded, affected landowners have been at the centre of all discussions regarding Panguna since they commenced in 2009."**

**Chief Dr. John Momis**

The Jubilee Report also claims that the voices of

mine-affected communities 'have been distant from recent public discussion' about the possible reopening of the Panguna mine and that the ABG has excluded the Mine affected landowners in its negotiations.

"There may be individuals who have not been able to, or have chosen not to, participate in consultations. This reflects the ABG's extremely limited resources, and the real barriers of geography, politics and an armed dissident roadblock, which has restricted access to the Panguna area for 17 years.

"But the ABG and representative landowner associations have gone to great lengths to overcome these barriers, undertaking numerous consultations at village, regional level and with all major Bougainvillean stakeholders. If the researchers picked people to interview randomly, there's no possible way all could oppose mining.

President Momis also refuted Jubilee's allegations that the ABG has 'initiated a campaign to reopen the Panguna mine' saying, 'If the strict conditions sought by the landowners and the ABG cannot be satisfied, the ABG will not allow the mine to be reopened'.

The President has written to the Board of Jubilee Australia saying the board bears responsibility for the misleading, irresponsible and wrong information it presented.

# Editor's Corner

Welcome to this second edition of Bougainville's very own tabloid newspaper; the Bougainville Bulletin.

Over the past month the Bureau of Media and Communication has recruited a team to develop the already established bulletin, to be published online on the ABG website (which is still under development) and on print media.

Currently, the Bureau of Media and Communication has recruited a team of enthusiastic officers to be part of its continuous effort in disseminating Government and developmental information.

The new look of this edition is a direct result of positive feedback from readers as well as from contributing writers. Guided by the Bougainville Awareness Framework, the development of this newspaper is a policy decision made by the government to bridge the information and awareness gap between Government (ABG) and community.

In a time where communication between people and Government is crucial, we are committed to providing an interactive platform whereby the government, the private and public sectors as well as communities exchange views and best address their communication needs.

Information disseminated from the Bougainville Bulletin is and continues to be a reflection of the Bougainville peace agreement specifically Autonomy, weapons disposal and referendum.

Other information specific to the readership audience in Bougainville come from commerce and government to research, healthcare and education. Vital information is indispensable and will continue to fuel and be a guide to decision-making process in all facets of human endeavours.

Thank you and I hope you find the Bulletin Informative.

Robert Aneisia  
Editor

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## Tingting blo yu

**Tingting Blo Yu is a reader poll on a single question. We will publish the result of each poll in the next edition**

This month's question: *What do you want to see in the next edition?*

Text/SMS your answer with your name and your district name to: (+675) 7111 3355. Five entries from each region will be drawn out of a box. Lucky winners will each receive an education pack.

Thank you to those who have Sms/Text in answers to the first edition. We have read through your responses and have incorporated some of your ideas.

Remember, its Our Voice, Our Image, Our Place.

See below for draw results. (Winners noted below contact us on 7111 3355 to claim your pack.)

## About the Bougainville Bulletin

The *Bougainville Bulletin* is a publication of the Autonomous Bougainville Government, produced by the Bureau of Media and Communication: Editor Robert Aneisia, Senior Journalist - Stephanie Elizah. All articles are written by Stephanie Elizah and Tommy Alasia unless otherwise noted.

We encourage stories from the public. To submit an article or letter for review, please contact the editor or send to:

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- Bureau of Media and Communication, Buka airport
- Post: Editor, Bougainville Bulletin, Bureau of Media and Communication, Autonomous Bougainville Government, PO Box 322, Buka, Autonomous Region of Bougainville
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# More elementary schools open in AROB



ABG Vice President Hon. Patrick Nisira cuts the ribbon to mark the opening of a new library in Hamatana Primary School.

By Joe Morokana

There has been a positive improvement in the number of new elementary schools established in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville over the last 10 years.

Elementary Education Coordinator, Mr Sedi Palin, said the number of existing schools in Bougainville were 383 at present which is almost 80% of the required elementary infrastructures in the districts.

"We have 383 elementary schools operating at present and the maximum number of schools needed is around 400," Mr Palin said.

Mr Palin said due to

the current increase of elementary school children to about 27,000, ABG leaders and the community should focus more on the importance of elementary education as a priority impact development.

He urged leaders to put more on elementary education as it was the foundation of the Universal Basic Education (UBE) Policy the ABG has embarked on.

"We should concentrate more on making sure our children have the interest and commitment to enrol and complete their basic elementary education. This will make a sustainable impact on the number of

children attending classes at the upper primary and secondary schools." Mr Palin said.

Statistics from the Elementary Office show 65 new elementary schools were pending registration, and a total of 856 teachers currently teaching at the elementary schools across the Region.

The distribution of elementary schools throughout Bougainville shows that Buka 1 has 17 elementary schools; Buka 2 has 27; Selau Suir 17; Tinputz 24; Wakunai 30; Kunua Keriaka & Hahon 16; Torokina 18; Arawa/Kieta 52; Nissan/Atolls 20; Bana 33; Siwai 31; Panguna 9 and

Buin 21. Mr Palin added that in 2013 each District should propose and plan for the setting and registering of three new elementary school developments.

However, Mr Palin has also challenged some teachers in remote schools to consider their job as a profession to fulfil and practise.

He said that teachers in some remote schools had not committed to their duties and have been absent from classes.

"Teachers in some remote schools are not serious enough and today teaching has been taken as just another job where they are getting paid for doing nothing. Teaching is all about punctuality, commitment and professionalism to live up to," he stressed.

Mr Palin encouraged schools to create an environment that was conducive to the students' learning needs – and have classrooms decorated with educational materials and good building infrastructure.

# K36 million contract for Buka Ring Road



Bougainville Acting Chief Secretary Chris Siriosi and Jomik Plant Hire representative Irene Huuma sign the Buka Ring Road contract

The people of Buka Island want to see quality work for the money that has been paid out, urged Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) Vice President Patrick Nisira at the signing of Buka Ring Road contract yesterday.

The contract valued at K36,339,842.52 was awarded to Bougainville owned company Jomik Plant Hire Ltd and would involve the upgrade and sealing of the first 20km of the Buka Ring Road from Malasang end of the existing seal to Malis village.

Mr. Nisira further urged that rather than repeat the same experiences of other road projects, he would like to see that for this project, the machineries are mobilised to the project site as soon as the mobilisation budget is released.

"The people want to see work happening. I am glad that this project is happening. The sealing of the Buka Ring Road will have an impact on 50,000 lives. I am glad that a local company has taken on this contract because you will build the capacity of the local sub contractors," Mr. Nisira said.

The Bougainville Vice President thanked the National Government for funding the project through the Special Intervention Fund (SIF) of K100 million of which the Buka Ring Road project is amongst 20 other High Impact Projects implemented by the ABG this year.

## Satellite uplink facility complete

Region wide coverage is one step closer with the installation of a satellite uplink. The satellite uplink facility in Kubu is near completion. The project is an initiative of the ABG under the ABG National Broadcasting Commission memorandum of understanding to communicate its progress and milestones towards referendum to all stakeholders in Bougainville and abroad.

