REFERENDUM HANDBOOK

Observers, Scrutineers & Media

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BOUGAINVILLE REFERENDUM COMMISSION

neutral • impartial • transparent • inclusive • professional

October 2019

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FOREWORD FROM THE CHAIR

Thank you for your interest in the Bougainville Referendum. Your role, whether you are an observer, a scrutineer or a journalist, is essential to the conduct of this referendum.

Sch.1.9 of the Organic Law governing the Referendum says, "the BRC is mandated to promote informed debate on each side of the question to be put at the Referendum, and to encourage wider public interest and involvement in ensuring that the Referendum is conducted in a free and fair manner."

Laws also make clear that the responsibility for ensuring that the Referendum is conducted in a free and fair manner is a shared one, including the two governments, scrutineers, observers, media and through public debate.

Together, by doing your job well, we will help ensure the referendum is conducted in a transparent way, where polling, the transfer of ballot boxes and the scrutiny and counting of ballot papers is open to external scrutiny and judgement to international electoral standards of free and fair. If done as it should, the final announcement of votes should be seen by all parties as a true representation of the democratic voice of the people of Bougainville.

Many will be watching our work and your work. The people of Bougainville, the two governments and the international community. We are also aware that there will be many mixed and painful emotions surrounding the Referendum. People from both Bougainville and Papua New Guinea have suffered for this vote. With this in mind, the Commission places great importance on the Referendum being a positive part of the peace process, as mapped out by the leaders who created the Bougainville Peace Agreement almost 20 years ago. It should be a joyous occasion, a celebration of an historic milestone and almost 20 continuous years of peace over bloodshed. Scrutineers, observers and the media should be mindful of this history.

Conducting the Bougainville Referendum is no easy task. While the total number of voters is relatively small (around 202,000), operations span the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, all 21 provinces of PNG, and in two locations each in Solomon Islands (Honiara and Gizo) and Australia (Brisbane and Cairns).

Our aim as the independent, neutral agency appointed by the two governments to conduct this process has always been a straightforward one. A credible, efficient, transparent referendum, conducted within the laws, resources and time provided, and that delivers an inclusive vote of the people of Bougainville on the question of greater autonomy or independence for the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. We do not support either government, we do not support either option, we are steadfastly independent.

With the resources available, we are proud to have raised the 'electoral' bar in many ways. A comprehensive three-step enrolment process to address historically poor voter rolls by drawing on the local knowledge and expertise of Community Governments and 441 Ward Recorders. And the provision, for the first time in PNG, of overseas polling, postal voting and provisional voting. In everything that we do, we adhere to the laws and decisions of the two governments that are set out in this publication. We do not make the rules, we follow them and we expect you too as well.

The Referendum is a new process for PNG. While the principles of external scrutiny and observation to bring transparency to the process are common to each of your roles, there are also key differences and particular codes of conduct to adhere to. That is the purpose of this handbook. Our decision to combine information here in this handbook ensures that each of you are also aware of each other's roles at polling booths and the central counting centre.

We understand that you will face many of the same logistical and communication challenges that we do – as does any electoral process in Bougainville or Papua New Guinea. Poor roads and expensive transport connections, mobile phone black spots, remote island atolls, tropical weather – and things not always going as planned.

For that reason, we appreciate the commitment of each individual and each organisation or group that you represent to play your part in this historic referendum and this next step in the Bougainville Peace process.

On behalf of all Commissioners and the Chief Referendum Officer, I wish you all the best.

Hon. Bertie Ahern

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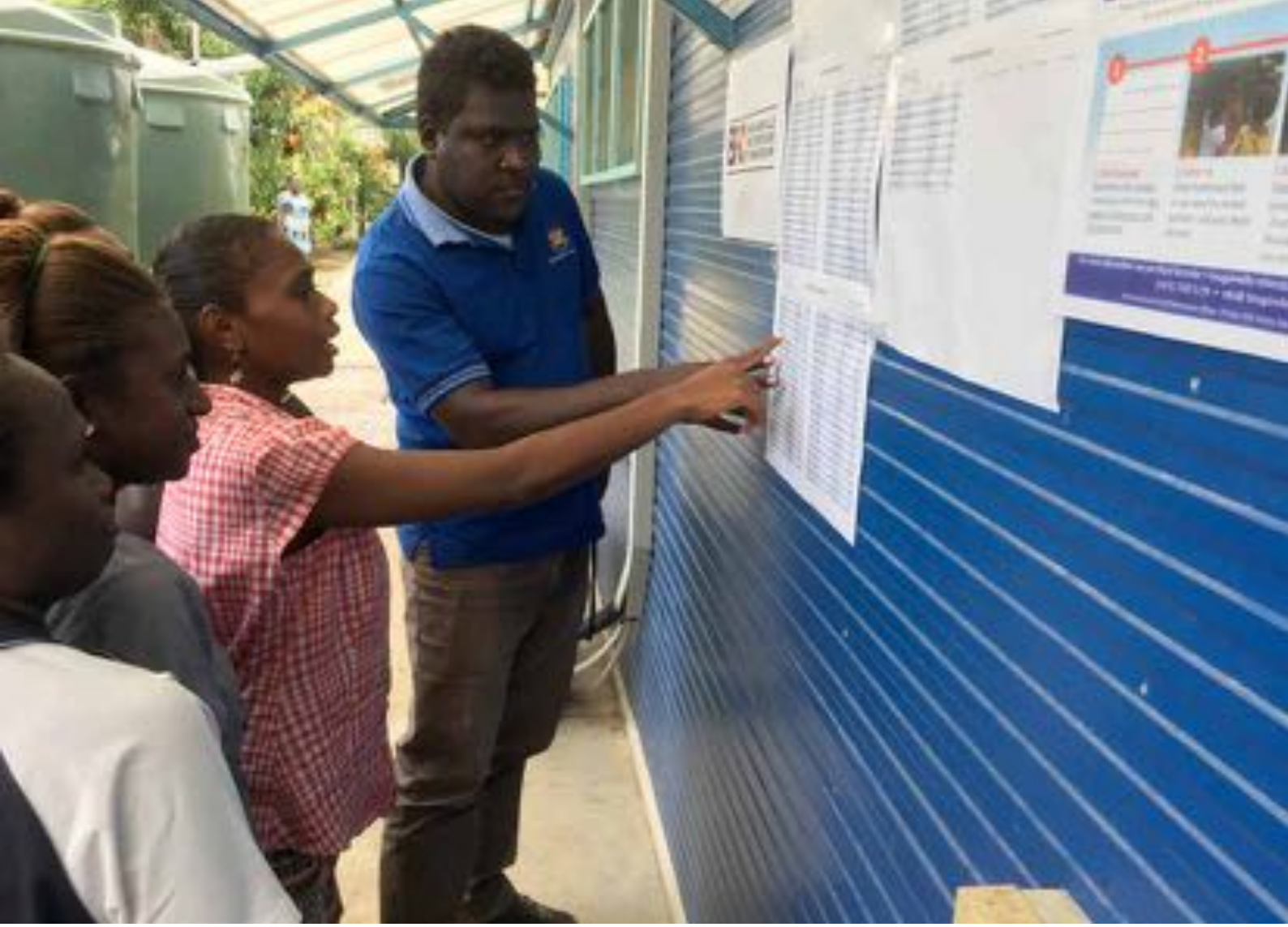


PART 1
INTRODUCTION

WHAT IS FREE AND FAIR?

Elections and referendums are democratic processes held to international standards of 'free and fair'. But what does this really mean?

While observer organisations may use their own definitions, as the Commission we have promised the people of Bougainville that we will work to the definition below:

'Fair' is generally the responsibility of the Commission:

- Making the process inclusive so all eligible people of Bougainville can vote; whether they are disabled, illiterate, in hospital, young or old, man or woman
- Making sure voters understand the process and the options before them
- Making sure the process is transparent (observers, scrutineers, media).

'Free' is generally the responsibility of the community:

- Creating an environment that promotes free speech and freedom of expression
- Freedom to hear about both options
- Respecting each individual's right to make their own informed choice.

It's vital for the credibility of the vote, for this process to be worthwhile, that those who are rightfully enrolled, no matter whether they are living in Bougainville, PNG or overseas, can vote without fear and without intimidation.

We strongly believe that this will be the case. We strongly believe that everyone recognises the importance, and the right, for the people of Bougainville to finally have their say on their future.

WHAT IS THE BOUGAINVILLE REFERENDUM?

A referendum on Bougainville's political future is guaranteed in the Bougainville Peace Agreement. A referendum is a commonly used democratic process to decide on a question or issue. It's like an election, but instead of candidates there is a question. This question was set by the two governments.

BALLOT PAPER TEXT

Preamble: The outcome of the referendum on the future political status of Bougainville, will be discussed by both Governments (the Government of PNG and ABG), and will be presented to the National Parliament for final decision making in accordance with the Bougainville Peace Agreement and the National Constitution.

Question: Do you agree for Bougainville to have: Greater Autonomy; or Independence

Explanation of process:

1. Eligible people of Bougainville will vote in the referendum.
2. National Government and the ABG will consult.
3. National Parliament will make the final decision. The two governments have provided the following descriptions for each choice:

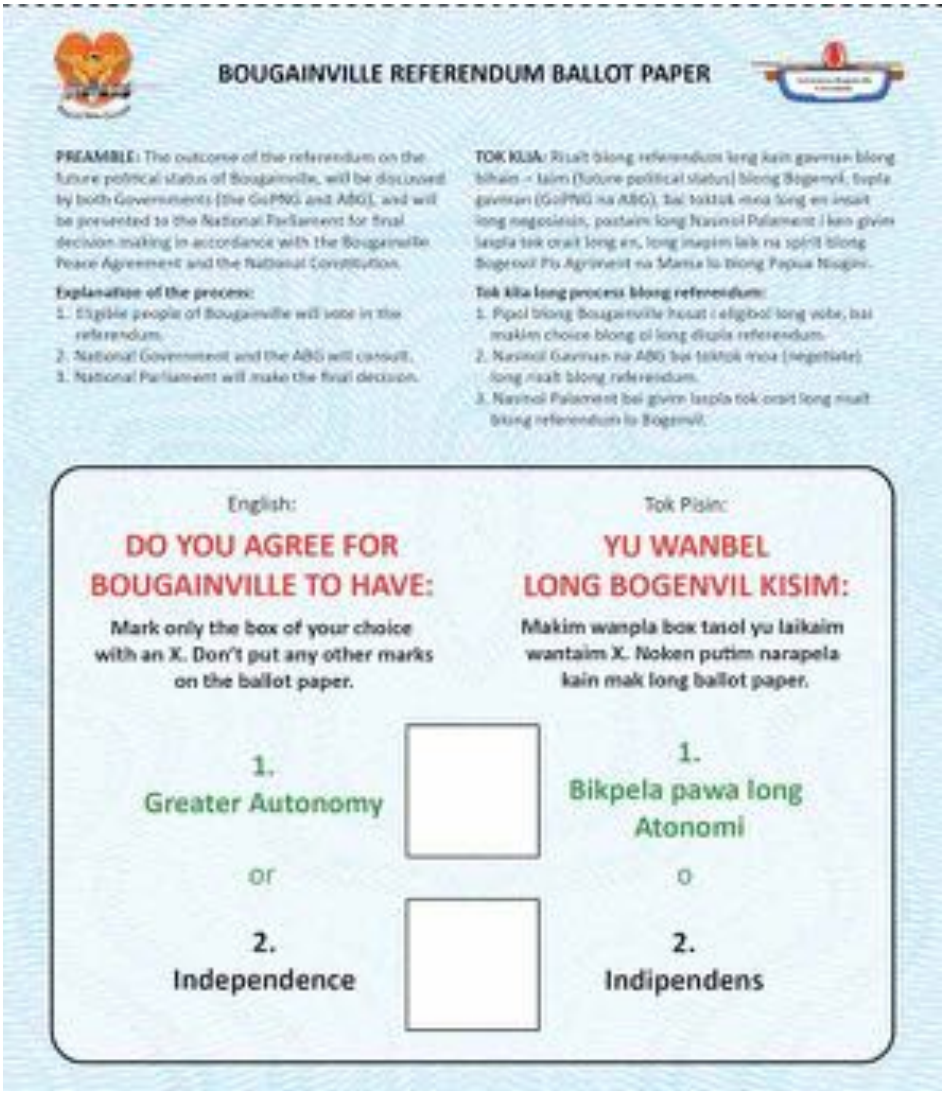
Greater autonomy: A negotiated political settlement that provides for a form of autonomy with greater powers than those currently available under constitutional arrangements.

Independence: An independent nation state with sovereign powers and laws, recognised under international law and by other sovereign states to be an independent state, separate from the State of Papua New Guinea.

More information on the referendum options, as provided by the two Governments, can be found in the Annex.

Like elections, the Referendum will have a ballot paper, ballot boxes, polling places, polling officials, scrutineers and observers.

The Bougainville Peace Agreement says the Referendum is 'non-binding' and is subject to ratification by the National Parliament. This means that the option that receives the most votes is not necessarily the final decision of the two governments.


BOUGAINVILLE REFERENDUM BALLOT PAPER

PREAMBLE: The outcome of the referendum on the future political status of Bougainville, will be discussed by both Governments (the GoPNG and ABG), and will be presented to the National Parliament for final decision making in accordance with the Bougainville Peace Agreement and the National Constitution.

Explanation of the process:
1. Eligible people of Bougainville will vote in the referendum.
2. National Government and the ABG will consult.
3. National Parliament will make the final decision.

TOK KLIA: Risalt blong referendum long kain gavman blong bihain – kain (future political status) blong Bogenvil, bipla gavman (GoPNG na ABG), bai tokluk mwa long en insait long negosiesin, pastaim long Nasinol Palament i kan givim laspla tok orait long en, long inapim lak na spirit blong Bogenvil Pis Agriment na Mamta lo blong Papua Niugini.

Tok klia long process blong referendum:
1. Pipol blong Bougainville hasat i eligibol long vote, bai makim choice blong ol long displa referendum.
2. Nasinol Gavman na ABG bai tokluk mwa (negotiate) long risalt blong referendum.
3. Nasinol Palament bai givim laspla tok orait long risalt blong referendum lo Bogenvil.

English:

DO YOU AGREE FOR BOUGAINVILLE TO HAVE:

Mark only the box of your choice with an X. Don't put any other marks on the ballot paper.

1. Greater Autonomy

or

2. Independence

Tok Pisin:

YU WANBEL LONG BOGENVIL KISIM:

Makim wanpla box tasol yu laikaim wantaim X. Noken putim narapela kain mak long ballot paper.

1. Bikpela pawa long Atonomi

o

2. Indipendens

HISTORY OF THE BOUGAINVILLE PEACE AGREEMENT

The following is an extract from the Joint Key Messages document released by the two governments to explain issues relating to the Referendum.

For the complete document: http://www.abg.gov.pg/images/misc/Final_Joint_Key_Messages_on_BPA_and_Referendum_compressed.pdf

A JOINT CREATION AND COMMITMENT

The Bougainville armed conflict was the bloodiest and most destructive crisis to have occurred since the independence of Papua New Guinea in 1975 and the longest armed conflict in the Pacific Region after the Second World War.

The Bougainville Peace Agreement - or BPA - is a lasting peace strategy built on three pillars: autonomy, weapons disposal and referendum. It was signed on 30 August 2001 by the Government of Papua New Guinea and Bougainville leaders. The BPA has no end date.

The BPA was built on compromise and agreement. For example, the National Government did not want to be bound by the referendum result. Also, different Bougainville groups had different views:

1. Early independence with referendum as soon as possible (3-5 years), with a binding outcome – where the result was binding on the National Government.
2. Autonomy and deferred referendum: Immediate autonomy, with a referendum after enough time to conduct reconciliation and weapons disposal to avoid a return to conflict.
3. Remain part of PNG: but with a high level of autonomy.

Bougainville leaders and the Government of PNG agreed to the 'middle road' between the two extreme options: autonomy with a referendum on independence 10-15 years later.

UNDERSTANDING THE BOUGAINVILLE PEACE AGREEMENT

The BPA was signed at Arawa on 30 August 2001 after about ten years of negotiation between Bougainvilleans, the Government of Papua New Guinea. It was assisted and witnessed by the representatives from the international community including New Zealand, Australia, Fiji, Solomon Islands and the United Nations.

A better knowledge of the BPA can be drawn by understanding the reasons, content and parties of the Peace Agreement. The BPA contains 6 Parts (A – F) with about 344 Paragraphs and can be summarized as;

1. To end the conflict between the State of Papua New Guinea and Bougainville and also within Bougainville.
2. To address and resolve the causes and aftermath of the Bougainville Conflict, that means;
    - Problems that caused the original uprising and conflict with Papua New Guinea that surfaced in 1988
    - Problems and issues that arose from the conflict that caused unrest and conflict among Bougainvilleans
    - Avoidance and prevention of future unrest and conflict, including Bougainville's ability to govern its own affairs in post-conflict situation.
3. The problems and issues that are identified as causes and contributors of the conflict which are dealt with in the BPA include;
    - The basic grievances regarding land, people, environment and culture
    - The aspiration and strong wish of the people for Bougainville independence
    - The conflict and division among Bougainvilleans (crisis) including Bougainville independence
    - The destructions and damages to Bougainville industries and infrastructure (roads, bridges, schools, etc.)