TE PNG workers have completed the first phase

of the project which allows FM radio signals to be transmitted and received anywhere in the world.

The second phase will be the transmission of video signals that will be completed shortly.

The provision of this facility would be a major contribution to peace building by extending radio and television coverage throughout Bougainville in an era where access to information and education has been a problem for many years.



TE PNG workers installing the last bit of the Satellite disk.

## Poll Results

In the previous edition, we ran a reader poll on the question: *Did you receive a copy of the Bougainville Bulletin?* Only entries sent in with name and district were drawn and the entrants will receive educational packs. The names of the winners are listed below.

- Nothern Region (Only three entries)**
1. Jacinta Tup
  2. Mathias Anton
  3. George Tarala
- Central Region**
1. Jessica Baraka
  2. John Vianney
  3. Willaim Torres
  4. John Bakai
  5. Vellyn Janget
- Southern Region (Only three entries)**
1. Maryanne Phoga
  2. Rosely Sibinau
  3. Joachim Mosiu

# Ministerial portfolios reshuffle

The ABG Cabinet formally assumed their new ministerial portfolios on 5th September. This new reshuffle oversees the recent reorganization of the Bougainville Public Service.

While addressing the ministers, President Momis said that Bougainville people wanted service delivery that is why they mandated leaders to represent them. "Leaders must repay the faith with high levels of productivity, and work twice as hard to ensure this new socio economic political order that is effective and fully

- functional.
- The new ministerial portfolios of the ABG Cabinet are as follows:
- President John L Momis
  - Department of the President and Bougainville Executive Council**
  - Vice President Patrick Nisira
  - Department of Police and Corrections**
  - Rev. Joseph Nopei
  - Department of Justice and the Principal Legal Adviser**
  - Albert Pungbau
  - Minister for Justice**
  - Department of Treasury and Finance**

- Minister for Treasury and Finance**
- Joel Banam
- Department of Administrative Services**
- Minister for Administrative Services**
- Michael Oni
- Department of Mineral Resources and Energy**
- Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy**
- Luke Karaston
- Department of Technical Services**
- Minister for Technical Services**
- Rose Pihei
- Department of Health**
- Minister for Health**
- John Tabaniman

- Department of Education**
- Minister for Education**
- David Sisito
- Department of Community Government**
- Minister for Community Government**
- Melchior Dare
- Department of Community Development**
- Minister for Community Development**
- Nicholas Daku
- Department of Primary Industries**
- Minister for Primary Industries**
- Wilfred Komba
- Department of Commerce and Tourism**
- Minister for Commerce and Tourism**
- Newton Kauva
- Department of Lands, Physical Planning, Environment and Conservation**
- Minister for Lands, Physical Planning, Environment.**

# ABG focuses on village courts

Joe Morokana and Tommy Alasia

The Autonomous Bougainville Government is focusing attention on supporting improved village courts in Bougainville.

Provincial Village Courts Officer, Ishmael Korake, said that since the late 1990s there have been many attempts to re-establish village courts in the region.

In 2012 the Bougainville Village Court Review, recommended changes to the number and location of village courts to improve their effectiveness and connection with government, informal and formal justice systems. Importantly, the review also said that village courts represented an arm of government that is the main representation of justice for over 97% of Bougainvilleans living in village communities.

“On 28 February this year, the Bougainville Village Courts Steering Committee agreed to conduct community

consultations to find out community views on how to improve village courts. This was to involve communities in local decision-making processes for the government,” Ishmael Korake said.

Many community consultations were held between March and April in Buka, Buin and Arawa with representatives from village courts and communities of all districts, as well as consultations with the decision makers in the Autonomous Bougainville Government. After these meetings, the village courts division made the following recommendations to government:

- That the village courts of Bougainville be rationalised from the current 96 to 46 courts with 11 officials in each court and the majority of village courts be aligned with their individual constituencies. The exceptions are the Atolls, Buin,



District village court officer for the Atolls, Peter Tokin during a community consultation in Arawa

Nissan, Kunua, Panguna and Torokina Districts, requiring special consideration due to the exceptional disadvantages faced by these communities making them vulnerable

- That all village courts and customary justice authorities, leaders and chiefs participate in training programs on legal empowerment and fundamental human rights frameworks

• As of 1 January

2015, implement the National Executive Council decision 285 of 2013 to increase allowance rates for Village Court Officials maintaining the differential rates for different positions to reflect the level of responsibility and duties of each position

“Bougainville has some of the best functioning village courts in Papua New Guinea”, Ephraim Eminoni, Former CEO of Division of Law and

Justice said.

This is also according to the National Village Courts and Land Mediation Secretariat.

Mr Eminoni said that in addition to these changes, the ABG is committed to ensuring greater participation of women in decision-making and their access to justice - particularly at the community level through the village court system.

# B'ville MPs meet for democracy



ABG Women MPs pose with Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs Julie Bishop (Second from the right)

Women Members of Parliament from the Autonomous Bougainville Government travelled to Australia to meet Australian women MPs to share knowledge, build links and contribute to the development of parliamentary democracy in the Pacific.

Health Minister Rose Pihei, Central Women's Representative Hon. Joan Jerome and North Women's Representative Hon. Elizabeth Burain travelled under the Pacific Parliamentary Partnerships program to observe Australian Parliament and meet with women

federal and state MPs. That included the Minister for Foreign Affairs Julie Bishop and the Speaker of the House of Representatives Bronwyn Bishop.

The discussion with the Australian parliamentarians was on Bougainville's economic development, peace building and building greater opportunities for women's leadership.

They also met with Australian High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea, Ms Deborah Stokes in Port Moresby on their way to Australia.

The program aims to

build the capacity of women parliamentarians in the Pacific, so that they can best raise issues that affect other women and their families in their constituencies.

The program is funded under the Australian Government's Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development Initiative. The 10-year initiative recognises that women's influence through leadership positions is vital if Pacific women are to participate as equals in the development of their countries.

# ABG goes Mobile Broadcasting

The Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) Bureau of Media and Communication is focussed on getting vital government information right down to the people in their villages throughout Bougainville.

To achieve this, the Bureau launched on Friday 7th November ABG's first Community Mobile Broadcast station known as Radio Ples Lain (RPL).

The Bureau's Director Robert Aneisia said the ABG's mobile community station, Radio Ples Lain transmitting on 98.6FM is for all radio listeners and producers in Bougainville.

“It is focussed on getting information to rural Bougainville by travelling to where people actually live and broadcast around

the location. The mobile radio station can broadcast up to 50km depending on the geography. These local broadcasts can be replayed through New Dawn and NBC to the rest of Bougainville.

“Radio Ples Lain will complement the two existing Radio stations in Bougainville by sharing the ABG's stories when the restoration of these radio broadcast signals happen next year,” Mr. Aneisia said.

Funded by the Australia and New Zealand governments through the Governance Improvement Fund (GIF), the total cost of the radio equipment is less than K200 thousand and includes two thousand solar wind-up radios to be distributed among

communities that are able to listen to all FM stations including NBC Radio Bougainville, New Dawn FM and Radio Ples Lain 98.6FM.

The project also included the purchase of a vehicle, two production staff and would involve training for broadcast personnel including the staff of Bougainville media partners, NBC and New Dawn FM.

The ABG's Bureau of media has held positive meetings with NBC and New Dawn FM about working together so that RPL benefits everyone. Discussions on



ABG Bureau of Media and Communication staff NBC Technician John testing out the new radio equipment.

partnership arrangements include plans to conduct joint training in community radio broadcasting, cross promotion and re-broadcasting of content.

Radio Ples Lain 98.6FM will be introduced across all three regional centres before beginning its programs of community broadcasting.

# Police Chief concerned over no payments for CAPs: Kamuai

Acting Assistant Commissioner for police (ACP) on Bougainville Paul Kamuai has called on the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) to honor its commitment and pay up six months of outstanding allowances for members of the community auxiliary police (CAP) officers.

In a statement to the media in September, Mr Kamuai strongly urged the ABG to pay his CAP officers all over Bougainville. He

emphasized that most CAP officers are committed and hard working people who serve in their rural communities and for the ABG to neglect them for over six months is totally inhumane and uncalled for.

Since 2006 the CAP officers monthly allowances have been paid by the New Zealand Community Policing Project until a year ago when the responsibility was handed over to ABG.

Mr. Kamuai also confirmed that frustrated

CAP Non Commissioned Officers (CAP NCOs) are continuously texting him on behalf of their serving men and women in regards to their long outstanding allowances. Mr Kamuai however praised his CAP officers for their patience and perseverance.

He appealed to the ABG not to allow the CAP program to collapse as it had proven and continues to be a successful model of policing in Bougainville.

# More women needed in Parliament



By Hona Holan  
President, Bougainville Women's Federation (BWF)

Apart from the three women parliamentarians currently serving in the Autonomous Bougainville parliament in Bougainville. As next year's elections for the next house of the ABG draws closer, women leaders are expressing concern that there should be an increased number of women candidates contesting in the election.

As an organisation concerned with the wellbeing and empowerment of women, Bougainville Women's Federation (BWF) is working to increase female representation in leadership positions in Bougainville. Ultimately, the Federation would like to see more women in parliament, however there are many obstacles to women achieving such high levels of leadership. As such, BWF is working to support women to take on leadership roles at Village Assembly and Council of Elders levels.

This increases the capacity and profile of women at the grass roots level, which, over time, will lead to an increase in women seeking to take on higher level leadership.

A number of projects are planned which will provide opportunities for women to gain skills in electoral education and leadership and which include programs targeting young women, members of the 'lost generations' and women wishing to stand for election.

It is well documented that having women in parliament in larger numbers is good for development. The following extract from a recent article written by

Terence Wood of the Centre for Democratic Institutions at the Australian National University entitled: Why Can't Women Win: Impediments to Female Electoral Success in Solomon Islands, outlines some of the benefits which have been quantified in research in our region.

Having more women MPs elected in Pacific Island countries is desirable for a range of reasons. Gender equity alone provides a compelling case, while available evidence from elsewhere in the world suggests more women in parliament will also deliver broader development benefits. Cross-country work shows countries with more women MPs tend to experience less corruption (Dollar et al. 2001). Increases in numbers of women MPs appear to lead to subsequent improvements in economic performance (Jayasuriya and Burke 2012). And countries with more women MPs also devote, on average, more government spending to health and education (Knack and Sanyal 2000). Experimental evidence suggests exposure to women leaders positively changes gender perceptions (Dasgupta and Asgari 2004). And evidence from a natural experiment involving local level political leadership in India shows interaction with female leaders improves perceptions of women's ability to lead and reduces negative gender stereotypes more generally (Beaman et al. 2009). Evidence from the same natural experiment also shows exposure to women leaders caused families to invest more in, and to have enhanced aspirations for, girls and teenage women (Beaman et al. 2012).

# Bougainville Peace Agreement awareness Joint Bougainville Peace Agreement awareness underway

As introduced in the last edition the Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA), is a joint agreement between the Papua New Guinea and the Autonomous Bougainville Government. In the spirit of this joint creation, awareness of the BPA is being done jointly by the National Coordination Office of Bougainville Affairs (NCOBA) representing the National Government and the Bureaus of Autonomy and Media and Communication representing the ABG led by

the Autonomy Division.

This month, there is a series of awareness activities on the BPA being rolled out by the awareness team throughout Bougainville and Papua New Guinea.

The intention of the awareness exercises is to induct selected representatives of stakeholders who then as facilitators, extend awareness of the BPA into communities.

To assist the awareness teams, this Bulletin dedicates several pages to bringing to you the content of what has been presented in the various public forums around the region over the

past month.

## Knowing the Bougainville Peace Agreement:

In order to understand the BPA, first we need to understand the background, the history towards how this very unique agreement came to be.

In the July issue, we introduced to you the BPA. In this issue, we continue further into the weapons disposal plan and the articles that provides continued assistance in implementing the BPA.

## PART E: WEAPONS DISPOSAL

### ARTICLE 1: ENDORSEMENT OF WEAPON DISPOSAL PLAN

This article provides for the endorsement and implementation of the weapon disposal plan

There is a Weapon Disposal Plan in place, which was developed with ex-combatants and adopted by the Process Consultative Committee (PCC) on the 9th May 2001.

The Parties agreed that:

- a) The Peace Monitoring Group (PMG) and United Nations Observers Missions In Bougainville (UNOMB) will continue to assist in

implementing the PCC resolutions on Weapons Disposal.

b) The decision concerning the final fate of the Weapons Disposal may require a continuing presence by the PMG and the UNOMB.

## PART F: OTHER MATTERS

All parties involved in the Bougainville Conflict must co-operate and confirm where the granting of amnesty or pardon should apply.

### ARTICLE 1: AMNESTY AND PARDON

The parties confirm that grants of amnesty and pardon for all persons involved in crisis-related activities or convicted of offences arising out of crisis-related activities should be expedited.

### ARTICLE 2: RESOLVING DISPUTES DURING IMPLEMENTATION

The parties will consult with the view to avoiding disputes and resolving such differences as may arise over implementation of this Agreement.

The means by which differences may be solved may, by agreement, involve the assistance of a mutually

acceptable, neutral third party, with reference to a court in appropriate cases as a last resort.

## ARTICLE 3: RECONCILIATION AND UNIFIED STRUCTURES FOR BOUGAINVILLE

### A. Reconciliation

Reconciliation has many aspects, including customary, religion, spiritual, personal, psychological, and economic. It includes concerns for history, memory and justice. These qualities have been evident in the many reconciliation efforts made in Bougainville, within and between families and communities. For peace to be self-sustaining, reconciliation efforts must continue.

The signing of this Agreement is intended to be a symbol of progress in reconciliation. The parties commit themselves to continue to promote and pursue meaningful reconciliation both within Bougainville and between Bougainville and the rest of PNG.

They agree to cooperate in:

- (a) Discouraging threats to individuals and groups or to the peace process as a

whole,

(b) Where appropriate, preventing and punishing such threats in accordance with the law.

The parties will consult from time to time, as required, concerning the steps and resources that might be needed to facilitate further development of reconciliation effort in the future.