- The weak economy (low government revenue)
- The weak capacity of Bougainville government including administration.

4. In order to deal with these issues the Leaders (parties) resolved and decided that the best future political arrangement for Bougainville should be based on;
   - A guaranteed but deferred referendum for Bougainville independence
   - A high autonomy for Bougainville before (or leading to) referendum
   - A demilitarization plan including weapons disposal, reintegration and reconciliation.
5. It took more than two years (June 1999 – August 2001) and well over twenty meetings to reach such a decision and the rationale for choosing these political arrangements included;
   - High Autonomy gives Bougainville the power to deal and resolve their basic grievances as they will control land, people, mining, forestry, environment, foreign investment and culture.
   - Deferring the referendum gives and allows enough time for reconciliation; reintegration and unity as well as keeps open the question of Bougainville independence and allow time for the development of trust and consensus among the people of Bougainville who may be divided on that issue.
   - High Autonomy and deferred referendum both allow Bougainville to build up economy and both governance and administrative capacities until a final decision on independence is made, (2015 – 2020).
6. The Government of Papua New Guinea agreed to make changes (amendments) to PNG National Constitution to guarantee the autonomy, referendum and demilitarization as follows;

   A very high level Autonomy that will allow Bougainville to;

   a) Choose its own name, government structures in its constitution

   b) Gradually take on most of powers and functions of government

   c) Build up its own revenue through taxes as its economy grows, and until then to get financial support from the National Government and donors (development partners).

   d) Establish separate Bougainville courts, public service, police and correctional services.

   e) A new relationship between Papua New Guinea and Bougainville and a new Government framework that allows Bougainvilleans to develop Bougainville in their own way.

   A referendum for Bougainville on its future political status;

   a) Deferred to at least 10 years but for no more than 15 years after establishment or Autonomy begins

   b) The vote in the referendum will be subject to final decision (ratification) by the parliament of Papua New Guinea

   c) The protection of the constitutional arrangements for Bougainville from change by the parliament of Papua New Guinea unless Bougainville agrees.

   Demilitarization and weapons disposal

   a) Provision for disposal of weapons by the Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) and the Bougainville Resistance Force (BRF).

   b) Withdrawal of the remaining members of the PNG Defence Force and the PNG Police Riot Squad.

   c) The Peace Monitoring Group and United Nations to remain in Bougainville and help with the weapons disposal.

   d) Strong restrictions on future deployment of the PNG Defence Force and PNG Police Riot Squad.

   e) Bougainville Police not to have anything like a heavily armed Riot Squad.

   f) Commitment by all groups including BRA and BRF to working with and through the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

7. The actual implementation of the Bougainville Peace Agreement began in March 2002 when the Parliament of Papua New Guinea passed the Constitutional Law titled as; 'Peace-Building in Bougainville – Autonomous Bougainville Government and Bougainville Referendum' that gave effect to the Agreement (BPA). However, the Constitutional Law that deals with the referendum issues and provides for establishment for the Autonomous Bougainville Government came into operation after August 2003 when the completion of Stage Two of Weapons Disposal was verified by the United Nations Observer Mission on Bougainville (UNOMB). The Constitution of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville was adopted by the Bougainville Constituent Assembly in November 2004 and Gazetted by the Government of Papua New Guinea in December 2004. The first General Election of the Autonomous Bougainville Government was held with its first inauguration in June 2005 after UNOMB verified the completion of Stage Three Weapons Disposal in May 2005.

SUMMARY

The Bougainville Peace Agreement is an evolving undertaking made by Bougainvilleans among themselves and with the Government of PNG. The Bougainville autonomy arrangement grants Bougainvilleans the authority to govern their own affairs and through the referendum, determine Bougainville's future political status, and through peacebuilding and weapons disposal create a conducive environment for autonomy to grow and create an enabling environment for a free and fair referendum.

The rules for the Referendum and the Bougainville Referendum Commission (BRC) are set out in a number of documents and laws, and decisions of the two governments. These are all available at http://bougainville-referendum.org/legal/.

- Bougainville Peace Agreement
- Constitution of Papua New Guinea
- Constitution of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville
- Organic Law on Peace-building in Bougainville and Referendum
- Organic Bougainville Referendum Law Regulations 2019
- Bougainville Referendum Commission Charter
- Various agreements of the two governments including the:
    - Establishment of the BRC
    - Selection of BRC Chair, Bertie Ahern
    - Referendum date
    - Referendum question, ballot paper text and descriptions of the two choices
    - Enrolment criteria for Bougainvilleans living outside Bougainville (non-resident Bougainvilleans).

Further reading on the historical aspects of the Bougainville Peace Agreement and referendum see ***The Bougainville Referendum Law, Administration and Politics,*** AJ Regan: http://bougainville-referendum.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/the_bougainville_referendum_low_res_1.pdf

BOUGAINVILLE REFERENDUM COMMISSION

The Bougainville Referendum Commission (BRC) is the independent body established by the two governments to conduct the Referendum. The BRC Charter contains five principles that guide our work:

- Neutrality
- Transparency
- Professionalism
- Impartiality
- Inclusivity.

The BRC has an independent international Chair, Bertie Ahern, former Prime Minister of Ireland, and six other Commissioners:

- Electoral Commissioners for Papua New Guinea and Bougainville – Patilias Gamato and George Manu
- Commissioner Patrick Nisira – former Vice President of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville
- Commissioner Ruby Mirinka – peace builder, community worker and signatory of the Bougainville Peace Agreement
- Commissioner Robert Igara – former Chief Secretary of the Government of PNG during the signing of foundation agreements in the peace process
- Commissioner Thomas Webster – who recently received the Queen's Birthday award of Commander of the British Empire for his public service.

The Commission has also appointed Mauricio Claudio as Chief Referendum Officer to oversee the BRC Secretariat and Referendum operations.

The BRC Secretariat is based in Buka at Hutjena, but also has three regional offices in Buka, Arawa and Buin

townships. The BRC has appointed one Returning Officer (RO) to manage two voting districts (the Autonomous Region of Bougainville and outside of Bougainville).

The RO has appointed 33 Assistant Returning Officers (ARO), one for each ABG constituency (a constituency has been designated as an administrative unit for the purpose of referendum operations). One Port Moresby based ARO has been appointed for NRB referendum operations throughout PNG, in conjunction with the PNG Electoral Commission (PNGEC) and four overseas locations, in conjunction with the PNG High Commissions in Australia and the Solomon Islands.

The BRC 'team' also includes the Community Governments in Bougainville. From these, the BRC recruited 441 Ward Recorders to conduct enrolment, including carrying out an intensive house to house exercise. In addition, BRC engaged more than 400 awareness officers in its awareness enrolment phases and plans to double that number for polling and counting, half of them to be women, ensuring all Bougainvilleans are informed.

BRC has directly hired some staff for the Secretariat and its regional offices, and as well as having staff seconded from the ABG and the Office of the Bougainville Electoral Commissioner. We are working with the PNG Electoral Commission to conduct enrolment and polling operations for Bougainvilleans living outside Bougainville across the 21 Provinces. To conduct overseas enrolment and polling we are working with the PNG Department of Foreign Affairs, and their diplomatic missions in Australia and Solomon Islands.

We are also working with international expertise provided by the New Zealand Electoral Commission, the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (or IFES), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and agencies supported by the Australian Government.

1.3 BUDGET

The BRC budget of K27.8 million is provided by the two governments with the support of donor partners: Australia, New Zealand, Japan, United Kingdom, Germany, Ireland, United States and the United Nations. The BRC works within the budget provided, and is accountable to the two governments and through them, the international community for its expenditure of funds.

SOURCE	KINA (millions)
ABG (received)	0.8
ABG (awaited)	1.2
PNG	18.7
Donors (funding gap)	7.1
TOTAL (originally K35m)	27.8

PART 2
REFERENDUM ARRANGEMENTS

THE REFERENDUM ROLL

Who can enrol?

Eligibility to vote was set by law and the two governments.

For Bougainvilleans living in Bougainville the eligibility criteria for enrolment are:

- Have been living in Bougainville for at least the past six months prior to enrolment
- Were born on or before 23 November 2001
- Are a PNG citizen, and
- Are entitled to vote in PNG National Elections.

For non-resident Bougainvilleans (Bougainvilleans living outside Bougainville), the eligibility criteria for enrolment are:

- Have links to Bougainville by birth, adoption, marriage or clan
- Were born on or before 23 November 2001
- Are a PNG citizen, and
- Are entitled to vote in PNG National Elections.

You can not enrol if you:

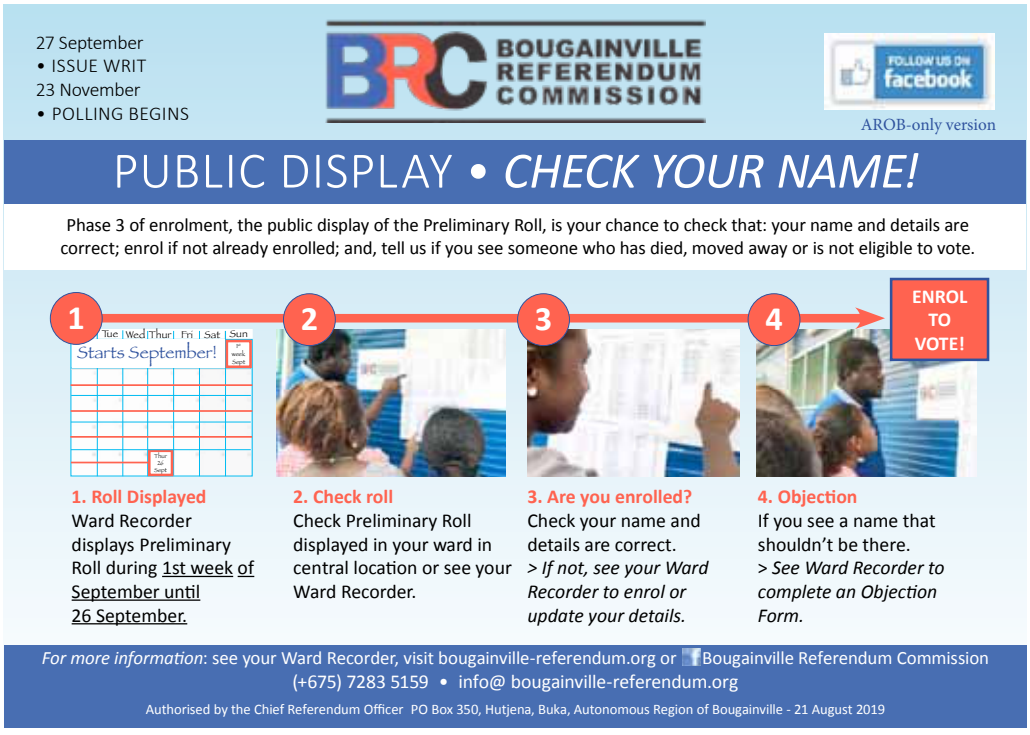
- Are not of full capacity
- Are under sentence of death or sentence of imprisonment for a period of more than 9 months, and
- Have in the last three years been convicted of an electoral offence.

Enrolment process

PNG and Bougainville elections have a history of poor quality electoral rolls where many voters miss out on voting. In response, the BRC undertook comprehensive voter enrolment exercise conducted over three phases. Our aim was to ensure an inclusive process that honoured the intention of the BPA for the Referendum to provide a voice for all people of Bougainville on the question of Bougainville's future:

1. April: Verification of the base working roll (2015 ABG Election Roll)
2. June-July: Door-to-door enrolment
3. September: Public display of the Preliminary Referendum roll for corrections and challenges and last opportunity to enrol.

Critical to enrolment was the involvement of Community Governments, in particular Ward Recorders. For the first time the people of Bougainville were offered door to door enrolment, enrolment in all 21 provinces of PNG and four special work sites, and overseas enrolment in Australia (Brisbane and Cairns) and Solomon Islands (Honiara and Gizo). The three-week public display and challenge period also provided people with the opportunity to improve the inclusion and quality of the final roll – this included an SMS 'roll check' service.



THE POLLING PROCESS

BRC OFFICIALS

The BRC has appointed one Returning Officer to manage two voting districts. All the Autonomous Region of Bougainville is one voting district to cater for resident Bougainvilleans and eligible non-Bougainvillean residents. The area outside of Bougainville is another voting district which caters for non-resident Bougainvilleans (NRB).

The Returning Officer has appointed 33 Assistant Returning Officers, one for each ABG constituency (a constituency has been designated as an administrative unit for the purpose of referendum operations). One Port Moresby based Assistant Returning Officer has been appointed for non-resident Bougainville (outside Bougainville) operations throughout PNG, in conjunction with the PNG Electoral Commission (PNGEC), and four overseas locations, in conjunction with the PNG High Commissions in Australia and Solomon Islands.

THE POLLING SCHEDULE

The complete polling schedule can be viewed at:

http://bougainville-referendum.org/polling-schedule-available-here/

The polling schedule outlines the dates and location of polling for each ward. Assistant Returning Officers have prepared the polling schedule for each team.

A polling place shall not be abolished after the issue of the Writ and once it is gazetted. The law requires the polling schedule be published and gazetted, opening the 21-day appeals period. The appeals period ends 14 days before polling starts. If the BRC feels an appeal has merit, it can change and re-gazette the polling schedule.

The Presiding Officer may only depart from the polling schedule if necessary due to unforeseen circumstances or an emergency, following advice from the Assistant Returning Officer or Returning Officer. If it is necessary to vary the polling schedule the Presiding Officer must ensure there is adequate publicity of the variation to inform voters, observers and scrutineers.

POLLING HOURS

Polling must not be held on Sundays or any public holiday. Polling starts at 8:00am and finishes at 6pm (according to the relevant time zone in the polling location). Any voter in the queue at 6pm will be provided the chance to vote. Polling booths will open in accordance with the polling schedule, whether scrutineers and observers are present or not. Where the Presiding Officer considers that all voters entitled and likely to vote at any particular location have done so, or following a direction from the Assistant Returning Officer or Returning Officer, the Presiding Officer may close the polling earlier than 6pm.

POLLING PLACE AND POLLING BOOTH

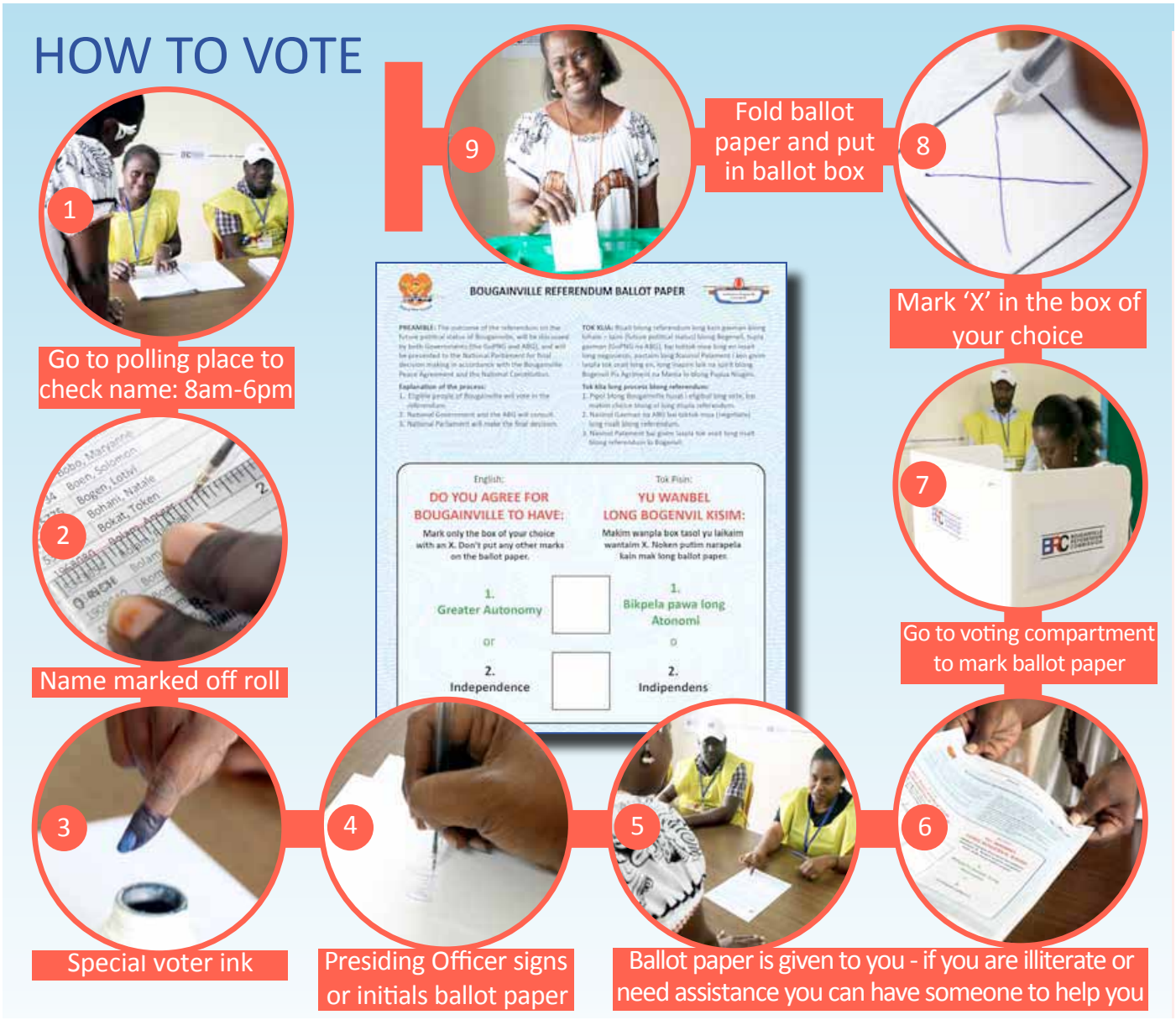
The polling place is the location where voting takes place, as identified in the polling schedule. Each polling place can contain more than one polling booth. The Presiding Officer chooses a central area to set up the polling booth(s). This needs to be accessible to the greatest number of people, including people with a physical disability and older people. It must also have enough space for the furniture required.

IN THE POLLING BOOTH

The Presiding Officer

The primary role of a Presiding Officer is to manage each polling booth and the polling officials appointed for that polling booth. The Presiding Officer has the responsibility for and authority over all aspects of the polling operation in the polling booth and observers, scrutineers and the media must always act in accordance with Presiding Officer directions. The functions of the Presiding Officer must always be exercised in a professional and politically neutral manner.

Presiding Officers are selected and appointed by the Assistant Returning Officer. No person under the age of 18 years shall be appointed to be or to act as Presiding Officer or Assistant Presiding Officer.



The polling team

Most polling teams consist of five members: Presiding Officer, Assistant Presiding Officer, Poll Clerk, Ballot Box Guard and Door Keeper. In remote places, carriers may also be employed. In some smaller locations, the team may include just the Presiding Officer, Assistant Presiding Officer, Poll Clerk.

Security in the Polling Booth

The Presiding Officer is responsible to assess any situation in terms of security and security personnel should be guided by the request from the Presiding Officer for assistance or management of a situation. Security personnel will mostly be officers from the Bougainville Police Service and may include other security officers engaged by the BRC for the purpose of providing security. A security officer will not enter a polling booth unless invited by the Presiding Officer.

VOTING PROCESS

Step 1: Marking the Certified List of Voters

The roll for the Referendum is officially known as the Certified List (not referendum roll). Each constituency Certified List is divided into wards. Each ward lists the names of eligible voters in alphabetical order by last name.

When a voter enters the polling booth, they are directed to the poll clerk who asks the voter for their full name and looks for their name on the Certified List of Voters for the ward. When the voter's name is found, it is crossed off.

Step 2: Inking the voter's finger

When the voter's name has been found on the Certified List of Voters and crossed off, the voter is directed to the Assistant Presiding Officer to have their left, small finger inked. If the voter has no small finger on their left hand, the ink must be placed on the finger nearest to the

missing small finger on their left hand. If the voter has no left hand, the ink must be placed on the little finger on the right hand.

Step 3: Marking the gender tally sheet

The Assistant Presiding Officer will cross off the next number on the correct gender tally form in the Referendum Journal to indicate whether the voter was male or female.

Step 4: Issuing the ballot paper

After the voter's finger has been inked, they are directed to the Presiding Officer. The ink must dry before the voter receives their ballot paper. Before issuing the ballot paper, the Presiding Officer must initial or mark the back of the ballot paper where it can be easily seen when the ballot paper is folded to conceal the vote.

The voter is then directed to:

- go alone to a vacant voting compartment (unless they require assistance)
- read the instructions printed on the ballot paper
- mark the ballot paper with a single X in the box of their choice
- fold the ballot paper in half to conceal their vote
- put the ballot paper in the ballot box
- leave the polling booth when finished
- not take the ballot paper outside the polling booth
- let the Presiding Officer know if they need assistance to complete the ballot paper.

Step 5: Marking the ballot paper and placing it in ballot box

The voter records their vote in secret by marking an X in the box to indicate their choice. The voter then folds the ballot paper to conceal the vote but to show the initials of the Presiding Officer, and then places it in the ballot box before leaving the polling booth.

SPOILT BALLOT PAPERS

If a voter makes a mistake while marking their ballot paper, they are said to have 'spoilt' the ballot paper they were issued. The Presiding Officer will:

- Take the spoilt ballot paper from the voter and cancel it by writing the word 'SPOILT' across the front.
- Place the spoilt ballot paper inside the spoilt ballot paper envelope.
- Initial/sign a new ballot paper and issue it to the voter.

Once a ballot paper has been deposited in a ballot box that voter is deemed to have voted. They must not be allowed to vote again even if they insist they have incorrectly marked the ballot paper.

DISCARDED BALLOT PAPERS

A ballot paper that is found outside the polling booth or lying in the polling booth is called a discarded ballot, whether it has been initialed by the Presiding Officer and/or marked by the voter or not. All discarded ballot papers must be given to the Presiding Officer. They must not be used or placed in a ballot box.

The Presiding Officer will write 'DISCARDED' across the top of the ballot paper, announce to everyone present what has happened and put it into the specified envelope for discarded ballot papers.

DECLARATION AND PROVISIONAL VOTING

A Presiding Officer may issue a declaration or a provisional vote to a voter under the following circumstances:

1. Their name has already been marked off the Certified List of Voters, but they claim not to have already voted.
2. They applied for a postal vote but claim they did not receive it.
3. Their name is not found on the Certified List of Voters (and they claim to have enrolled, or they are enrolled in another constituency).

In these cases, the voter is required to complete a declaration to state that they are eligible to vote. If a voter fills out this form fraudulently, they can be charged with an offence and referred to the police.

DECLARATION VOTING

1. Voter already marked off the Certified List of Voters

If a voter claims they have not voted but their name is marked off the Certified List of Voters, it is possible a polling official has accidentally crossed out the wrong voter's name. Where a voter says they have not voted, the Presiding Officer must ask questions of the voter to ensure that the person has not already voted before issuing a vote.

2. Postal voter claiming to vote at a polling place

If a voter is marked on the Certified List of Voters as a postal voter but claims they did not receive a postal vote the Presiding Officer must ask questions of voter to ensure that the person has not already voted before issuing a vote.

If the voter brings an unused postal vote certificate to the polling place, the Presiding Officer will write 'UNUSED' across the top of the envelope and place all documents (including the unused ballot paper) into a plain envelope and keep it securely to be returned to the Assistant Presiding Officer with other Referendum returns.

PROVISIONAL VOTING

Voter's name not found on the Certified List of Voters at the polling place

Where a voter's name is not found on the Certified List of Voters at the polling place, they may be able to make a provisional vote. This would happen when the voter claims to be on the list for another constituency, or they believe their name has been omitted in error from the Certified List.

Throughout the polling period, voting arrangements will be provided at BRC regional offices (Buka, Arawa, Buin) to cater for people who are travelling or working away from where they are enrolled, and who wish to vote in person. These centres will have copies of the entire Referendum Roll to encourage people travelling or working away from their home to have their name marked off the roll and vote in person. (These voters can also vote at any polling place anywhere, but they will be issued a provisional vote which requires completing a declaration).

Provisional voting materials set (yellow envelope)

Note: The declaration will need to be verified against the Certified List of Voters at the count centre before being admitted to scrutiny.

ASSISTING A VOTER

Every person eligible to vote should be given the opportunity to vote. Assistance can be provided if requested by the voter, for example because of a disability or they can't read. The voter can select their own assistant if they wish. If the voter fails to nominate someone, the Presiding Officer will assist. Security personnel, scrutineers or observers cannot assist voters.

When assistance is being provided, the voter and their assistant can enter an unoccupied voting compartment. The assistant may help mark and fold the ballot paper and they may also help deposit the ballot paper into the ballot box.

STATUTORY QUESTIONS THAT MAY BE ASKED OF VOTERS

If the Presiding Officer believes it is necessary or a scrutineer makes a request, they can ask the voter the following questions to establish their identity, to verify that they are eligible to vote and to ensure they have not already voted in this referendum:

1. Have you already voted either here or elsewhere in this Referendum?
2. Are you at least 18 years of age?
3. Did you reside within this voting district[1] for a period of more than six months before your claim for enrolment?
4. Are you qualified to vote in the National Elections?
5. For non-resident voters: Are you a non-resident Bougainvillean entitled to vote?
6. Are you the person whose name appears on the certified list of voters?

NOTE: The Presiding Officer must be the person to ask these questions, even if this is at the request of a scrutineer.

1. Bougainville is one voting district and outside Bougainville is another voting district.

The Presiding Officer should explain to the voter that these questions can be asked as a requirement for voting. If the voter does not understand the questions, every effort must be made to help them understand including using an interpreter, using Tok Pisin or Tok Ples , or allowing the voter to read the questions.

If the voter refuses to answer, or their answer to the questions show that they are not entitled to vote, the Presiding Officer may refuse their claim to vote. If the Presiding Officer is satisfied with the answers, there can be no further challenge to the voter's right to vote.

POSTAL VOTES

Postal votes are issued by regional offices in Buka, Arawa, Buin and Port Moresby and NOT by a polling place. If a voter chooses to deliver their postal vote, or that of another voter, to the polling place, the Presiding Officer must accept this if it is received during the polling period.

REFUSING A VOTER

A person wishing to vote may be refused because:

- they cannot or refuse to answer the questions required to confirm their eligibility to vote.
- They cannot answer NO to the question "have you already voter either here or elsewhere in this referendum?"
- they state they have not enrolled.

CLOSE OF POLLING

If at 6pm on a polling day there are people still lined up outside the polling booth waiting to vote, the Presiding Officer will immediately call them inside the polling booth, lock the doors or seal the entrance to the polling booth, and allow them to vote. The Presiding Officer will ensure that no further people are allowed into the booth past that time.

VOTERS WITH ILLNESS OR DISABILITY UNABLE TO ATTEND A POLLING PLACE

If the Presiding Officer is made aware that a person is unable to attend the polling place due to illness or disability, the Presiding Officer may make special arrangements to visit the voter at their location to enable them to cast their vote. The Presiding Officer will only consider this if it is possible do so without interfering with the conduct of the poll at the polling place and while maintaining the security of the ballot box and other referendum materials and as much as is possible, the secrecy of the ballot cast by the voter.

ADJOURNMENT OF POLLING

The Presiding Officer may adjourn polling from day to day, up to seven days but not beyond the polling period, in the case of flood, severe storm, and outbreak of a riot, open violence or intimidation.

The Presiding Officer must give public notice of the adjournment, including information for voters to allow them to vote elsewhere.

REMOVAL OF A PERSON FROM A POLLING PLACE

Any person, including a scrutineer or observer, who causes a disturbance or commits an electoral offence can be asked to leave the polling place at the instruction of the Presiding Officer. The Presiding Officer can ask any Police Officers present to assist.

SCRUTINEER OBJECTIONS

If a scrutineer objects to any procedures or questions polling officials in any way, they should immediately be referred to the Presiding Officer. The scrutineer can request that the Presiding Officer asks the voter the questions referred to in the above section 'Statutory questions that may be asked of voters', if they have reason to believe that the voter is not eligible to vote. The scrutineer must not ask these questions themselves. Observers can not object to polling procedures.

SEALING THE BALLOT BOX AND SECURING SENSITIVE MATERIALS

Immediately after the close of polling each day, the Presiding Officer will use a new plastic seal to close and seal the flap on the ballot box. The seal number can be recorded by scrutineers and observers, and scrutineers will be asked to witness the Presiding Officer's record of seals.

THE SCRUTINY (AND COUNTING) OF BALLOT PAPERS

Under the law, the scrutiny is the procedure for the receiving, reconciling, sorting, mixing, checking for formality, counting and tallying of results of marked ballot papers to get the result of the Referendum. The scrutiny takes place after the polling period has concluded, at the single count centre chosen by the BRC, located in Hutjena, Buka.

The Returning Officer is responsible for the conduct of scrutiny, and Returning Officer powers will be delegated to the Count Centre Manager who is responsible for its operation.

The scrutiny for the Voting District of Bougainville will occur concurrently with the scrutiny for the Voting District for Non-Resident Bougainvilleans (NRB), with ballot papers being fully mixed for counting after the reconciliation phase.

The scrutiny process is to be conducted in a way that allows scrutineers to observe the process, so they are able to clearly see and properly scrutinise each ballot paper.

Observers and media can also be present at the scrutiny under conditions set by the BRC.

RETURN OF MATERIALS FROM POLLING TEAMS

In Bougainville, the Regional Coordinator for each region (South, Central and North) oversees the return and check of polling materials from polling teams in the constituencies in each region.

At the end of polling, the Presiding Officer returns the sealed ballot box and polling materials to the regional office for the constituency for which they are responsible. BRC staff in the regions will check that the materials are correctly packed and labelled; at no time during this checking process is the ballot box opened.

The Assistant Returning Officer will travel with the polling materials from all the teams in their constituency to the count centre. There may be more than one transfer of materials from regional offices to the count centre to allow for the efficient return for scrutiny.

Scrutineers are entitled to travel with the Assistant Returning Officer and Referendum materials, but at their own expense and without delaying or preventing the officials from doing their work.

The Assistant Returning Officer for Non-Resident Bougainvilleans (NRB), based in Port Moresby, manages the return and check of NRB ballot boxes for the PNG and overseas polling teams. The Presiding Officer in each PNG province and overseas location will make arrangements to return their polling materials to Port Moresby immediately after polling has concluded. The Assistant Returning Officer for NRB will then travel to Buka (with all the NRB referendum materials required at the count centre) without delay.

MATERIALS ARRIVAL AT THE COUNT CENTRE

On arrival at the count centre, the Referendum materials for scrutiny (the sealed ballot box, Referendum Journal, Certified List and secure envelopes containing spoilt and discarded ballot papers) for each team are registered in the BRC's scrutiny management IT system to capture materials received, indicative number of ballot papers to be counted (based on Referendum Journal records) and progress of the return of materials to the count centre.

RECONCILIATION OF BALLOT PAPERS

The ballot box of used ballot papers, and any declaration or provisional envelopes, the envelopes of spoilt and discarded ballot papers and the Referendum Journal (containing the record of used and unused ballot papers as well as other polling records which have been already checked at the Regional Return and Check) are required for reconciliation.

The ballot box seals are checked against those recorded in the Referendum Journal to ensure that these match, verifying that the ballot box has not been opened. Immediately after the security seals are checked and announced the ballot box is opened so that the number of ballot papers in the ballot box can be reconciled against the figures recorded in the Referendum Journal.

The aim of reconciliation is to verify that the number of ballot papers in the ballot box matches the number that the Presiding Officer claimed to have issued, by their notation in the Referendum Journal. This is not a counting phase and the ballot papers stay face down at all times.

The ballot box may also contain envelopes with Declaration and Provisional Votes contained therein. These envelopes are tallied at this stage, as they represent a ballot paper that was issued.

The envelopes of spoilt and discarded ballot papers are also checked, but not opened, again as they contain ballot papers that were issued and so are needed for reconciliation to work.

Where the reconciliation does not match, the Assistant Returning Officer refers this to the Count Centre Manager who determines if the variance can be explained and is acceptable or not. This decision should be made in the presence of scrutineers and observers to avoid challenge.

If any variation is deemed by the Count Centre Manager to be unacceptable, the materials for that team would be set aside until the RO can determine whether or not the ballot papers can be admitted to scrutiny.

The Declaration Vote and Postal Vote Envelopes are taken to the Declaration and Postal Vote processing area of the count centre.

Envelopes of spoilt and discarded ballot papers are taken for secure storage.

The BRC's IT system is updated after reconciliation to capture number of ballot papers admitted to the count.

PRELIMINARY SCRUTINY OF DECLARATION, PROVISIONAL AND POSTAL VOTE CERTIFICATES

Once reconciliation is complete, the declaration, provisional and postal vote envelopes are sent for what is known as preliminary scrutiny, when the certificate on the envelope is checked against the referendum roll. This will be done by trained clerks and under the supervision of a team leader all of whom have been delegated authority to accept or reject these votes.

Each (white) Declaration Vote Envelope is checked to ensure that:

- The voter is enrolled for the voting district
- An authorised witness has signed the declaration
- The voter has ticked the ground (or grounds) which applies
- The voter has signed the declaration.

A clerk uses the computer look up system to find the voter's name on the roll for the voting district.

If the voter's name is not found in one voting district, the clerk will then check the other voting district and the list of roll amendments to check to see if there has been an error or omission to the roll. If an error or omission is discovered, the RO can admit the voter to the roll, and their vote will be admitted.