### B. Bougainville Commitment to Unified Structures

The parties agree that:

(a) All groups and individuals in Bougainville commit themselves to working through the lawful and democratically elected government and the unified administrative and support structure established under the laws that will give effect to this agreement,

(b) The former combatant groups should be disbanded as soon as they no longer have a role in relation to implementation of the weapons disposal plan provided for under this Agreement,

(c) Commanders and members of the former combatant groups should sign the Statement of Commitment to Unified Structures.

Ensuring the people and leaders of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville and Papua New Guinea understand the Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA) is vital to complying with the agreement.

This was the challenge issued by the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) Minister for Finance, Treasury and Planning Albert Punghau to more than 30 participants attending an Induction of the District Awareness Facilitators workshop currently underway in Buka town.

The facilitator's induction workshop jointly conducted by the National Government and the ABG, aims to induct Administrators, Council of Elders and their members from the Buka, Nissan and Atolls districts on the content of the Bougainville Peace Agreement to ensure there is better understanding of the Agreement.

While congratulating the participants on their commitment to assisting with awareness on the BPA, Mr. Punghau urged



30th August 2001. Sir Mekere Morauta (Centre) is welcomed to Arawa with a traditional gift as late Joseph Kabui (Left) and Sir Moi Avei (Second from right) look on.

that similar workshops on the Bougainville Peace Agreement be held specifically for National and Bougainville Parliamentary leaders.

He added that the ABG is looking forward to the period of Referendum. "Referendum must be done in a fair and democratic manner. We have a huge responsibility to resolve once and for all a political settlement for Bougainville," Mr. Punghau said.

The current workshop is part of a series of workshops on the Bougainville Peace Agreement that would be conducted throughout the country and Bougainville and is jointly funded by the Governments of Papua New Guinea, Australia and New Zealand through the Special Intervention Fund (SIF) and the Governance Improvement Fund (GIF).

**“Most of our leaders especially the National Parliament, do not have institutional memory. We need to educate our leaders so that they will be able to make informed decisions when it comes to ratifying the results of the Referendum,”**

**Hon. Albert Punghau  
ABG Minister for Finance and Treasury**

# Pokawin on Referendum

By Anthony Kaybing

“Bougainville’s referendum does not guarantee the region’s independence but is the *process* in which Bougainville must follow to determine its political future.” According to former Manus Province and Chancellor of the University of PNG, Stephan Pokawin said this during the “*Gathering our Intellectual Capacity toward our Journey to Referendum Seminar*” hosted by the Bougainville Students Association at UPNG in August.

Mr Pokawin explained that the referendum is only exclusive to Bougainville as guaranteed by part 14 of the PNG *Constitution* and is only available to Bougainville between mid 2015 to 2020.

“If the Constitutional Commission allows for referendum to be exercised in Bougainville then the ABG is obliged to ensure that it is followed through,” Mr Pokawin said.

Mr Pokawin said that Bougainville, since PNG’s Independence, has charted

the course of the country’s politics from the early calls of autonomy and decentralization of which ABG President Chief Dr John Momis is regarded as its key architect.

President Momis also urged Bougainvilleans to create a safe and secure environment that is conducive for the referendum to be held.

“Bougainvilleans must work to ensure all the pre-conditions of the referendum set in the Bougainville Peace

Agreement of autonomy, good governance and weapons disposal are met to enable the self-determination of Bougainville is done consensually,” he said.

Mr Pokawin who was an instrumental figure in brokering peace on Bougainville also shares the same view as President Momis emphasizing that for Bougainville’s referendum to be successful there is an urgency for unity amongst the people.

“Bougainville has given the true meaning

of Autonomy in Papua New Guinea as it pursues its political future while also paving the way for decentralization in the country,” Mr Pokawin remarked.

“It has set the pace for development in this country but in order to get to where we want we must work together and to work with the government, ABG to strengthen its capacity,” Mr Pokawin said.

# Mona Festival signifies our sea faring ancestors: Nisira



Bougainvilleans have come together in Buka to celebrate their culture and sea faring ancestry at this year’s Mona Festival. Officially opening the festival in August this year, Vice President, Mr

Patrick Nisira, said that observation of special days in Bougainville was a way to remember the ancestors who had great significance in the history of the region.

The people of Bougainville now have

four annual festivals to celebrate. They are the Mona Festival in Buka, Garamut Festival in Buin, Reeds Festival in Arawa and Cocoa Festival in Tinputz.

Mr Nisira said that the festival was a venue where the people can specially pay tribute to our ancestors who were great seafarers before the invention of ships and navigational aids.

“The Mona Festival is a venue where we come together and appreciate our unique cultures and the challenges that face them,” Mr Nisira said.

“This is a time to celebrate, unite and display our cultures from each

region – but especially, to remember our past – our forefathers with their excellent navigational skills that they used to voyage the rough seas from one island to another.”

The ABG will be supporting similar events in districts, schools and also at the Administrative level to also help attract, stimulate and develop Bougainville’s tourism industry.

This year’s Mona Festival attracted various groups from as far as Siwai in South Bougainville, Panpipes dancers of Kieta in Central Bougainville, Baniata Cultural Group from Selau, Tatok Bamboo Band from Pororan

Island and the Polynesian Outliers of Mortlock.

The highlight of the event was the arrival of two mona canoes in the Buka Town main boat stop.

These two canoes had set sail at the Hanahan Parish in the early hours of 3am that morning and voyaged 60 kilometres down the Buka coast to arrive in the township at midday.

In December another festival – the Garamut Festival in Buin, will be held showcasing the artistic skills and cultural garamut beatings of the various communities around Buin and Siwai District.

My Bougainville - Stori blong mi.

# My Bougainville, Stori blo mi: Marceline Getsi Laris



Ino long taim i go pinis Bougainville Bulletin i bin bringim i kam long yu stori blong wanpela Chief na tu musikman blong Pokpok ailan insaet long Kieta Distrik, Chief. Peter Garuai.

Long dispela edisen yumi toktok wantaim Mr. Marceline Getsi Laris blong Malasang insaet long Tsitalato konstituensi - Buka Distrik, **Laif stori blong Marceline long skul na wok**

Marceline Getsi Laris i bin bon insaet long Naboen (Eagle) clan long namba 25 dei blong mun May 1965. Em i bin skul long Malasang Primary skul long yiar 1976 bihain em igo long Hutjena High School na bihain igo kisim teknikal treining long yiar 1979. Em i bin wok olsem Works Teknikol Opisa long H20 Operations long Arawa long 1981 na bihain igo wok wantaim Morobe Fletcher Construction long 1983. Long 1987 em igo wok long Bouganville Copper Limited long pit operations inap pait i buruk long Bougainville.

**Laif blong Marceline olsem musikman**  
Early 70s – Em i stat singsing gospel/lotu long Primary skul. Long dispela taim yet papa mama na bikipela brata blong em i skulim em long paitim gita.  
1975 – mama blong Marceline i baim wanpela gita long Hahela basa na

givim Marceline.  
1981 – Em i play wantaim Earthquake Fever band long Arawa. Dispela band ibin kontrak wantaim San Miguel beer na ol i pilai raon long ol club olsem Poraka Tavern, Arawa, Panguna na Buka.  
1988-1989 – Em i statim band ol i kolim Trouble Zone na oli bin rekodim na rilisim wanpela album wea i bin gat ol singsing blong Bougainville Crisis na Polution blong kopa main long Panguna. Dispela i bin hit long PNG na planti manmeri i bin bin laikim tumas.