When the voter's name is found, the clerk then records the constituency on the Declaration Envelope; finds the roll for that constituency and then marks the voter's name off it.

Any Rejected Declaration Envelopes are marked 'rejected' and numbered with the reasons for rejection.

Each (yellow) Provisional Declaration Vote Envelope is checked to ensure that:

- The voter is enrolled for the voting district
- An authorised witness has signed the declaration
- The voter has ticked the ground (or grounds) which applies
- The voter has signed the declaration.

The clerk uses the computerised roll look up system to find the voter's name on the roll for the voting district. When the voter's name is found, the clerk then records the constituency on the Provisional Declaration Envelope; finds the roll for that constituency and then marks the voter's name off it.

Any Rejected Provisional Declaration Envelopes are marked ' rejected' and numbered with the reasons for rejection.

Each (pink) Postal Vote Envelope is checked to ensure that:

- The voter is enrolled for the voting district
- An authorised witness has signed the declaration
- The voter has ticked the ground (or grounds) which applies
- The voter has signed the declaration.

The clerk uses the computerised roll look up system to find the voter's name on the roll for the voting district. When the voter's name is found, the clerk then records the constituency on the Postal Envelope; finds the roll for that constituency and then marks the voter's name off it.

Any Rejected Postal Vote Envelopes are marked ' rejected' and numbered with the reasons for rejection.

OPENING OF DECLARATION, PROVISIONAL AND POSTAL ENVELOPES

All admitted Declaration, Provisional and Postal Vote Envelopes are then handled as follows:

1. The Clerk numbers each Provisional, Declaration or Postal Envelope with a sequential number on the top of the declaration
2. Opens the Envelope and removes the Secrecy Envelope containing the ballot paper
3. Copies the number from the Provisional, Declaration or Postal Envelope onto the Secrecy Envelope
4. Places the Secrecy Envelope into a sorting tray
5. Bundles up all the empty admitted Provisional, Declaration and Postal Envelopes
6. Places the empty admitted Provisional, Declaration and Postal Envelopes into an envelope labelled with the details of how many envelopes and the date and removes them for storage
7. Opens each Secrecy Envelope containing the ballot paper
8. Removes the ballot paper (NOTE: If the Secrecy Envelope is empty, the enveloped should be marked EMPTY, initialed by the clerk, and included with the Rejected Envelopes)
9. Copies the number from the Secrecy Envelope onto the back of the ballot paper
10. Places the ballot paper in the sealed ballot box positioned at the Declaration and Postal Vote processing table for this purpose.

MIXING BALLOT PAPERS

Once a ballot box has been opened and the reconciliation complete, the mixing process begins. The mixing process is designed to enhance the secrecy of the ballot – ballot papers from both voting districts will be fully mixed together so that once the ballot papers come to be counted, there is no ability to trace the ballot papers back to any individual ballot box or voting location.

COUNT OF BALLOT PAPERS

Following mixing of enough ballot papers, the Count Centre Manager will announce that the counting of ballot papers can commence. Count officials are arranged in teams of two people with the following labelled count trays and boxes in front of them:

- GREATER AUTONOMY
- INDEPENDENCE
- INFORMAL.

Each counting team receives their quantity of ballot papers, and each counter, ballot paper by ballot paper, places each ballot paper into one of the three count trays depending on how the ballot paper is marked.

The count team leader is responsible for checking any ballot papers sorted as INFORMAL and makes a ruling on formality (admitting to count, or INFORMAL).

One counter counts the ballot papers in one count tray and records the result of the count of ballot papers for that count tray. The team cross checks the other trays.

At specified stages, the counted ballot papers for each option are bundled from the count tray and secured with a rubber band before being placed into the count ballot boxes labelled for this purpose with GREATER AUTONOMY and INDEPENDENCE. The tally results are entered onto a form for input into the BRC IT system.

INFORMAL BALLOT PAPERS

A scrutineer may challenge the formality of a ballot paper but it is the final decision of the Count Centre Manager whether or not to admit or reject a ballot paper.

A ballot paper is informal if any of the following apply:

- It is not authenticated by the initials of the Presiding Officer
- It does not indicate the voter's intention (eg: it is blank, or both boxes are marked)
- It has any mark or writing which identifies the voter.

A vote shall not be rejected as informal if there is no possibility of confusion, and the voter's intention is clear and in particular, is not informal merely because the mark is not an 'X'.

Further guidance will be provided at the Count Centre.

RE-COUNT OF BALLOT PAPERS

The BRC may direct the Count Centre Manager, the Returning Officer, or another official, to recount some or all of the ballot papers for the Referendum at any time before the return of the writ. The officer conducting a recount has the same powers as for the original scrutiny and may reverse any decision made at scrutiny, in particular to the admission or rejection of any ballot paper.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS

At the conclusion of the count, the Returning Officer reports the total number of votes for each option and the total number of informal ballot papers to the BRC. The BRC will make a public announcement of this information in Buka. The results are then endorsed on the referendum writ for return to the Governor-General.

REFERENDUM SECURITY

WHO'S IN CHARGE?

- **BRC** is in charge of the Referendum
- **BPS** is in charge of law and order
- Outside polling place perimeter, **BPS** is in charge
- If it's about polling, **BRC** deals with it
- If there's trouble inside a polling place, **BRC** may call for **BPS** assistance

ROLES OF THE BRC AND THE BOUGAINVILLE POLICE SERVICE

At the referendum, the Bougainville Referendum Commission is responsible for all Referendum administration. The Bougainville Police Service is responsible for all normal law and order issues, for law and order at the referendum, and ensuring a peaceful environment for the conduct of the referendum.

During the referendum, the BPS carries out normal policing and community safety duties and also controls what happens outside polling place perimeter. The BPS can assist with law and order inside polling places if asked to do so by the BRC.

SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES

BRC's Presiding Officer (PO) is in charge of polling places. The PO should regularly consult with local BPS officers in advance of polling and during polling. The BRC is responsible for control of the voting queue.

Outside the polling place, BPS and their Community Auxiliary Police colleagues can use normal powers to deal with unlawful behaviour.

BPS will tell BRC if law and order issues could affect polling at a designated polling place or are appearing to affect polling. However, the BPS cannot direct BRC to suspend polling, but BRC must follow BPS instructions about law and order.

When polling closes at 6pm, the PO will mark the end of the queue. The PO will advise any BSP or CAP officer present that polling has closed. If the queue continues outside the confines of the polling place, the BPS/CAP will assist the BRC to ensure no-one is allowed to join queue after 6pm.

The same rules as for polling apply at the count centre.

For non-resident Bougainvilleans voting in Papua New Guinea, law and order and polling place security will be managed by the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary (RPNGC). The same rules apply as in Bougainville.

THE BRC ISSUANCE ON CANVASSING, BROADCASTING, PUBLICATIONS, ADVERTISING

Under Sch.1.9 of the Organic Law on Peace-Building in Bougainville-Autonomous Bougainville Government and Bougainville Referendum 2002 (hereafter "the Organic Law") the Bougainville Referendum Commission (BRC) is mandated to promote informed debate on each side of the question to be put at the Referendum, and to encourage wider public interest and involvement in ensuring that the Referendum is conducted in a free and fair manner.

The BRC's policy for promoting public involvement, ensuring a free and fair referendum and recognition of interest groups was published on 4 July 2019, Bougainville Gazettal Notice No.38/2019.

This Issuance sets out the Commission's expectations for canvassing, broadcasting, publications, advertising, media and communications activities related to the Referendum. Canvassing is undertaking activities, primarily face to face with communities and voters, to find out what their opinion is on the referendum question, and to seek support/votes for a particular referendum outcome.

The BRC calls for all citizens to act in a manner that does not intimidate some people from airing their views and respect the right to free speech and opinion held by others. The BRC further calls on those engaging in the Referendum to act responsibly by avoiding hate speech and encouraging social cohesion.

1. The BRC is calling for a silence period starting from midnight on 20 November 2019 to 8am on 23 November, when polling commences. This period would allow for voter reflection and consideration before the commencement of polling. During the period, there should be no canvassing.
2. Every individual voter has the right to a secret vote, and no group or individual should encourage the practice of block voting or in any way undermining of secrecy of the vote.
3. No group or individual should seek to influence voters unfairly through monies, gifts, gratuities, threats or promises.
4. Harassment of any kind during canvassing, broadcasting, publication, media and communication activities is unacceptable and using language that incites hatred or violence in any form is prohibited.
5. Canvassing, broadcasting, publication, media and communication activities must be conducted or developed in a way that is factual and avoids community friction and unrest.

The Commission also reminds groups and individuals of the following requirements of the Organic Law on Peace-Building in Bougainville-Autonomous Bougainville Government and Bougainville Referendum 2002 (Part XVI Offences).[2]

1. Media outlets must label, announce or describe any referendum content as an 'advertisement' that is paid or compensated for by any group[3].
2. Any media article, broadcast announcement or advertisement published from the date of issue of the writ until the return of the writ, that is commenting upon the referendum question (greater autonomy or independence) must also include the author's true name and address[4].
3. All advertisements, posters, pamphlets etc. must include the name and address of the person authorising the publication or issue, and the name and place of business of the printer being printed[5].
4. It is an offence to publish any statements, voting instructions, or sample ballots that may mislead or improperly interfere with a voter in the casting of his or her vote. However, it is permissible to print and publish material that contains advice on how to vote on a particular question, so long as those instructions are not intended or likely to mislead a voter in or in relation to the casting of his vote[6].
5. It is an illegal practice at any time to write or display

2. The BRC recommends that groups and individuals who are engaged in canvassing, broadcasting, publications, advertising, media and communications activities related to the Referendum familiarize themselves with the full provisions of Part XVI of the Organic Law.

3 1.127
4 1.128
5 1.126
6 1.126

any material in a public place that is intended or calculated to affect the result of the Referendum during the period of polling[7].

6. Disorderly behaviour is prohibited at any meetings or gatherings related to the Referendum[8].

7. During the polling period, canvassing is prohibited within seven (7) metres of a polling booth, and political emblems are not allowed in polling booths[9].

8. Using a loudhailer during the polling period is prohibited (unless used by the police or voting official)[10]

7 1.130
8 1.146
9 1.140
10 1.133

The BRC has issued a Code of Conduct that prohibits canvassing or otherwise promoting a particular outcome of the Referendum by any BRC official.

This Issuance, the Constitution, the Organic Law on Peace-Building in Bougainville-Autonomous Bougainville Government and Bougainville Referendum 2002, the Bougainville Referendum Regulations 2019, the BRC Policy on Promoting Public Involvement and all other relevant laws and regulations should be respected and followed by groups and individuals before, during and after the Referendum. Violations of the constitution, electoral laws, regulations, and issuances should be reported to the appropriate authorities.

Source: http://bougainville-referendum.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Issuance-on-Canvassing.pdf

PART 3
TRANSPARENCY

OBSERVERS

Independent electoral observers provide a critical role in the democratic process by observing whether the conduct of polling and counting is free, open, transparent, democratic and fair based on national legislation and according to national and international standards.

Observers must maintain a high level of neutrality and professionalism to meet international standards. They cannot interfere in the polling and counting process. Their role is to observe only.

Observers follow the conduct of the referendum and produce a report of their findings. They do not control or interfere in the conduct of the referendum. Observers must be accredited by the BRC, but otherwise operate independently from the BRC. Observers are NOT employed by the BRC, and the BRC does NOT provide any facilities, payments or resources other than information. During the Referendum all observers must comply at all times with the BRC Code of Conduct for Observers when undertaking their activities, as well as all applicable laws.

The BRC is not responsible for any security, communications, health, transport, lodging, safety, or other support to referendum observer groups.

All observers must attend a mandatory BRC briefing, at which they will personally sign a BRC Code of Conduct for Observers. Only after this signature do observers receive the badges necessary for entry to referendum sites such as polling places. Domestic observers will also receive a BRC observer vest which they must wear when conducting observer activities. Each observer must also carry an alternative means of identification complete with signature and photograph to enable referendum staff to confirm their identity.

SUMMARY DOS AND DON'TS - OBSERVERS

Observers can	**Observers can't**
Follow the entire polling process, and be present for all the steps outlined in the polling manual within the confines of the polling place	Challenge the processes or procedures used by polling staff
Be present at the count, following all processes during the scrutiny	Question the eligibility of any voter
Talk to electors once they have cast their vote, and outside the confines of the polling booth	Roam around the polling booth, but rather you should stand or sit in the area designated for observers by the Presiding Officer
Talk to the Presiding Officer and ask any questions to clarify the process, as long as this is done when there are no voters in the polling booth, or is done outside the confines of the polling place	Touch or handle any polling materials
	Share any information you gather in the polling booth, such as who has voted and/or who has not voted, with anyone outside the polling booth
	Share any information you gather in the count centre, including but not limited to the number of votes cast for any referendum option, with anyone outside the counting centre while the scrutiny is continuing

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR OBSERVERS

All observers must sign the BRC's Code of Conduct for Observers.

1. Ethical Principles

In order to maintain a high level of professionalism, and to meet recognised international standards, the activities carried out by Referendum observer groups and their representatives during the Bougainville Referendum are governed at all times by five general principles:

Legality - At all times, and under all circumstances, referendum observers must recognise and respect all prevailing laws in Bougainville and Papua New Guinea.

Certainty - Observers must be truthful and trustworthy. In other words, the results of their activities should be completely accurate. Associated with accuracy is the principle of transparency, such that the results of the activities of referendum observers may be validated and their conclusions evaluated.

Objectivity - Observers must base any conclusions on a comprehensive and accurate review of all relevant circumstances and facts. Referendum observers must perform every task with due regard for the highest standards of accuracy of information and objectivity of analysis.

Independence - Observers should be free to reach decisions without interference from BRC officials, interest groups, or other political forces, whether from within Bougainville or from elsewhere, being limited only by the rule of law.

Impartiality - All observers must acknowledge and protect the interests of the process and the fundamental values of democracy, subordinating to these any personal interests or political preference. This means observers must be non-partisan and neutral, acting in complete independence from any local party, interest group or political group and without commitment to any particular outcome.

2. Rights and Privileges of Referendum Observer Groups

In undertaking their activities, Referendum observer groups have the following rights and privileges:

1. To closely follow and to obtain information about the Bougainville Referendum at any stage or location.
2. To enjoy freedom of movement throughout the region without prior permission or notification.
3. To have interviews or informational meetings with the BRC.
4. To communicate freely with all interest groups and other social and political forces in the country.
5. To receive ideas and pertinent information from interest groups, and political groups regarding political platforms and perspectives and their views on the development of the Referendum process.
6. To have access to information offered by the BRC and its officers in order to facilitate the activities of observation.
7. To communicate any specific concern they may have to the BRC or any other competent authority.
8. To have freedom of access to all polling booths and the counting centre.
9. To communicate the findings of their observation to the members of the various institutions involved in the referendum process and in particular to the BRC.
10. To report privately to their Embassy or parent organisation.
11. To issue a public report on their findings, following delivery of that report to the BRC.

3. Duties and obligations of observers

In undertaking their activities, observers must:

1. Exercise their role with impartiality, transparency, and objectivity.

   a) Abstain at all times from indicating or expressing any bias or preference with reference to any interest group.

   Referendum observers must thus refrain from carrying, wearing, or displaying any Referendum material or any article of clothing, emblem, colours, badges, or other Item denoting support for, or opposition to, Greater Autonomy or Independence or with reference to any of the issues in contention in the Referendum.

   Equally, observers should abstain from participating in any function or activity in any manner that could lead to a perception of sympathy for Greater Autonomy or Independence.

   b) Refrain from accepting any gift or favour from an interest group, organisation, or person involved in the referendum process.

2. Abstain from interfering in any way with the activities of BRC officials, political parties ,or citizens, or in any political affair in the country, and, in general, refrain from interfering in the internal

affairs of Bougainville or Papua New Guinea.

3. Comply at all times and under all circumstances with the laws applicable in Bougainville and Papua New Guinea during their observation.

4. Ensure that their conduct strictly conforms to the regulations issued by the BRC and that they immediately comply with any direction issued by or under the authority of the BRC with reference to the Referendum. This includes any reasonable request to leave or refrain from entering a particular area or venue or to depart from any polling or counting location or any specified part of it.

5. Respect the role, status, and authority of BRC officials and exhibit a respectful and courteous attitude to BRC officials and voters. Equally, observers should refrain from any defamatory public statement regarding the BRC.

6. Abstain from interfering with or impeding the normal course of the Referendum process. In every case, observers must refrain from preventing BRC officials from exercising their duties and obligations.

7. Wear, or otherwise prominently display, the identification badge issued by the BRC at all times when engaged in their activities. Representatives of observer groups must identify themselves when so requested to any interested person, especially to BRC officials when entering a polling booth or the counting centre or other BRC space, structure, or building.

8. Refrain on polling day from communication with voters with a view to influencing how they vote or in any other manner interfering with the secrecy or orderly conduct of the voting process – including not entering the voting compartment.

9. Abstain from observing the vote count in any way that interferes with, or obstructs, the process.

10. Refrain from announcing or commenting on referendum results before the referendum authorities 'official announcement.

11. Refrain from attempting to provide guidance or information to people involved in the Referendum process or from providing interpretations of the applicable law.

12. Refrain from adjudicating disputes, certifying results, or providing written statements to be used in relation to dispute resolutions.

13. Take reasonable steps to ensure that all material information or reports referendum observers receive, and any event, occurrence, or statement of which they may be notified, or which they may have directly experienced or observed, which could indicate the possible commission of an offense or infringement of Referendum laws, are brought to the attention of the BRC. This includes allegations of dishonesty, corruption, intimidation, or violence.

14. Ensure that information is collected, compiled, and reported in a way that is systematic, clear, and unambiguous. Observers must ensure that all information compiled and reported has been received firsthand and is verifiable.

15. Be prepared to communicate to the BRC a final collective report on the results of their activities.

16. Provide evidence and arguments to support all their assumptions and judgments when presenting reports. When reporting statistical information, observer groups must identify the basis of any sampling they have carried out and disclose the measures of uncertainty associated with those statistics.

Observer groups have a duty to fully brief their registered representatives on the referendum process and the provisions of this Code of Conduct prior to the beginning of any of their activities.

Observer groups shall seek to ensure that media and the public understand that they are here as independent observers and are not representing the United Nations, the Government of Papua New Guinea, the Autonomous Bougainville Government, or the BRC in any way.

The BRC may cancel the registration of any person as a representative of a referendum observer group on the grounds that the individual has interfered with the referendum process. Likewise, the BRC may cancel the accreditation of any observer group that violates the terms of its accreditation. The BRC shall inform the sponsoring organisation of such cancellation. The decision of the BRC to cancel the registration of an individual representative of a referendum observer group is final.

The PNG Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade has established an observer coordination service, with support from the United Nations.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Presiding Officers, Returning Officers, and the Bougainville Referendum Commission may require the removal of a scrutineer from polling or counting locations if they interfere with the normal conduct of the referendum process or otherwise fail to abide by this Code of Conduct.

Furthermore, the BRC may at any time cancel the recognition of any interest group that violates the terms of its recognition.

SCRUTINEERS

Under Referendum laws, scrutineers may be nominated by Interested Parties: the two governments and recognised interest groups. Recognised Interest Groups (RIGs) are provided for under the Organic Law to be recognised by the BRC.RIGs provide an official way for non-governmental organisations, political parties and civil society groups to take part in the referendum by appointing scrutineers during polling and scrutiny. Scrutineers, like observers and media, have a shared responsibility ensuring that the referendum is conducted in a free and fair manner. Scrutineers in the referendum play a role similar to candidate agents.

Scrutineers operate under a Code of Conduct for Scrutineers. They are allowed to be present at polling centres, monitor the transport of ballot boxes and scrutinise the count. Scrutineers can also be present at the preliminary scrutiny of declaration, provisional and postal votes. Scrutineers may also inspect any applications for postal votes from 10 December until the end of the petition period.

By law, scrutineers can request a Presiding Officer to ask six questions of a voter which are also set out in the law – such as whether a voter is over the age of 18 years.

SUMMARY DOS AND DON'TS - SCRUTINEERS

You can	**You can't**
Follow the entire polling process, and be present for all the steps outlined in the polling manual within the confines of the polling booth	Seek to direct the polling staff or voters at any time
Be present at the count, following all processes during the scrutiny	Interfere with the polling or counting process
Talk to electors once they have cast their vote, and outside the confines of the polling booth	Roam around the polling booth, but rather you should stand or sit in the area designated for scrutineers by the Presiding Officer
Talk to the Presiding Officer and ask any questions to clarify the process, as long as this is done when there are no voters in the polling place, or is done outside the confines of the polling booth	Touch or handle any polling materials
Ask the Presiding Officer to inquire as to a voter's eligibility by asking the statutory questions	Share any information you gather in the polling booth, such as who has voted and/or who has not voted, with anyone outside the polling booth
	Share any information you gather in the count centre, including but not limited to the number of votes cast for any referendum option, with anyone outside the counting centre while the scrutiny is continuing

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SCRUTINEERS

All observers must sign the BRC's Code of Conduct for Scrutineers.

The Organic Law defines an Interested Party as the Government of Papua New Guinea, the Autonomous Bougainville Government and Recognised Interest Groups. Interested parties can nominate scrutineers. This code applies to all scrutineers appointed by any Interested Party.

1. ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

In order to encourage wider public interest and involvement in ensuring that the Referendum is conducted in a free, fair and credible manner the Bougainville Referendum Commission calls for strict observation and respect for these ethical principles by Interested Parties and their scrutineers in carrying out their activity:

Legality – Scrutineers must at all times and under all circumstances, recognise and respect constitutions, referendum laws, the BRC Policy for Promoting Public Involvement and this code of conduct.

Respect – Scrutineers must respect each other's rights and views and honour the secrecy of the vote to enable a free and fair vote.

Commitment to the process – All scrutineers must acknowledge and protect the interests of the process and the fundamental values of democracy, subordinating to these any personal interests or political preference.

2. Rights and Privileges of Scrutineers

In undertaking their activities, scrutineers have the following rights and privileges:

1. To observe the polling exercise on behalf of her/his Interested Party, subject to specific limitations (geographic or otherwise) set out by the BRC for each Recognised Interest Group (RIG).

2. Scrutineers are entitled to be present at the opening of polls, during the poll and close of poll when various packets of documents are opened and/or sealed. In addition, scrutineers and accreditated observer groups are the only organisations permitted to be present during the transport of votes to the counting centre(s), and during the scrutiny of votes.

3. To observe proceedings inside polling places in a manner that does not disrupt polling and that maintains the secrecy of the ballot.

4. To request the Presiding Officer to ask any of the following questions provided under Sch.1.81 of the Organic Law, if the scrutineer is suspicious or spots any irregularity about a voter before the voter is issued a ballot paper:

   (i) "Have you already voted either here or elsewhere in this Referendum?"; and

   (ii) "Are you at least 18 years of age?"; and

   (iii) for voters on a roll for a voting district in Bougainville - "Did you reside within this voting district for a period of more than six months before your claim for enrolment?"; and

   (iv) for voters on a roll for a voting district in Bougainville - "Are you qualified to vote in National Elections?"; and

   (v) for non-resident voters - "Are you a non-resident Bougainvillean entitled to vote?"; and

   (vi) "Are you the person whose name appears as [here state that name] on the certified list of voters for this voting district?"

   Under no circumstances are these questions to be addressed directly to voters by scrutineers, but must be asked by the Presiding Officer.

5. Accept that a voter's answer to a question (refer to paragraph 3) put to him by the presiding officer is conclusive, and the matter shall not be further inquired into during the polling. This means these questions cannot be asked to a voter more than once, nor can the voter's answers be further challenged by the scrutineer.

6. To observe the scrutiny in a manner that maintains the secrecy of the ballot.

7. To (a) make a claim to the officer conducting the scrutiny at the count centre that a ballot paper is informal according to Sch.1.102 of the Organic Law and request the officer to reject the ballot, or (b) to object to a determination of the officer that a ballot paper is informal. The officer will mark the ballot "admitted" or "rejected" based on his/her determination.

8. Scrutineers have access to training and information offered by the BRC and its officers in order to facilitate their activities.

3. Duties and obligations of scrutineers

In undertaking their activities, scrutineers must:

1. Uphold the principles of this Code of Conduct issued by the BRC.

2. Must comply with the limit placed on number of scrutineers in a polling place, with only one scrutineer from a particular Interested Party to be

present at any one time.

3. Comply with the direction of the Presiding Officer as to where they can sit or stand during polling, noting that the Presiding Officer will allocate a space for scrutineers from which they can see the polling be conducted but not infringe the secrecy of the vote.
4. Must not touch any polling materials, including ballot papers.
5. At the request of the Presiding Officer shall leave a polling place if she/he is not complying with his/her obligations.
6. Comply at all times and under all circumstances with the laws and rules applicable in Bougainville and Papua New Guinea relating to the conduct of the Referendum.
7. Act in a way that promotes peace and unity and does not contribute to communal friction.
8. Are not to interfere with the polling, ballot transportation and counting processes in any way.
9. Respect the role, status, and authority of referendum officials and exhibit a respectful and courteous attitude to referendum officials and voters. Equally, scrutineers should refrain from any defamatory public statement regarding the BRC.
10. Abstain from interfering with or impeding the normal course of the referendum process. In every case, scrutineers must refrain from preventing referendum officials from exercising their duties and obligations.
11. Wear the identification badge issued by the Bougainville Referendum Commission at all times when engaged in their activities. Scrutineers must identify themselves to the officer in charge when entering a Polling Place or Scrutiny or other BRC space, structure, or building.

    During their activities, scrutineers must carry an alternative means of identification, complete with signature and photograph, to enable referendum staff to confirm their identities.

    If a scrutineer does not possess any form of identification apart from their BRC badge, and if the scrutineer is known to the polling or counting official, the polling or counting official may identify the scrutineer without the need for additional identification documents.
12. Refrain on polling day from any communication intended to influence a voter or in any other manner interfering with the secrecy or orderly conduct of the voting process.
13. Maintain the secrecy of any information they see in a polling place or scrutiny (count centre), including not announcing or commenting on referendum results before the referendum authorities' official announcement.
14. Refrain from attempting to provide guidance or information to people involved in the referendum process or from providing interpretations of the applicable law.

4. Scrutineers at Polling

Once recognised, Recognised Interest Groups can request to appoint scrutineers to represent them at polling booths during polling. Not more than one scrutineer for each RIG shall be present in the polling booth at any one time, although scrutineers can rotate during the polling.

Scrutineers must wear their BRC identification card at all times while they are in the polling booth, along with the BRC provided vest.

Rights and responsibilities of scrutineers during polling

Every scrutineer is, upon presentation of their BRC badge and proof of identity, entitled to:

1. See the ballot box shown empty at the commencement of the poll and witness the sealing of the box/es
2. Enter the polling booth for which they have been appointed as scrutineer for the purpose of witnessing the voting procedure. Whilst in a polling booth a scrutineer is under the instructions of the Presiding Officer and under no circumstances may they be permitted to see how a voter casts or has cast their vote. The scrutineer must stand in any area designated for scrutineers by the Presiding Officer
3. Witness the sealing of the ballot box when filled and at the conclusion of polling each polling day, and make note of the seal numbers
4. At the commencement of the poll on any day subsequent to the first polling day, examine the ballot box and the seals on the box to satisfy themselves that the ballot box has in no way been tampered with. On the final day of polling a scrutineer may witness the final sealing of the ballot box and make note of the seal numbers
5. Witness the sealing and unsealing of the ballot box before and after each journey between polling places in order to satisfy themselves that the box is properly secured during the time it is in transit

6. Ask the Presiding Officer to ask the statutory questions to ascertain the eligibility of any voter
7. May accompany the ballot boxes to the place of safekeeping. Scrutineers may also accompany the ballot boxes when they are returned to the polling booth the next morning
8. Accompany the ballot boxes on their journey to the count centre, including to watch any processes undertaken at BRC offices on the way to the count centre.

6. Scrutineers at the scrutiny

The counting of votes after the completion of polling is called the scrutiny. A RIG may appoint a scrutineer to represent them at the scrutiny.

The BRC can limit the number of scrutineers from any one RIG that are in the counting centre, and the Organic Law requires BRC to consider a balance in the number of scrutineers present that represent each referendum option.

Responsibilities during counting

A scrutineer is entitled to witness the count. While at the counting centre, a scrutineer is under the instructions of the Returning Officer. A scrutineer shall:

1. Obey the lawful instructions of the Returning Officer
2. Not interfere with or attempt to interfere with a counting official
3. At the counting of votes, not attempt to ascertain any number of any ballot paper or communicate any information obtained at such counting as to the option for which any vote is given on any particular ballot paper
4. If necessary, object to a decision to consider a ballot paper formal, by advising the Count Team Leader that they wish to object to that Count Teams decision.
5. Not communicate at any time to any person any information obtained in the counting centre while the count is ongoing.

7. General Information

Scrutineers must note that RIGs are totally responsible for scrutineers. BRC will not provide any allowances, transport and accommodation for scrutineers.

RIGs and Scrutineers must note that official transport and accommodation such as village rest houses used by polling teams will not be available to scrutineers.

Media representatives with BRC accreditation can access polling booths and the counting centre in covering the

MEDIA

Referendum process only with authorisation of BRC.

A Code of Conduct for Media has been developed for all media representatives. It is designed to balance the complementary role and responsibilities of the BRC and its officers, with those of the media in a democratic society, covering a democratic electoral process.

MEDIA ACCREDITATION

Media representatives wishing to access polling places and the count centre must be accredited by the BRC. A combined accreditation form and Code of Conduct for Media are issued by the BRC, which must be signed. BRC photo ID media accreditation badges issued to media representatives must be worn at all times at the media centre, in the environs of polling booths and in the count centre.

Media representatives can ask for accreditation at any time by emailing: media@bougainville-referendum.org

All media enquiries:

- External Relations Manager, Amanda Masono

  +675 7438 9433, media@bougainville-referendum.org
- Senior Communications Advisor, Jeremy Miller

  +675 7325 8196, jezzamiller@gmail.com
- Media and Online Officer, Joel Kundump

  +675 7305 1223, jkundump@gmail.com

Other BRC spokespeople may be arranged, but only at the request of the External Relations Manager.

SUMMARY DOS AND DON'TS - MEDIA

You can	You should	You can't
Seek an interview or comment from BRC at any time	Be respectful of voters and not attempt to interfere with or influence voting, or any part of the referendum process	Access polling places or the count centre without accreditation or badge
Attend any BRC press conference or public event	Always wear your BRC accreditation badge	Access polling booths without special approval of the BRC
Move freely around the environs of polling places, without obstructing voters from entering or leaving the polling booth	Provide the BRC with an opportunity to respond to issues related to the BRC	
Enter the Count Centre after notifying a BRC official	Appropriately attribute BRC as a source of comment/photo/video/audio where used	
Ask to talk with voters only outside the polling booth	Follow our Facebook page and website for media releases and stories	
	Join our BRC Media What's App group	

BRC media centre

The BRC will operate an official media centre in Buka at Kubu (opposite Save the Children) leading up to and during polling and the count.

- Daily briefings by the Chief Referendum Officer – commencing Tuesday 19 November
- Formal announcements by the Chair
- Satellite internet connection for filing stories
- Desk space and printer.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEDIA

During the Referendum a media representative may:

1. Have access to the environs of polling places, but not enter the polling booth[11]itself except by special arrangement with BRC External Relations Staff at Headquarters
2. Move freely around the environs of polling places, without obstructing voters from entering or leaving the polling place
3. Ask voters for an interview once they have voted, and not before
4. Request to take photographs/videos of polling places only with the permission of all persons included in the photograph/video
5. Be present inside the counting centre with the permission of the Returning Officer or Assistant Returning Officer in charge.

A media representative may not:

1. Seek to conduct interviews inside polling booths or the count centre
2. Film or photograph the front or back of any ballot paper, whether blank or marked
3. Film, photograph or record voter details when announced in polling booths
4. Film, photograph or record any referendum roll or part thereof
5. Seek to determine how any voter has voted.

A media representative should:

1. Introduce themselves to the BRC official in charge at polling places
2. Introduce themselves to BRC External Relations staff at the count centre
3. Wear their BRC media accreditation at all times
4. Comply with all instructions of BRC officials and police on duty given during electoral proceedings.

Media representatives, like electoral officials, are also subject to the provisions of applicable electoral and other legislation when in attendance at electoral proceedings.

11 See glossary for an explanation of these terms

PART 4

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

DESCRIPTIONS OF THE TWO CHOICES

PROVIDED BY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS TO THE BRC ON 29 OCTOBER 2019

The purpose of this document is to provide additional detail about Greater Autonomy and Independence so that voters can make a well-informed-choice.

This is the question that will be asked in the referendum on Bougainville's future status.

Do you agree for Bougainville to have:

(1) Greater Autonomy

(2) Independence

DEFINITION OF GREATER AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

In an exchange of letters in May 2019, the Prime Minister and President agreed on the following definitions of the terms 'greater autonomy' and 'independence'.

Greater Autonomy Definition - A negotiated political settlement that provides for a form of autonomy with greater powers than those currently available under constitutional arrangements.

Independence Definition - An independent nation state with sovereign powers and laws, recognized under international law and by other international states to be an independent state, separate to the state of PNG.

A DESCRIPTION OF 'GREATER AUTONOMY'

A negotiated political settlement that provides for a form of autonomy with greater powers than those currently available under constitutional arrangements.

Under the Bougainville Peace Agreement, Bougainville has a high level of autonomy powers for home grown decision-making. When the ABG began in June 2005, all provincial government powers and functions were automatically assumed. Since then, the Autonomous Bougainville Government has assumed additional powers, such as mining. Bougainville has its own constitution, its own political system and its own public service.