2001 – Marceline ibin pilai wantaim band ol i kolim Bulmakau. Dispela band i bungim ol musikman olsem Bernard Hanga, Freddy Maneo, late Hillary Masiria, Philip Kiha na ol musik man blong Peace Monitoring Group.

2004 – Em i mekim namba tu rekoding blong Trouble Zone wantaim Cyclone Studio na rilisim planti gutpela singsing. Em i bin usim save or talent blong em long music long pulim na bungim wantaim ol bipo paitman na tu pipol long Bougainville.

2012 – Marceline i pilai raon wantaim Ray Himata long ol atoll ailan blong Bougainville na Buka long karimaut awenes na testim blut long sik HIV na AIDS.

2014 – Marceline ibin wokabaot long promotim Peace long Western Solomon Province. Oli bin pilai long Gizo, Noro, Munda, Kariki, Kolobongara, Bela, Choisel na Taro.

**Laif blong Marceline long Peace Building**  
1998 – Marceline i bin wok strong tru wantaim ol narapela poroman na wanlain blong em long



opim bek Kieta biris (wharf) bihain long biris i pas long longpela taim. Sip Victoria na Mv Doulos ibin nambawan sip blong narapela kantri long kam sua long Kieta biris. Dispela i bin bringim bikipela hamamas namel long ol pipol blong Kieta na Bougainville. Long wankain taim em ibin wok wantaim ol bikman long Kieta Distrik olsem Ishmael Toroama na Joseph Sidaung long larim ol bikipela sip blong narapela kantri i kam long Kieta biris long bringim sevis long pipol.

2006 – Marceline i bin involve long Peace Building program long North Bougainville.

2008 – Em i tok olsem em i bin mastamainim na disainim Mona Festival wean au i popula long dispela taim. As tingting blong Mona festival em long promotim Peace. Em itok tu olsem em ibin halivim long Konnou Peace proses long Buin. Marceline em i save bilip na luksave tru long pasin tumbuna. Em i save askim strong gavman long givim luksave

na halivim long kirapim kalsa na music indastri long halivim ol yangpela blong Bougainville.

**Laif blong Marceline long Politics**  
2005 – Marceline i bin nambawan memba makim ol Veterans blong North Bougainville long palamen (ABG). Long dispela taim em i bin mekim planti samting; em ibin stap insaet long wok blong tokoraitim 44 polisi long palamen, emi bin wok wantaim ol wanlain long planti Peace Building.

2008 – Honorable Marceline Getsi Laris ibin wokabaot wantaim President blong Bougainville late Joseph Kabui long sindaun long miting wantaim ol narapela lidaman long Pacific kandim wantaim Australia na New Zealand. Dispela i bin nambawan wokabaot wea i lukim ol lida long Autonomous Bougainville Gavman i sindaun wantaim Prime Minister blong PNG Grand Chief Sir. Michael Somare na ol Prime Minista blong ol narapela Pacific kantri.

2009 – Em ibin makim Bougainville long wanpela bikipela bung long Brisbane – Australia long toktok long ol kain samting olsem, Kalsa, Global warming na International Crime, HIV, Environment na ol isiu i



Stori Piksa

The first edition of the Bougainville Bulletin was received with much anticipation. In this edition we give to you in pictures, the distribution of the first edition through out bougainville.

**Northern Region**

**Central Region**

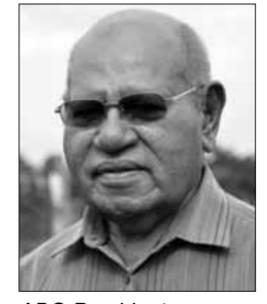
**Southern Region**

Bulletin Forum

# 2015 Development Priorities

## In 2015 the focus of government will be on the Districts.

Under the leadership of President, Hon. Chief Dr John Momis and Chief Secretary Chris Siriosi, the government will pursue a whole of government approach that focuses on enhancing good governance, service delivery, increasing revenues and providing good facilities and infrastructure such as roads, schools and health facilities in AROB.



ABG President Dr. John Momis

The successful implementation of the Bougainville Integrated Planning and Budgeting Framework in its first year is conditional on cooperation from the National government, Bougainville National MPs, constituency members and development partners. A structured program of engagement to promote both transparency and accountability in planning and budgeting must be put in place and managed effectively by the Bougainville Administration.

Currently, while greater engagement with Councils of Elders is a positive step, the work to establish clear roles, functions, resources and accountability for community government must continue in parallel to ensure that it is completed by March 2015.

In 2015 the people will see for the first time the ABG operating its own laws for the management of finance and personnel. These are massive steps to enhance autonomy, monitor policy implementation. Improved performance will be expected of the Administration.

Throughout Bougainville the population will witness the commencement of significant projects that have been in the planning

phase in early 2014. In order to achieve these objectives, development priorities for 2015 approved by the Bougainville Executive Council are these;

### A. Improved service delivery through a strong focus at the district level

1. Strengthen needs based service delivery and infrastructure planning and implementation in collaboration with Councils of Elders and Village Assemblies.

2. Increase the role for community government. Councils of Elders will play a stronger role as the second tier of Government, in planning, management and monitoring for program and service delivery in their local areas. By March 2015, the roles, functions and resourcing of Community Government will be defined, in preparation for Council of Elders elections in late 2015 or early 2016. Finance Instructions will be developed for the payment of Local Level Government Service Improvement Programmes (LLG SIP's) for all Council of Elders (COE's).

3. Implement District planning – every District will have a District Infrastructure plan by

December 2014. This plan will define District priorities and map current and future. 4. Increase over the next four years the allocation of recurrent funding to key service delivery sectors to support education reform; services to vulnerable youth and the lost generation; delivery of quality health services, law and justice; and quality transport and infrastructure maintenance.

5. Strengthen law and order throughout Bougainville to reduce violence and support economic recovery through effective policing and correction services. Encourage active participation by women and churches in promoting community safety and security. Improve the effectiveness of Village Courts, through rationalization, payment of allowances and training for all Village Court officials. Commence work on a Bougainville Restorative Justice framework.

6. Use the RDG and SIF funding to significantly improve progress on restoration across Bougainville, including major investments in infrastructure to support transport, essential service delivery and economic recovery; utilities and communications infrastructure and significant investment in public sector housing.

7. Redefine the public service roles and functions to decentralize service delivery to the Districts and support improved engagement and empowerment of the second tier of government. 8. Establish robust standards for monitoring and reporting on program performance

and

measure service delivery effectiveness 9. Strengthen the links and coordinate Bougainville government, constituency members and development partners aligned with Bougainville government key priorities.

10. Build strong links with civil society organisations; especially churches, women's and youth groups to instil positive values and strengthen civil society in Bougainville 11. Coordinate activities and stakeholder engagement in key programs and services in Panguna through administrative strengthening support.

12. Improve the reach, quality and frequency of government communications and media to the Bougainville community.



Chief Secretary Mr Chris Siriosi

### B. Promote economic growth and Sustainability

1. Develop a broad-based economic development plan for Bougainville, promoting business opportunities across diverse sectors in Bougainville, including Small Medium Enterprises (SME's).