Under 'greater autonomy', the National Government will continue to support the implementation of the existing autonomy arrangements and provide additional powers and functions to the Bougainville government.

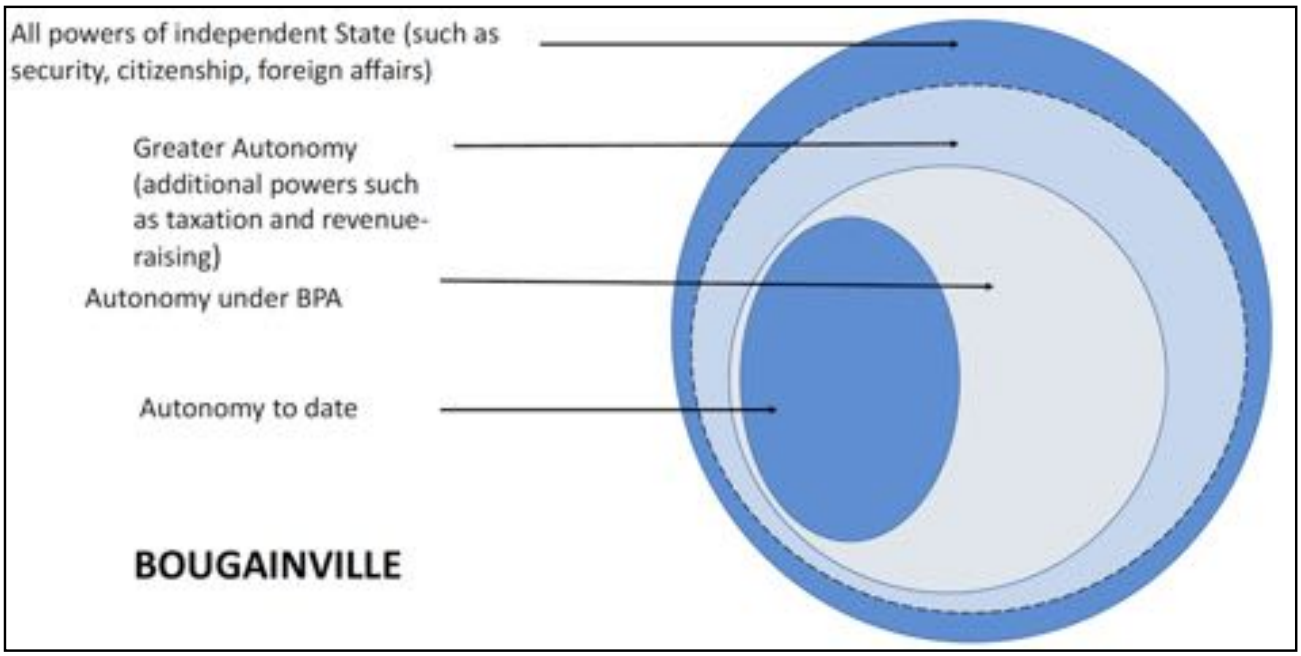


Illustration: current autonomy arrangements compared with 'greater autonomy' and independence.

Examples of powers that could be available to Bougainville under 'greater autonomy' include:

- Industrial relations
- Foreign aid and Investment
- International trade and civil aviation
- Migratory and straddling fish stocks
- Additional taxation and other revenue-raising powers

A DESCRIPTION OF INDEPENDENCE

An independent nation state with sovereign powers and laws, recognized under international law and by other international states to be an independent state, separate to the state of PNG.

Independence for Bougainville as a nation State with full sovereignty will entail:

- A defined territory, inclusive of maritime boundaries and associated Exclusive Economic Zone
- A form of government chosen by decisions of the people from time to time
- Capacity to enter into and manage relations with other states as well as international organizations
- A right to apply for UN membership
- Capacity to deal with international finance institutions

An independent Bougainville would have the full range of powers and functions exercised by independent states, and in particular the powers necessary to generate its own revenues inclusive of control of natural resources, control of all categories of taxation and ability to raise loans.

Representative Kinds of Powers of an Independent State include:

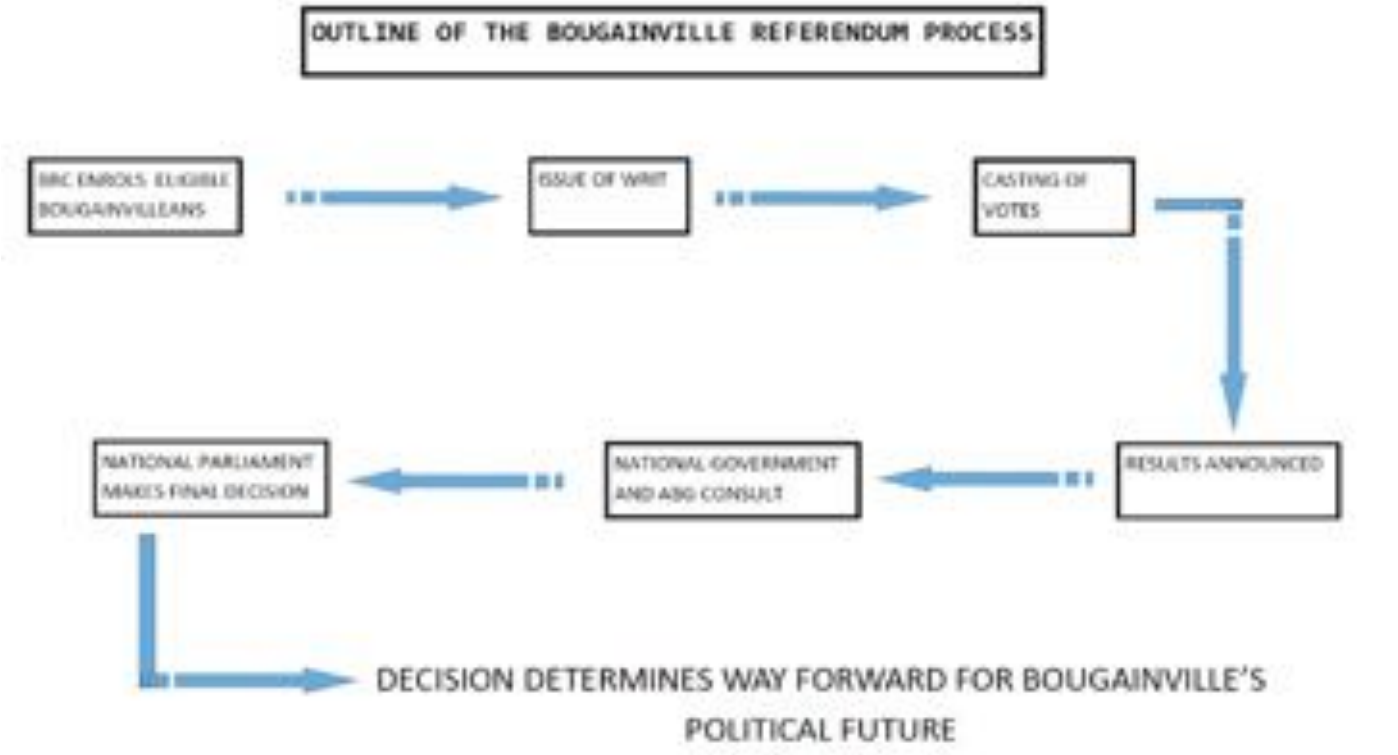
- Security (including border security)
- Judiciary, including final court of appeal
- Police service
- Foreign affairs
- Telecommunications and postal services
- Citizenship
- Quarantine
- Central bank

AN EXPLANATION OF THE PROCESS UP TO AND AFTER THE REFERENDUM

Time-table

1. *Issue of writ: September 27, 2019*
2. *Start of Polling: November 23, 2019*
3. *Results Announced: mid-December (anticipated date)*

N.B The precise time frames for the last two stages: 'National Government and ABG consult' and 'National Parliament makes final decision' is not settled.



REFERENDUM TIMELINE

Event	Date
Awareness	April to November 2019
Enrolment	May to September 2019
Registration of recognised interest groups	1 September 2019
Registration of observer groups	4 July to 1 October 2019
Issue of the writ	27 September 2019
Display of polling schedule	Mid October to early November 2019
Postal voting applications opens	Early October 2019
Recruitment of polling teams	October 2019
Polling training	Late October to mid November 2019
Recruitment of count officials	November 2019
Postal voting applications close	22 November 2019
Polling period starts	23 November 2019
Polling period ends	7 December 2019
Count and results centre training	Early December 2019
Count period starts	Early December 2019
Results declaration	No later than 20 December 2019
Return of the writ	No later than 20 December 2019
Petition period	Ends 40 days from return of the writ
BRC formally ends and returns to Transitional Commission	Three months after petition period ends

REFERENDUM OFFENCES

Offences	Penalty
Voting more than once	K400 fine or imprisonment for three months
Wagering on the results	K400 fine
Willfully defacing, mutilating, destroying or removing a notice, list or other document affixed by a returning officer or by their authority	K20 fine
Knowingly making false statements in various documents (applications, claims, and declarations) or in answer to questions put to the voter, impersonation for the purpose of voting	Imprisonment for two years
Fraudulently destroying or defacing a ballot paper	Imprisonment for two years
Fraudulently putting a ballot paper or other papers into a ballot box	Imprisonment for six months
Fraudulently taking a ballot paper out of a polling booth	Imprisonment for six months
Taking a ballot paper out of a polling place	K500 fine
Forging a ballot paper or uttering knowing it to be forged	Imprisonment for two years
Supplying ballot papers without authority	Imprisonment for six months
Unlawfully destroying, taking, opening or otherwise interfering with ballot papers or ballot boxes	Imprisonment for six months

OFFENCES SPECIFIC TO ELECTION OFFICIALS, INTERPRETERS, AND SCRUTINEERS

Failing to transmit a claim or enrolment or transfer of enrolment after it has been accepted.	Fine not exceeding K500.00
As an officer or scrutineer, wearing or displaying in a polling booth during the polling period a badge or emblem of a political party or rec-ognized interest group, or a garment indicating a position on the ques-tion to be voted on.	Fine not exceeding K500.00
As an officer, failing to initial a ballot-paper or affix an official mark as prescribed, correctly to mark a certified list of voters, or properly to attest a declaration.	Fine not exceeding K500.00
As an interpreter, disclosing any knowledge of the vote of a voter for or to whom he interprets.	Fine not exceeding K500.00 or impris-onment not exceed-ing six months, or both.
As an interpreter, influencing or attempting to influence, in any way, the vote of a voter for or to whom he interprets.	Fine not exceeding K1,000.00 or impris-onment not exceed-ing six months, or both
As a scrutineer, interfering (or attempting to interfere) with a voter in the polling both, entering a polling booth compartment while voter is present, or communicating with a voter in the polling booth (except as necessary in discharge of functions)	Fine not exceeding K.100.00
Fraudulently taking a ballot paper out of a polling booth	Imprisonment for six months
Taking a ballot paper out of a polling place	K500 fine
Forging a ballot paper or uttering knowing it to be forged	Imprisonment for two years
Supplying ballot papers without authority	Imprisonment for six months
Unlawfully destroying, taking, opening or otherwise interfering with ballot papers or ballot boxes	Imprisonment for six months

REFERENDUM FAQS

These offences are outlined in the Organic Law on Peacebuilding in Bougainville – Autonomous Bougainville Government and Bougainville Referendum 2002 (section schedule 1.139).

KEY ISSUES

Define two options in more detail?

The two governments provided the BRC with the following one sentence definitions.

Greater autonomy

A negotiated political settlement that provides for a form of autonomy with greater powers than those currently available under constitutional arrangements.

Independence

An independent nation state with sovereign powers and laws, recognised under international law and by other sovereign states to be an independent state, separate from the State of Papua New Guinea.

See Appendix for more detailed information provided by the two governments on 29 October.

Why are Non-Bougainvilleans allowed to vote?

It was agreed by those who signed the Bougainville Peace Agreement in 2001 - Bougainville leaders and the National Government (Non-Bougainvilleans living in Bougainville for at least 6 months prior to the referendum are allowed to enrol/vote).

What does 'non-binding' mean?

The Bougainville referendum is non-binding. This means either side is not 'bound' by the result for either option. This was agreed by those who signed the Bougainville Peace Agreement in 2001 - Bougainville leaders and the National Government. The two governments have decided the process for making a final decision, as per the BPA, and this is printed on the ballot paper:

1. Eligible people of Bougainville will vote in the referendum

2. The National Government and the ABG will consult

3. The National Parliament will make the final decision.

Security concerns

The BRC consulted with nearly all Community Governments and we believe that the vote will be conducted peacefully. People are united in their desire to see a successful referendum.

Will the Referendum be free and fair?

The Referendum must be held to international standards of informed, inclusive and accessible voting where every eligible person can exercise their right to choose either option. We believe it will be, it is our aim. The Referendum will have scrutineers, international and domestic observers and media to support the transparency and credibility of the vote.

Did BRC check if all constituencies are referendum ready?

The Bougainville Referendum-ready concept was an initiative of the Bougainville House of Representatives. We applaud the efforts of all communities to prepare themselves for a weapons-free and informed vote.

How does the BRC address Noah Musinku and other factions claiming already independence and will not vote?

The BRC respects the individual views about the Referendum, and also requests some minority groups to respect the rights of other eligible voters to exercise their right to vote. We are pleased that most groups like Meekamui and their leaders have engaged in the Referendum process, got themselves enrolled and will be ready to vote.

ENROLMENT

Are enrolment receipts proof for enrolment?

No. A receipt will not entitle you or enable you to vote. You name must be on the final referendum roll. The Assistant Returning Officer may have not qualified you because you don't qualify.

How many people are enrolled to vote?

At preliminary roll, about 202,000 people, over which about 12,500 are outside Bougainville, some 280 overseas.

The BRC will issue detailed statistics in early November.

What about people who failed to get enrolled?

The Bougainville Referendum enrolment process is the most comprehensive undertaken in PNG. We conducted three active stages over a four-month period – including a widely publicised six-week extension for new enrolments. We are sorry if people didn't get themselves enrolled, but we really have tried our best to make this the most inclusive enrolment exercise yet for the people of Bougainville. The law says no new enrolments after the writ is issued by the Governor-General.

How about disabled/illiterate voters?

The BRC is making sure anyone who is on the roll can vote – whether you are old, young, disabled, illiterate or in hospital.

- If people need assistance at the polling station, they can ask the Presiding Officer, or appoint someone to assist them.
- Postal ballot: As of October, you can apply to the BRC regional offices for a postal ballot – your name needs to be enrolled however it won't be issued immediately.

Will all polling places have a master roll?

No. Not all. Wards will have a roll for their administrative unit (Each of the 33 constituencies). Outside AROB there will be one roll only. Each regional centre (Buka, Arawa, Buin) will have a master roll.

What type of voting system will be used to stop multiple voting?

Like other PNG elections, BRC will use indelible ink to stop multiple voting.

Is there a voter turnout threshold? What happens if factions don't participate.

There are no voter turnout thresholds. We hope everyone participates, we want an environment that is safe and free of intimidation for all voters to cast their ballot, and we will make the process as inclusive as possible.

Can BRC provide funding for Observers, RIGs and Media?

No. Funding for groups meant to provide external, independent assessment of the referendum by BRC would be a conflict of interest.

COUNTING

How will the percentage of votes be reported at the end?

The BRC will not report any percentages but only three numbers (number of votes for greater autonomy, independence, informal). There is no voter threshold (50+1, 90%) or voter turnout requirement.

When do we get the results?

By law counting can only begin when all ballot boxes are returned to the central counting centre in Buka – logistics will be the issue here. But we will complete counting as fast as we can, making sure it is also done properly. We hope to have a result by mid-December, but the Writ must be returned before of by 20 December.

Any complaints heard by the BRC that the right to vote has been denied?

Very little. The Bougainville referendum is the most inclusive process of enrolment yet.

Post-referendum plans?

After return of the Writ there is a 40 days appeals period. Then the BRC will return to the Transitional Committee of the two Electoral Commissioners and two Chief Secretaries and wind up operations.

BRC GLOSSARY

Adjournment - polling is suspended due to an incident such as a riot, open violence of intimidation. The Presiding Officer has authority to make the adjournment.

Assistance to voters – the Presiding Officer may permit any voter requiring assistance due to disability or illiteracy to choose up to two people to assist with the voting process.

Assistant Presiding Officer (APO) - person appointed to assist the Presiding Officer to manage the polling team and to act in their place if required. The APO inks the voter's finger and marks the gender tally.

Assistant Returning Officer (ARO) - person appointed by the BRC to assist the Returning Officer to manage the referendum for each ABG constituency.

Authorised person - person authorised to be present in a polling place or count centre. In general, these include polling officials or counting officials, voters (at polling), observers, media personnel, scrutineers, special guests, advisors, interpreters and security personnel or others authorised by the Presiding Officer, the ARO or the RO to be present.

Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) - House of Representatives in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville established by the Bougainville Constitution.

Autonomous Region of Bougainville (AROB) - the official name for the area known as Bougainville.

Ballot paper – the authorised paper handed to a voter for them to mark their vote. The design or form of the ballot paper is determined by the BRC. Each ballot paper must be initialed by the Presiding Officer on issue.

Ballot box - the sealed container in which marked ballot papers are placed.

Ballot paper security features – specific security features which may include water marks, seals and individual numbering which are included to prevent the fraudulent copying of ballot papers. The ballot security features are part of the ballot paper design determined by the BRC.

Bougainville Constitution – see the Constitution of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (2004)

Bougainville Electoral Commissioner - the person holding or acting in the office of the Bougainville Electoral Commissioner.

Bougainville Law – a law made in accordance with The Constitution of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (2004). A Bougainville law (or a national law) may confer additional powers, function, duties or responsibilities on the BRC, or make other provision in relation to the conduct of the Referendum.

Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA) - a joint creation of the National Government of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea and leaders representing the people of Bougainville to resolve the Bougainville conflict and to secure a lasting peace by peaceful means. It was signed at Arawa, 30 August 2001. The BPA It has three pillars: autonomy, referendum and weapons disposal.

Bougainville Police Service (BPS) - the police service in Bougainville comprising auxiliary and regular police officers. The auxiliary officers are called Community Auxiliary Police (CAP).

Bougainville Public Service - the Bougainville Public Service.

Bougainville Referendum – a non-binding referendum to vote on Bougainville's future political status as negotiated by the National Government and leaders representing the people of Bougainville as part of the Peace Agreement. The referendum must be held by 15th June 2020.

Bougainville Referendum Commission (BRC) - the independent agency established to conduct the Bougainville Referendum. The BRC has a board of 7 commissioners to provide governance oversight to the conduct of the referendum, carried out by the Secretariat which is led by the Chief Referendum Officer.

Bougainville Referendum Regulation 2019 – regulations to the Organic Law approved by both governments to guide the conduct of the Bougainville Referendum.

Bougainvillean

1. A person who is a member (whether by birth or by adoption according to custom by the clan lineage) of a Bougainvillean clan lineage (matrilineal or patrilineal) owning customary land in Bougainville;

2. A person who is married (whether by law or by custom) to a Bougainvillean (refer to number 1 above);
3. A person who is a child, one of whose parents is Bougainvillean (refer to number 1 above);
4. A person who was not born in Bougainvillean, or who is not of Bougainville descent or who is a non-citizen may be adopted as a member of a Bougainville clan according to custom.

Campaigning – an organised effort which seeks to influence the decision-making process within a specific group. In democracies, political campaigns often refer to electoral campaigns by which representatives are chosen or referendum are decided.

Certified list of voters - roll of eligible voters in a constituency (in the case of Bougainville) or the voting district (in the case for outside Bougainville) that has been certified by the ARO as an accurate record of the eligible voters.

Chief Referendum Officer (CRO) – the person holding or acting in the office of Chief Referendum Officer as set out in the Bougainville Referendum Commission Charter. Senior official appointed by the BRC to oversee the administration of the referendum. The CRO is supported by two Directors who manage teams of line managers.

Codes of Conduct - sets of guidelines, primarily ethical in nature, intended to regulate the conduct of referendum officials and stakeholders and their dealings with one another.

Community Auxiliary Police (CAP) - auxiliary members of the Bougainville Police Service (BPS) who are community based. See also Bougainville Police Service.

Constitution of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (2004) - the legal framework for the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

Constituency – the area inside Bougainville to be used to administer the conduct of the referendum. There will be one ARO per ABG constituency to oversee the enrolment and polling activities for that constituency.

Count centre - authorised venue for the conduct of the scrutiny of ballot papers for the two voting districts as determined by the BRC.

Court – the National Court, or a Bougainville Court (with similar jurisdiction) established by The Constitution of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (2004).

Declaration vote - ballot paper that is issued to voters claiming to vote under specific provisions of the law. A declaration vote is placed into a declaration vote envelope.

Deputy Referendum Officer (DRO) - senior BRC official, reporting to the CRO, and appointed to oversee the activities in either Operations or Corporate Services.

Delegation – the conferring of powers and functions by the BRC to an official in order to carry out the referendum.

Discarded ballot paper - marked ballot paper found outside the ballot box. A discarded ballot paper is not admitted to scrutiny and is kept in a labelled and sealed envelope. A discarded ballot is counted as part of the used ballot papers tally in the reconciliation of ballot papers.

Door Keeper – a member of the polling team who directs the flow of voters into the polling place from the entry.

Election Management Body - a generic term for the collective body that is generally independent from the executive branch of government and which is tasked, by law, to prepare and implement an electoral (or referendum) event. It is administratively and financially independent and is made up of independent members who are not connected to any government body.

Election Manager - the administrative and management representative of the PNG Electoral Commissioner in a province in PNG.

Eligibility – the legal entitlement to enrol and to vote. All Bougainvilleans whose names are on the referendum roll are eligible to vote.

Formal ballot paper - a ballot paper which has been marked in a legally acceptable way to clearly indicate the voter's preference. All formal votes are admitted to scrutiny.

Indelible Ink - Long-lasting ink used to mark a person's finger when they receive a ballot paper. Inking is designed to show if a person has already voted and acts as a deterrent against multiple voting.

Informal ballot paper – a ballot paper which does not clearly indicate the voter's preference; has not been signed by the Presiding Officer; or on which the voter has written something which identifies them. A counting official examines each ballot paper for formality either admits or rejects the ballot paper for further scrutiny. Informal ballot papers are tallied but the voter's choice does not contribute to the overall tally.

Interested Party – the Organic Law provides for 'Interested Parties' the National Government, the Autonomous Bougainville Government and Recognised Interest Groups. They are the only organisations permitted to appoint scrutineers.

Issue of writ – The formal instruction by the Head of State (i.e., the Governor-General) to the BRC, to conduct the referendum.

Mark - a sign defined by law which the voter writes next to the option of their choice on the ballot paper. For the Bougainville Referendum, the voter is instructed to record a vote on the ballot paper by placing an "X" in the square

to indicate their choice on the question.

Non-resident Bougainvillean –a person who resides outside of Bougainville who is entitled to vote at the Referendum. One ARO is appointed to oversee the enrolment and polling services for NRB.

Non-sensitive materials - materials required for the conduct of the referendum are described as either sensitive or non-sensitive. A lack or loss of non-sensitive materials may cause a delay in the polling, but they would not affect the result. Examples include stationery, voting screens and manuals.

Observer - a person who does not represent any position and who can observe the referendum process including enrolment, delivery of ballot boxes for scrutiny, scrutiny and recounts according to BRC policy. The observer must be a member of a registered observer group (domestic or international), and wear identification at all times.

Offence – any illegal act intended to modify the result of the referendum. This includes tampering with the ballot papers, multiple voting, bribery and personation and is punishable by a penalty of a fine or imprisonment.

Office of the Bougainville Electoral Commissioner (OBEC) - the Election Management Body responsible for the conduct of Bougainville elections.

Official mark – the authorised mark by the Presiding Officer placed on each ballot paper before issuing the ballot paper to a voter. A ballot paper without this mark is considered informal.

Operations Manual – the manual produced by the BRC to describe the operational procedures, that officials are expected to follow at all times. The Operations Manual is complemented by specific manuals, training resources and guides related to enrolment, polling and scrutiny.

The Organic Law on Peacebuilding in Bougainville -Autonomous Bougainville Government and Bougainville Referendum 2002 - the legislation of PNG which outlines the law in relation to Bougainville.

Papua New Guinea Electoral Commission (PNGEC) - the national Election Management Body of Papua New Guinea. The Papua New Guinea Electoral Commissioner is the person who leads the Commission.

Penalty – punishment given to a person who is found guilty of a referendum offence. The penalty may be a fine or a term of imprisonment.

Poll Clerk - an official in the polling team who is assigned to mark a voter's name off the roll and provide assistance to the Presiding Officer.

Polling - the process of collecting votes whereby each voter marks a ballot paper and put into a ballot box.

Polling booth - the area delineated inside a polling place in which voters enter, have their names marked off the certified list of voters, receive their ballot papers, mark their ballot papers, and deposit their ballot papers into the ballot box.

Polling place - a geographic location where polling takes place. The polling place is identified by the ARO for the voting district and gazetted in the polling schedule.

Polling period - the period for the first and last days of polling which are specified in the writ for the referendum, and includes any extension granted.

Polling schedule - the election timetable that outlines the dates and locations of polling. The polling schedule must be gazetted and publicly displayed.

Polling Team – the team of polling officials employed to work at a polling place for the conduct of the poll. This may include the following: Presiding Officer, Assistant Presiding Officer, Poll Clerk, Ballot box Guard, and Door Keeper. Police officers and other security personnel are not members of the polling team even though they may accompany the polling team. The size of the team is determined according to the specific requirements of the area.

Postal voting (PV) - an option for voters who are otherwise unable to attend a polling place. Postal voters must apply in person or in writing (issue of the writ +10 days until 4pm the day before polling commences) and they will be provided their ballot papers for completion. The postal voting certificate is a legal form.

Presiding Officer (PO) – the person appointed by the ARO to manage the polling team and who has responsibility for overseeing the polling in specified polling places.

Provisional voting – voting services for voters whose names are not found on the referendum roll at a polling place but who claim to be eligible to vote. A provisional vote is a declaration vote.

Questions put to a voter – an official may ask a voter questions to determine their eligibility to vote, and at the request of a scrutineer. If a person refuses to answer the questions or answers them incorrectly, the Presiding Officer will reject the voter's right to vote. This is the only ground for a Presiding Officer to reject a voter.

Recognised Interest Groups (RIG) - any group which seeks to promote a position on the Bougainville Referendum and is approved to do so by the BRC. A RIG may appoint scrutineers to observe various processes such as polling and scrutiny.

Referendum Journal - the book of f orms to be completed by the Presiding Officer for each polling team as an official record of the polling. The Referendum Journal includes an account of the number of voters (through the use of gender tally sheets) and the receipt and the distribution of ballot papers. The Referendum

Journal, once used, forms part of the sensitive materials for the poling team and it must be retained until the end of the petition period.

Referendum question – the option(s) on the ballot paper which seek a voter's preference.

Referendum roll – the roll compiled for the conduct of the Bougainville Referendum. There is one roll for each voting district, and only those voters whose names are on the roll for a voting district are entitled to vote in the referendum. It is mandatory that all eligible persons enrol.

Regional office - regional centres set up to oversee the administration of the referendum for each of the three regions in Bougainville (North, Central, South). Each regional centre is managed by a Regional Coordinator. The Regional Office receives and distributes referendum supplies; carries out recruitment and training of officials; receives and securely stores completed referendum materials; and sends these materials to the count centre after polling.

Rejection – rejection of a voter's claim to vote is when the Presiding Officer asks the questions to be put to a voter and the voter either refuses or is unable to answer the questions correctly.

Returning Officer (RO) – the person appointed by the BRC to manage the referendum for the two voting districts The RO is responsible for the conduct of the referendum (enrolment including certifying the list of voters, conduct of poll, conduct of scrutiny and reporting of the outcome of the scrutiny to the BRC). Returning Officer powers have been delegated by the BRC to allow ARO to carry out some of these processes.

Scrutiny – procedure for the sorting, checking for formality and counting of marked ballot papers to get the result of the vote. Scrutiny takes place in an authorised count centre.

Scrutineer - an agent of a Recognised Interest Group or an Interested Party who is entitled to observe various processes during the referendum such as polling and counting.

Secrecy envelope – envelope provided to a voter making a declaration vote, provisional vote or a postal vote for placing a marked ballot paper inside. The sealed secrecy envelope is placed inside a declaration envelope, provisional or postal voting envelope which is sealed before placing this into a ballot box.

Security seal - individually numbered seal, which is used to lock ballot boxes. For the type of ballot box used in PNG, the ballot box lids are sealed with seals to keep the lid in place during polling and transportation. The central flap of a ballot box is sealed at the conclusion of polling each day and for transporting ballot boxes but is left unsealed during polling.

Sensitive materials – official materials which may contain information about individuals and if not properly managed by referendum officials, can be used/or their integrity compromised for fraudulent purposes. This includes ballot papers, the certified list of voters, sealed ballot boxes, envelopes of discarded, spoilt and declaration votes, postal votes, used seals, indelible ink, the completed Referendum Journal and completed forms used at scrutiny. These materials must be handled according to strict operational procedures and are subject to special security measures.

Spoilt ballot paper - a ballot paper which a voter mistakenly marks in an unintended way and which they return to the Presiding Officer to get a replacement ballot paper. The Presiding Officer marks 'spoilt' across the front of the ballot paper and places it into an enveloped marked Spoilt Ballot Papers. Spoilt ballot papers are used ballot papers, and the Presiding Officer must keep all and account for them during the reconciliation process.

Transmission envelope– Envelope used for the delivery of completed postal votes to ARO.

Unused ballot paper - a ballot paper which has not been issued to a voter.

Used ballot paper - a ballot paper which has been issued to a voter. Used ballot papers are stored in sealed ballot boxes during polling, before scrutiny and after scrutiny and are part of the sensitive materials that must be kept secure until the petition period has concluded.

Voter - a person whose name appears on a roll.

Voter information - a process of giving relevant factual information about the referendum process on a timely basis. This includes when, where and how voters will vote and why voters should participate. When this is done during the preparatory stages of the referendum it aids transparency and generates confidence in the electoral process.

Voting age - the minimum legal age that a person must reach in order to be eligible to vote. The legal age for voting in Papua New Guinea is 18.

Voting compartment - the screen which provides privacy to allow voters to mark their ballot paper in secret.

Voting district - the area inside Bougainville has been designated as one voting district and the area outside Bougainville has been designated as a separate voting district.

Writ – the authority given by the Head of State to the BRC to conduct the Referendum. The writ stipulates the dates for the issue of the writ, the cut-off date for amendments to the rolls, the first and last dates of polling and the date for the return of the writ.

27 September
• ISSUE WRIT
23 November
• POLLING BEGINS

BOUGAINVILLE REFERENDUM COMMISSION

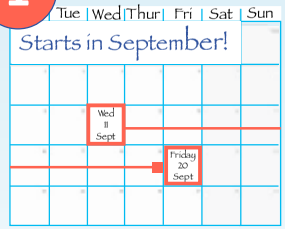
FOLLOW US ON facebook

Outside Bougainville version only

PUBLIC DISPLAY • *CHECK YOUR NAME!*

Phase 3 of enrolment, the public display of the Preliminary Roll, is your chance to check that: your name and details are correct; enrol if not already enrolled; and, tell us if you see someone who has died, moved away or is not eligible to vote.

1

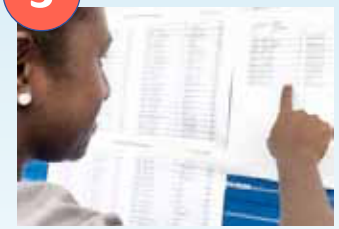


1. Roll Displayed
Roll displayed at 21 PNG Electoral Commission provincial offices 11-20 September. Special dates for Lihir/Ramu/Pogera/ Ok Tedi and overseas - see Facebook page).

2

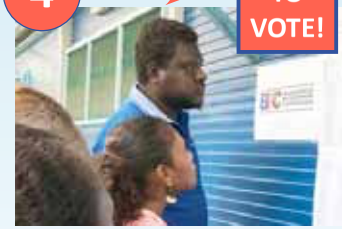
2. Check roll
Check Preliminary Roll.

3



3. Are you enrolled?
Check your name and details are correct.
> If not, see the enrolment official to enrol or update your details.

4



4. Objection/Update
If you see a name that shouldn't be there.
> Tell the enrolment official.

ENROL TO VOTE!

FOR NON-RESIDENT BOUGAINVILLEANS

(Those living outside the Autonomous Region of Bougainville)

In Papua New Guinea
- **11-20 September**
- Go to PNG Electoral Commission provincial offices
- Lihir, Pogera, Ok Tedi mines and Ramu Plantation - *dates to be advised*

In Australia
- Cairns 16-17 Sept.
- Brisbane 19-20 Sept. at PNG consular offices

Solomon Islands
- Gizo 16-17 Sept. (location TBC)
- Honiara 19-20 Sept. (PNG High Commission)

Full non-resident roll will be available for public inspection.

For more information: visit bougainville-referendum.org or Bougainville Referendum Commission
(+675) 7283 5159 • info@ bougainville-referendum.org

Authorised by the Chief Referendum Officer- 21 August 2019

HOW TO VOTE

BOUGAINVILLE REFERENDUM BALLOT PAPER

PREAMBLE: The outcome of the referendum on the future political status of Bougainville, will be discussed by both Governments (the GoPNG and ABG), and will be presented to the National Parliament for final decision making in accordance with the Bougainville Peace Agreement and the National Constitution.

TOK KLIA: Kisuit blong referendum long lain gavman blong bihain – taim (future political status) blong Bogenvil, bai gavman (GoPNG na ABG), bai tokluk wosa long en bai presentim long Nasinal Palamen i ken givim fainal disisin, pastaim long Nasinal Palamen i ken givim disisin olsem long accordance wantaim Bougainville Peace Agreement na Nesenal Konstitusin.