2. Enhance rural sector growth through broader participation by the people of Bougainville in high impact agricultural sector

and small scale industry projects that will support economic recovery and reduce poverty

3. Establish and enhance sound investment policies to attract foreign investment while preserving the environment and safeguarding sovereignty for Bougainvilleans, through support and funding for the establishment of the Inward Investment Bureau.

4. Further the on-going negotiations for the re-opening of the Panguna Mine through and extensive, transparent and community driven process of consultation and negotiation with landowners, the ABG, the National Government, BCL and the people of Bougainville. This will be particularly important with the passing of the Mining (transitional) law expected in late 2014.

5. Engagement of expert advice to research opportunities for tourism to showcase Bougainville culture and custom; and provide employment and resources to local communities.

6. Establish and support innovative business ventures to foster self-sufficiency and create employment and income generation opportunities for women and youth.

7. Source low cost energy resources

Other priorities approved by the BEC are C: Significantly increase revenue volumns and th collection of revenues and D: Strenghtening key interventions and functions of government.

Join us in the next Bulletin to read in details the ABG development priorities C and D.

Bulletin Forum

# ABG launches Mobile Community Radio

A chief representing the chiefs of Bougainville has given his full support to the ABG's new mobile community radio station – Radio Ples Lain 98.6 Fm.

Gerard Sinato, speaking on behalf of the Chiefs of Bougainville at the launching of Radio Ples Lain in Buka stressed that he was happy for the new mobile radio, as it will carry out awareness to the people of Bougainville especially those who live in the remotest parts of the region.

“Mi hamamas tru long Radio Ples Lain bilong wanem em i bai helivim ol pipol long luksave long ol gavaman toksave olsem referendum na pis agriman na em tu bai helivim ol pipol long save wanem hap Bougainville ikam long em, yumi inap wea na yumi go wea nau,” he said. (I am happy with the Radio Ples Lain because it will help our people to know about referendum and the peace agreement and help the people to reflect on Bougainville's progress- where we were, where are we now and where are we going to.) He called for the people of Bougainville



to stand together and support the new project as Bougainville works towards the referendum.

“The people of Bougainville need to understand and be aware of the changes in the ABG for a referendum and a better future for Bougainville,” Chief Sinato said.

Heading the launch program at the Bel Isi Park on Friday 7 November, ABG President Chief Dr John Momis said he was excited with the new project, as it will reach out into the rural community to deliver important government messages to the people.

On that note he also acknowledged other media organisations in Bougainville that are

providing broadcasting services to the people of Bougainville.

“Radio Ples Lain is a mobile radio station on wheels that can travel around Bougainville and transmit vital government information to the bulk of the rural population,” Mr Momis said.

Another highlight of the Buka launch was the participation of Guava cultural group from Panguna district, which travelled to Buka to launch the community radio program. Speaking on behalf of the group Chief Augustine Devana said, this was another great initiative by the ABG to address the community on developmental updates.” An emotional Chief



Devana also stated that the trip to Buka was the first for many in his group to make since the crisis and helped set aside the notion that Panguna is the heart of the Bougainville crisis. “We want to be the heart of change, not the heart of crisis,” Chief Devana said.

Meanwhile the launching also coincided with the Bougainville Peace Process Reflection Roadshow with a theme of “Yumi Kam Wea, Yumi Inap, Wea na Yumi Go Wea”.

Radio Ples lain is different from a normal radio station. Very importantly, Radio ples lain is not a third radio station broadcasting 24/7. It is not duplicating or competing with NBC or New Dawn FM. It will

travel to different locations around Bougainville and broadcast for three to four hours for a number of days, and then move on to the next community.

Because it is a radio station inside a vehicle it will travel around Bougainville and relay government information to remote places where it is most needed and also capture community voices on issues important for our future.

With Radio Ples Lain, the government can now quickly conduct much needed awareness and improve communication setbacks.

The roadshow will travel to Buin and to Arawa later. The full program starts in 2015.

# Bougainville Referendum Prayer Campaign launching



Blessing of the community mobile radio equipment at the launch of referendum prayer campaign.

A Bougainville Referendum Prayer Campaign was also launched at the Bel Isi Park on Friday 7th November. The Campaign was

launched through a Joint Declaration with an aim to recommit Bougainville's upcoming referendum to God.

Bishop of the United Church Rev. Tim Arthur whilst reading out the declaration called on the churches in the Region to unite in prayer to uphold the referendum to God.

“Churches have worked together before the crisis,

throughout the crisis and after the crisis and I call on you all to maintain that spirit and stand together in prayer to uphold this prayer campaign,” he said.

The declaration states that in every first praying day and week of the month all denominations pray for a free and fair referendum for Bougainville, to prepare Bougainville for the upcoming referendum

and promote effective consultation to ensure Bougainville human aspiration is achieved.

The joint declaration was made between the ABG, Bougainville Council of Churches, Bougainville Veterans, Bougainville Women's Federation, Council of Elders and the Chiefs.

Each edition we will feature reports from areas of the Autonomous Bougainville Government

Each edition we will feature reports from district administrations

Department of Mining

Atolls

# Bougainville's 'long-term' mining bill - progress continues

Bougainville's President, Chief John Momis, spoke on progress by the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) in developing its 'long-term' mining law. A temporary law, the *Bougainville Mining (Transitional Arrangements) Act* - was passed in August. It is a temporary law, intended mainly to block 'back-door deals'.

The President said: "The ABG does not want any exploration or development under the Transitional Act. Instead it is working on a 'long-term' mining law. 'Progress with that law was reviewed on 30 September. Minister for Mineral and Energy Resource, Michael Oni, presented a policy submission to Cabinet. Major decisions were made on three main things. "The first involved approving key provisions on rights of landowners. They will now have a right of veto not only over mineral exploration, but also over mining development. That's because they'll have a right to veto grant of a mining licence.



that the Panguna affected landowners will have a right to reject re-establishing of the Panguna mine. The big change now will be that all Bougainville landowners will have those same rights over their own land.

"In the Transitional Act, we provide landowners a veto on exploration only. Advice available then indicated that it would be difficult to get investment if a mining company could spend millions on exploration done with landowner approval and then lose that money because the same landowners exercised a veto over mining development. But the main drafter of the long-term Act, Professor Otto, has assured the ABG that because of international trends with recognition by miners of the need to operate with a 'social licence, it is possible to strengthen landowner rights by granting them a veto over mining development. He advises this will not destroy responsible mining investment.

"Another major set of new provisions approved by Cabinet concerns small-scale mining by Bougainvilleans. Under

the Transitional Act, small-scale mining is legal if done on a miners own land, or on other land with permission of landowners. The Panguna mine lease areas are an area where many people often mine without explicit landowner permission. That's because under Bougainville custom, the blood spilt by all our communities during the conflict gives all Bougainvilleans some rights over the Panguna resources.

"But even in those areas, the influx of non-landowners can cause tensions. In all other parts of Bougainville, landowner permission is critical. So the long-term mining law will provide for our local governments - Councils of Elders (COEs) and Village Assemblies (VAs) - to ask the ABG to declare gold-mining areas as Community Mining areas.

"Then COEs and VAs will be able to grant licences to miners that own the land or have the permission of the owners. Miners will pay a small fee that COEs and VAs will retain. The COEs and VAs will have authority to enforce health, safety and environmental standards.

Safe use of mercury will be a particular focus. COEs and VAs will need to be trained to do this. Our ABG Department of Mineral and Energy Resources will have to develop capacity to train and support COEs and

VAs.

"The second major decision by Cabinet was that no exploration or mining tenements will be issued under the Transitional Act. A Moratorium on exploration and development in all areas other than Panguna was imposed by PNG in 1971. It has been adopted under the Transitional Act. The ABG has decided it will not lift that Moratorium anywhere. One reason concerns practical administration, for we have no regulations and forms under the Transitional Act. More important, we need to wait for the long-term Act, because there will be major changes in what it says about landowner rights.

"The third major decision was approval of the funding needed for an

extensive public awareness and consultation program about the draft long-term Act. It will be held in October and November, before the new draft Law is finally considered by Cabinet for debate in the ABG legislature. We hope to have it before the legislature in December, or early next year.

"Only when the long-term Mining Act is operating will Cabinet consider lifting the existing moratorium on mining exploration and development. But the ABG believes mining exploration and development in Bougainville must be limited. All decision will be made with close engagement of landowners. It is my strong view that the moratorium will be lifted, and exploration permitted, only in areas where landowners want exploration.

"Although the ABG will welcome re-opening of Panguna if BCL and landowners agree to that, we will also engage with landowners in other areas that want exploration and possible development. In that way, we will have other options if Panguna does not proceed. But we continue to oppose unlimited mining development. The long-term Act continues to limit the number of major mines for Bougainville to no more than two.

**"I will continue to keep Bougainvilleans aware of developments with our journey to take control of mining in ways that meet the special needs of Bougainville."**

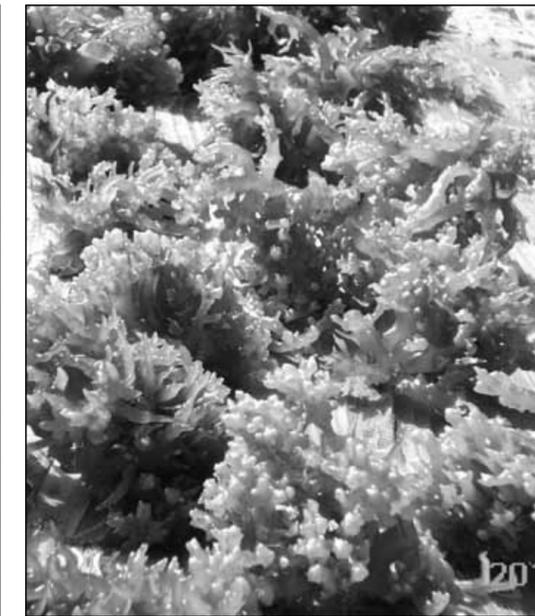
**Chief Dr. John Momis**

# Atolls introduce seaweed farming

## Bougainville to export 500 tonnes of seaweed to China



Seaweed galore: Women prepare newly harvested seaweed for sun drying.



In the last four years, ABG through the Division of Commerce Trade and Industry has been working in collaboration with the Atolls District Administration to implement a competitive Seaweed Industry, particularly in the Carteret Islands.

DPI Officer at the Atolls District Administration, Kenneth Kumul, said that the idea began in 2011 with a research study to check the benefit.

"The actual seaweed project began in 2012 and about 200 tonnes of dried seaweed was marketed to potential buyers in the Solomon Islands", Mr Kumul said.

"By the end of this month, another 200 tonnes of dried seaweed will be exported to China. The next harvest will be in six weeks' time. This year a total of 500 tonnes of seaweeds will be exported to a Chinese Firm - Green Field based at Ximan Province of

China. Mr. Kumul said the project would inject about K1.5 million per year into the Carteret's Islands.

"This is an ongoing project and will have a great impact on the socioeconomic aspects and the lifestyle of about 2,500 plus population on the Island" Mr Kumul said.

The figures from the Atolls District Administration showed that in 2012, a total of 18,000 ten metres ropes of seaweed plants were cultivated and farmed in the sea and were harvested in September in the same year. Starting from November 2011 to July 2012, a total of 760,000 seaweed plants were produced within nine months. And in the same year, the harvest was around 100 tons of dried seaweed.

Mr. Kumul also stated that the seaweed industry will soon be as competitive as cocoa and copra in

Bougainville.

He said their target was to produce 1,000 tonnes over the few years.

Currently only ten hectares of land are being used for planting seaweed cuttings, an additional 100 hectares of lands is available.

Investment Coordination Officer at the AB' Department of Commerce Trade and Tourism Mr. Raymond Moworou, said that the Department has plans to expand the seaweed crops to other outlying Islands of Bougainville.

"The future seaweed expansion program has already identified potential sites at Mortlock, Nuguria, Nissan, Pororan, Petats, Matsungan, Taiof, Saposa,



Teop and the Koromira Areas in Central Bougainville", Mr Moworou said.

He also stated that the Secretariat of South Pacific Community (SPC) has funded a workshop on Seaweed Industry that would be held in Buka (in October) at the cost of K70,000. It will be attended by 50 participants from these newly identified sites. Mr. Moworou said the

training will be run by a marine Consultant from the Philippines.

This year, the ABG has also purchased a workboat from Mulia Seru Wawasan in Malaysia at the cost of K500, 000 to help administer the Bougainville Seaweed Industry. This is from the annual K1 million earmarked for the seaweed projects.

# Locals support Operation Render Safe



ADF Personnel explains the process of locating explosives while ABG President Chief Dr. John Momis and Australian Ambassador Deborah Stokes look on.

Torokina was the site of intense fighting between Japanese and Allied forces during World War II and was an air base for the Allies. As a result, Torokina is infested with large deposits of explosive remnants of war, which poses a risk to the lives of the people of Torokina.

Operation render safe 2014 in Torokina district is a joint partnership between the Australian Defence Force (ADF), the Autonomous Bougainville Government and with the approval of the PNG National Government.

The focus of Operation will be to remove these unexploded remnants of war in Torokina where grounds, villages and community gardens remain contaminated in consultation with the

community.

In the coming weeks, a multinational contingent from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom and Solomon Islands will be working closely with Torokina community leaders and the Bougainville police to locate, identify and prioritise explosive remnants of war for disposal. This was the message from the Operation render safe 2014 commander, Captain Jay Bannister.

"The operation has been months in the planning, involving both Defence and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade working together with the ABG. The people of Torokina have been most welcoming and we have been working very closely with them to identify explosive remnants of war, which pose a threat to local communities.

"We are particularly grateful for the continuing support from the Bougainville Police Service on building community awareness, and we look forward to their assistance in helping maintain community safety during the operation." Captain Bannister said.

During his visit to Torokina

on the 24th of October, ABG President Chief Dr. John Momis thanked Australian government and other participating countries in the render safe operation for making Torokina Safer to live in. "Operation render safe 2014 is a specialist job and the assistance by the ADF was timely, as the ABG does not have the finance to address some of the crucial issues that confront it. President Momis said.

President Momis also affirmed to the people of Torokina the ABG's commitment in bringing in much needed vital services such as roads, schools and infrastructure.

Australian Ambassador to PNG, Deborah Stokes, US Ambassador Walter North, British Ambassador Simon Tong were also part of the delegation that accompanied the

President to Torokina.

Torokina District Executive Manager Mr. Simon Korairove whilst welcoming President Momis and the delegation to Torokina, spoke strongly in support of the operation saying that for too long the people have suffered the consequences of living amidst explosives.

Mr Korairove also stated that the people of Torokina fully support the operation and that their decision will not be dictated or influenced by people with other interests.

In the weeks to come, the ADF will be working very hard to make Torokina safer and more conducive for Generations to come. Operation render safe 2014

## "Veterans must be engaged to participate in the operation in areas of community liason"

### Ex-combatants

involves approximately 500 ADF personnel, with the majority based on HMAS Choules. Other nations taking part are New Zealand, Solomon Islands, Canada, the United States, and the United

Kingdom.

In related developments, a meeting held on the 22nd October between the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) and Ex-combatant commanders in Buka town successfully ended with the commitment by the veterans to support the successful rollout of the Operation Render Safe.

The veterans, while supportive of their government's decision to endorse Operation Render Safe, urged that they be engaged to participate in the operation in areas of awareness and community liason.

The veterans also on behalf of the people of Torokina stressed the need for the establishment of an economic package for the people of Torokina..

The ABG in response has agreed to work on a development package for the people of Torokina, focused on building road networks and the improvement of the Education and Health sectors of the district.



# Manetai breaks ground for Soccer Academy



It might be a cliché to say that soccer is growing in leaps and bounds with the recent ground breaking ceremony in Emiovi Manetai, Central Bougainville.

Oceania Football Confederation (OFC) and PNG Football Association President, David Chung OBE, arrived in Bougainville on Thursday 28th August for the ground-breaking ceremony of Bougainville Emiovi Football Soccer Academy. Mr Chung was accompanied by delegations from FIFA, OFC

and PNGFA.

The delegation was welcomed at Buka Airport by ABG Minister for Community

## "This is exactly the type of project for which FIFA represents"

### Mr Terry Renegass, FIFA Director for Development

Development and Sports, Honourable Melchior Dare. In his welcome speech Minister

Dare said that soccer is a tool for uniting people and the establishment of the academy will contribute positively to

the peace building process. "Soccer is a community. A global community that we

must be part of in order to bring change," Minister Dare said.

At the ground-breaking ceremony at Manetai, FIFA's director for development, Terry Renegass, said that the Academy is a great partnership between football, the government and people. "This is exactly the type of project that for which FIFA stands about," Mr Renegass said.

In his speech, Mr Chung said that the facility is a venue to foster peace and

reconciliation in the young Bougainvillean generation.

"Soccer is a tool of education and the values of soccer are discipline, hard work and respect for others.

Mr Chung also thanked ABG Minister for Department of Primary Industries, Hon. Nicholas Daaku, for giving his land to a worthy cause.

By 2015, the pile of dirt dug up today will be transformed into the new Bougainville Emiovi Football Soccer Academy.

# Tura the Kokomo visits Bougainville



XV Pacific Games Mascot Tura the Kokomo paid a surprise visit to the Autonomous Region of Bougainville this month,

much to the delight of the Bougainville Public Servants, Children and Athletes on Buka Island.

In welcoming TURA,

Bougainville Public Service Acting Chief Secretary Chris Siriosi said the people of Bougainville can relate well with the Kokomo as

a symbol of Unity and strength as Bougainville has already a major clan in the region known as the Kokomo.

He informed the visiting delegation also that Bougainville would be sending a large contingent to the upcoming 6th PNG Games in Lae next month.

"The ABG fully supports Team Bougainville and we would be sending our athletes on our own flag ship the MV Chebu, to the games," Mr. Siriosi said.

He wished the visiting officials of the Pacific Games Marketing committee a pleasant stay in the region.

Pictured is Bougainville Public Servants cheering in welcome TURA's arrival into Bougainville and Bougainville Public Service Acting Chief Secretary Chris Siriosi (left) says hello to TURA and Pacific Games Marketing Manager Ken Siminji.



# Team Bougainville set for PNG Games

Team Bougainville comprising of 500 strong athletes and officials, boarded Bougainville's very own flagship MV Chebu on her first voyage to Lae on Wednesday 12 November.

The team was the largest contingent in its four year PNG Games history to compete in the 6th PNG National Games in Lae,

Autonomous Morobe Province. General team manager Mr. Robert Semoso said that the establishment of the team management and preparation has proceeded very well with equal representation of men, women, youth, churches and disabled persons in the management committee.

Mr Semoso said that athletes are trained on standards used across the

country with the support of a very effective medical team.

“Our participation is a positive chance to promote our Bougainville pride, our regional identity and health and cultural benefits of sports. We are making sure that all our athletes are at the games venue beforehand to take part in the opening ceremony,” Semoso Said.

This reporter caught up

with some of the athletes while boarding the ship and this is what they had to say. Mipla i hamamas long makim ailan bilong mipla long spot na bai mipla traim best long kam bek wantem gutpela result. (We are proud to represent Bougainville in sports and we hope to return with the best results).

Over 300 athletes

boarded the Mv Chebu while the rest of the athletes will traveled to Lae on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

With the aim of being in the top three placing, form their previous achievement of fifth place among all provinces; Team Bougainville is a team to reckon with, said Mr Semoso.

Contingent numbers for Team Autonomous Bougainville

	SPORT	ATHLETES		TOTAL ATHLETE	OFFICIALS		TOTAL OFFICIAL	TOT BY SPO
		MALE	FEMALE		MALE	FEMALE		
1	Athletics	20	20	40	2	2	4	44
2	Basketball	10	10	20	2	2	4	24
3	Bodybuilding	10	6	16	2	1	3	19
4	Boxing	9	9	18	2	2	4	22
5	Dart	6	6	12	2	2	4	16
6	Karate	8	6	14	2		2	16
7	Kickboxing	10	10	20	2	2	4	24
8	Netball		12	12		2	2	14
9	Paralympics	8	8	16	6	6	12	28
10	Power lifting	8	8	16	2	2	4	20
11	Rugby 9s	15		15	2		2	17
12	Rugby Union 7s	15		15	2		2	17
13	Soccer	15	15	30	2	2	4	34
14	Softball	15	15	30	2	2	4	34
15	Touch Football	18	18	36	2	2	4	40
16	Taekwondo	9	9	18	2	2	4	22
17	Volleyball	10	10	20	2	2	4	24
18	Weight Lifting	8	8	16	2	2	4	20
<b>Total</b>		<b>194</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>435</b>
<b>TEAM MANAGEMENT</b>								
General T' Manager		1		1				1
Admin Assistant		2	2	4				4
Medical Personnel		1	1	2				2
Chef de Mission			1	1				1
Total Management		4	4	8				8
<b>TOTAL CONTINGENT</b>		<b>198</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>443</b>