Explanation of the process:
1. Eligible people of Bougainville will vote in the

Tok klia long process blong referendum:
1. Pipol blong Bougainville husat i eligibol long vote, bai

FOR DEMONSTRATION ONLY

English:

DO YOU AGREE FOR BOUGAINVILLE TO HAVE:

Mark only the box of your choice with an X. Don't put any other marks on the ballot paper.

1. Greater Autonomy

or

2. Independence

Tok Pisin:

YU WANBEL LONG BOGENVIL KISIM:

Makim wanpla box tasol yu laikaim wantaim X. Noken putim narapela kain mak long ballot paper.

1. Bikpela pawa long Atonomi

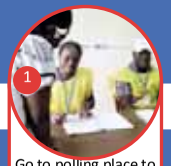
o

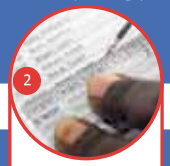
2. Indipendens

Mark 'X' in the box of your choice

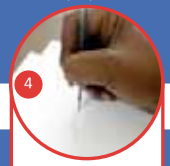
Like elections, the Referendum will have polling places in every Ward, a ballot paper, ballot boxes, polling officials, scrutineers and observers. Special voting ink will make sure everyone votes one time only.

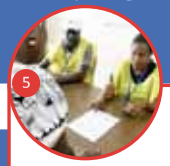
Before 23 November check polling schedule for date and location near you.

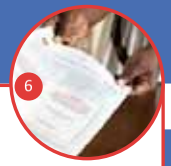

1. Go to polling place to check name: 8am-6pm

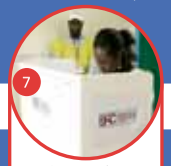

2. Name marked off Referendum Roll

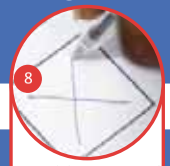
3. Special voter ink put on your finger

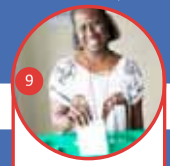

4. Presiding Officer signs or initials ballot paper


5. Ballot paper is given to you - if you are illiterate or need assistance you can have someone to help you


6.


7. Go to voting compartment


8. Mark 'X' in the box of your choice


9. Fold ballot paper and put in ballot box

Leave the polling place

BRC BOUGAINVILLE REFERENDUM COMMISSION

neutral • impartial • transparent • professional •inclusivity

A fair vote for your future!

www.bougainville-referendum.org

AUTHORISED BY THE CHIEF REFERENDUM OFFICER PO Box 350, Hutjena, Buka, Autonomous Region of Bougainville, 25 October 2019

OL ASKIM NA BEKIM

Why can non-Bougainvilleans living in Bougainville vote?

The Bougainville Peace Agreement, in section 315, says that all people who can vote in PNG national elections in Bougainville can vote in the referendum. This includes Bougainvilleans and non-Bougainvillean PNG citizens who have lived in the same place in Bougainville for at least six months before the date they enrol to vote.

Why can Bougainvilleans living outside Bougainville vote?

The two Governments agreed the criteria for enrolment for non-resident Bougainvilleans, again this was required by the Bougainville Peace Agreement.

Does my enrolment receipt mean I can vote?

No. An enrolment receipt is not proof of enrolment and will not be accepted during polling. You must have your name on the final Referendum Roll to vote. This is because your name may have been successfully objected to during the public display period or the ARO determined that you were not eligible.

Where will polling be?

There will be polling in about 500 locations in total, including all wards in AROB, 21 PNG provincial centres and four special work sites, Cairns and Brisbane (Australia), and Gizo and Honiara (Solomon Islands). A polling schedule will tell you where and when polling will be during the two weeks starting 23 November.

Where will counting be?

Counting will be in one place (Buka) and will begin only after polling is finished.

WHAT IS THE BRC?

The Bougainville Referendum Commission (BRC) is the independent body established by the ABG and Government of PNG to conduct the Referendum. The Commission has an independent international Chair (Bertie Ahern) selected by the two governments, and six Commissioners appointed by the governments of Papua New Guinea and of Bougainville. It works with, but is separate from, the two electoral commissions.

The BRC does not support either government, or either option on the ballot paper. Under the Charter, the BRC must be neutral, impartial, independent, professional and transparent.

Referendum laws

The BRC & Referendum process are governed by the following laws and decisions of the two governments:

- Bougainville Peace Agreement
- Constitution of Papua New Guinea
- Constitution of Bougainville
- Organic Law on Peace-building in Bougainville and Referendum
- The BRC Charter
- Decisions of the two Governments on the question, date and voter eligibility.

The BRC does not make up any of these decisions.

BOUGAINVILLE REFERENDUM COMMISSION

neutral • impartial • independent • professional • transparent

REFERENDUM TOKSAVE

Factsheet No. 4 - 25 October 2019

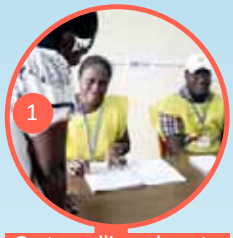
What is the Referendum?

A referendum is a democratic process like an election, but instead of candidates there is a question. This question is set by the two governments.

Like elections, the Referendum will have a ballot paper, ballot boxes, polling places, polling officials, scrutineers and observers. The Bougainville Referendum Commission (BRC) is the independent agency chosen by the two governments to conduct the referendum.

The Peace Agreement says the Referendum is 'non-binding' and requires ratification by the National Parliament. This means that the option that receives the most votes is not necessarily the final decision of the two governments.

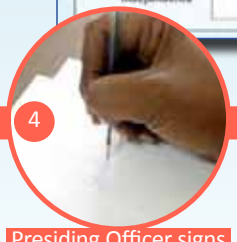
HOW TO VOTE



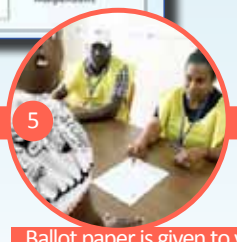
Go to polling place to check name: 8am-6pm

Name marked off roll

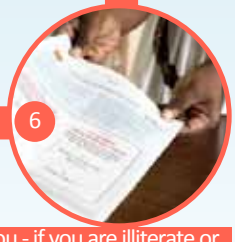
Special voter ink



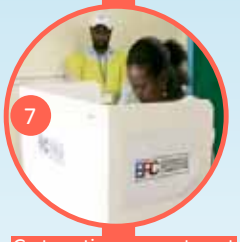
Presiding Officer signs or initials ballot paper



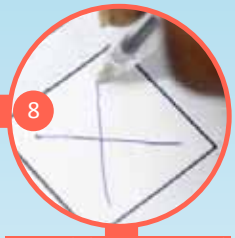
Ballot paper is given to you - if you are illiterate or need assistance you can have someone to help you



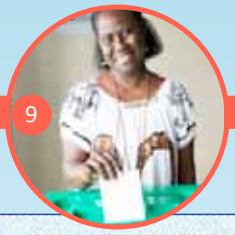
Go to voting compartment to mark ballot paper



Mark 'X' in the box of your choice



Fold ballot paper and put in ballot box



REFERENDUM PROCESS

The two governments have provided the following descriptions of each choice:

1. ***Greater autonomy:*** A negotiated political settlement that provides for a form of autonomy with greater powers than those currently available under constitutional arrangements.
2. ***Independence:*** An independent nation state with sovereign powers and laws, recognised under international law and by other sovereign states to be an independent state, separate from the State of Papua New Guinea.

Result

The BRC will announce the the number of:

- Votes for Greater Autonomy
- Votes for Independence
- Informal ballot papers

After the BRC returns the Writ to the Governor-General there is a 40-day appeals period. The BRC will then wind down operations as a transitional commission. The negotiation process between the two govenrments then continues as:

1. Two governments will consult
2. National Parliament makes a final decision (The BPA says 'ratification').

BOUGAINVILLE REFERENDUM COMMISSION

A fair vote for your future!

www.bougainville-referendum.org

REFERENDUM LIFT OUT

BOUGAINVILLE REFERENDUM COMMISSION

Bougainville Bulletin - supplement
October 2019

AUTHORISED BY THE CHIEF REFERENDUM OFFICER PO Box 350, Hutjena, Buka, Autonomous Region of Bougainville

MIPELA I REDI!

Toktok bilong Siaman
Hon. Bertie Ahern

Dia ol Rida,

Mi mas givim tok kongratulesen long ol pipel bilong Bogenvil long risim o kamap long dei bilong dispela historikel Referendum. Peisens na komitmen bilong yupela long kamapim pis, (peace), em olgeta hap long wol i luksave pinis long en. Yupela i win pinis, we ol narapela kantri i bin feil o i no win.

Dispela kain Referendum em i kamap namba wan taim long Papua Niu Gini. Na em i bin kamap long yunik pis proses o toktok na wanbel namel long ol Lida bilong Bogenvil yet wantaim Nesenel Gavman klostu 20- pela yia pinis - em Bogenvil Pis Agrimen (BPA).

Mi mas luksave na tok amamas na givim bikpela tok tenkyu tu long wok bilong planti manmeri long bringim yumi i kam kamap long dispela dei: Em long tupela gavman yet, siks-pela eminen Komisina bilong mi yet, Sif Referendum Opisa, na wantaim handred ol temporari ol Opisa husat ol i wok long kondaktim operesen hia long Bogenvil yet, long meinlan PNG, na ol ovasis kantri olsem Australia na Solomon Ailan. Moa long 400 Wod Rekoda long olgeta hap bilong Bogenvil i bin go pas long mekim wok bilong kamapim dispela gutpela inklusiv Referendum Rol - Mi tok tenkyu tru long yupela olgeta.

Olsem Siaman bilong Bogenvil Referendum Komisen (BRC), mi amamas long go pas long lidim dispela proses. Mipela i pleim part o wok bilong mipela long givim pipel vois long dispela demokretik proses, long gohet yet long kamapim pis. Na tu long provaidim kredibal risal we bai tupela gavman yet bai diskasim. Mipela i no givim sapot long wanpela sait bilong gavman. Mipela i no sapotim wanpela bilong tupela sois. Mipela i stap niutrel na independen.

Mi gat longpela histori bilong negosietim pis proses, statim long

kantri bilong mi yet long Ireland olsem Praim Minista. Mi yet mi wanpela man i bilip strong olsem pawa bilong pis i save winim pawa bilong vaiolens. Mi lukim pinis gutpela risal o benefit bilong risolvim o stretim ol isiu na ol problem long non- vaiolent wei. Wok bilong kamapim Pis em i no isi, em i no bilong hariapim. Em i nidim pasin tru bilong skelim tingting na pasin bilong givim taim na bel tru, na mekim gut wok bai gutpela kaikai i kamap. I wankain olsem pasin bilong lukautim gaden gut bai gaden i ken prodiusim gutpela ol kaikai.

Mipela BRC i save olsem yupela pilim yet olkain hevi na pen bilong bipo, na yupela bai vot wantaim miks piling. Pipel bilong Bogenvil na Papua Niu Gini i safa bikpela pinis. Tasol, wish bilong mi bai Referendum em taim bilong amamas. Em bai stap olsem mak namel long taim bipo na taim bihain. Dispela amamas em inapim laik bilong ol pipel bilong Bogenvil long ol yet i ken disaid long politikel fiutsa bilong ol. Em i impoten disisen bilong olgeta.

Bihain long referendum kaunt i pinis, ol dispela step bai kamap.

BRC bai anaunsim long Buka:

- Namba bilong vot long greta atonomi
- Namba bilong vot long independens
- Namba bilong informal balot pepa
- Ritenim Writ long Gavana-General 40 –pela dei apil piriod i stat.

Taim wok bilong BRC i pinis, mi hop olsem spirit bilong pis na kopereisen bilong Referendum bai go het (kontiniu). Pis Agrimen i tok, Referendum em i inkludim ratifikesen bilong Nesenel Palemen- mekim dispela non-bainding referendum. I no olsem wanpela ileksen, wei wanem sois i kisim planti vot i win na dispela em final risal. No gat. Fainal disisen bai ol i wokim bihain long tupela gavman i skelim toktok pinis na agri long wanpela disisen. Olsem na dispela bai i nidim moa taim, peisen na negosieisen namel long tupela gavman bipo long ol i tokaut long wanpela disisen.

Bipo long mi pinis, mi laik tok, "Tenkyu tru". Taim BRC em i independen bodi, referendum em hatwok bilong tim. Em i inkludim yupela ol vota. Moa long 200,000 pipel i bin enrol na planti em ol namba wan taim vota. Tok amamas bilong mi i go tu long ol husat i leim daun ol wepon bilong ol. Ol Ex- kombaten husat ol i komitim ol yet na ol komyuniti bilong ol, olsem bai i gat pisful vot. Long risolvim ol isiu long demokratik wei, na i no wantaim gan. Vot wantaim pis. God bless.

WHAT'S INSIDE?

Pg. 1 Toktok bilong Siaman

Pg. 2 Wanem samting Referendum, BRC na ol lo Hau long vot
Namba wan taim tru bilong Referendum
Kwik toksave bilong ol samting bai kamap

Pg 3. Greta atonomi o indipendens?
Olkain askim

Pg. 4 Wanem tingting long fri na fea?
Kempein wok bai ron olsem wanem?

Referendum dates

23 Novemba Stat bilong Poling
07 Disemba Pinis bilong poling
08 Disemba Stat bilong kaunting
40 dei bilong apil bihain long riten bilong Writ.

Referendum kwesten

Kwesten tupela gavman i bin kamapim long Oktoba 2018 bai i stap long balot pepa: Em dispela kwesten.

Yu agri long Bogenvil i kisim greta Atonomi o Indipendens?

Referendum proses

Tupela gavman i agri pinis long bihainim ol dispela referendum proses:

1. Ol manmeri bilong Bogenvil husat inap vot bai ol i vot
2. Nesenel Gavman na ABG bai skelim tingting na toktok
3. Nesenel Gavman bai i mekim final disisen.

Referendum em wanem samting??

Referendum em wanpela demokretik proses olsem ileksen, tasol i no bilong vot long wanpela kandidet, no gat, em bilong vot long wanpela kwesten o askim. Dispela kwesten em tupela gavman wantaim i bin kamapim. Dispela kwesten i olsem: Yu agri long Bogenvil long kisim greta atonomi o independens?

Ol vota i mas makim wanpela bilong ol opsen o sois long referendum balot pepa na putim 'X' insait long boks klostu long opsen ol i laikim.

Wanem em BRC?

Bogenvil Referendum Komisen (BRC) em i wanpela Independen ajensi, tupela gavman yet i bin kamapim bilong kondaktim referendum. Em i gat independen internesenel Siaman, (Sia) Bertie Ahern na sikspela Komisina- na tupela ilektoral komsina- Patilias Gamato na George Manun, na narapela tupela komisina wanwan gavman yet i selektim : Dr. Thomas Webster, Robert Igara, Ruby Mirinka na Patrick Nisira. Komisen yet i bin selektim wanpela intenesenel Sif Referendum Opisa, Mauricio Claudia, bilong lidim operesen bilong wan wan dei . BRC yet i beis long Buka., tasol em i gat tripela rijinel opis, wanpela long Buka, Arawa, na Buin.

Baset bilong BRC i gat olsem K 27. 8 milion em tupela gavman yet i bin provaidim na ol dona partna.

Wanem em ol referendum rul na Lo?

Ol rul bilong Referendum na operesen bilong BRC ol i setim aut olsem:

- Bogenvil Pis Agrimen
- Nesenel Konstitusen
- Bogenvil Konstitusen

"The BRC does not make the rules, we follow them.

- Ogenik Lo bilong Pisbilding long Bogenvil na Referendum.

Tupela gavman i mekim disisen pinis bilong stiaim o gaidim referendum i mas bihanim ol lo na rul i stap long Pis Agrimen:

- Establisimen bilong BRC
- Seleksen bilong Siaman
- Deit bilong Referendum
- Kwesten bilong referendum na diskripsen bilong tupela sois.
- Kraiteria bilong enrolmen bilong ol Bogenvilien i stap autsait long Bogenvil (non-residen Bogenviliens).

BRC tu i gat Sata (Charter), em Gavana–General yet i bin sainim, em bilong setim aut ol wok bilong BRC. Sata i gat faivpela prinsipel bilong gaidim wok bilong mipela. Em ol i impoten tru long ol pipel i lukim olsem kondak o pasin bilong mipela long referendum i fri na fea. Hia em ol 5-pela prinsipel:

1. Neutraliti
2. Indipendens
3. Profesenelisem
4. Impartialiti
5. Inklusen.

Pis Agrimen i tok, Referendum autkam em 'non-bainding'na i rikuairim ratifikeisen bilong Nesenel Palemen. Mining bilong dispela tok em olsem, fainal disisen bai i kam long tupela gavman yet na i no long hamas vot wanpela opsen o sois i kisim.

Ferstpela kain Referendum

Ol lida na komyuniti bai i lukim olsem hai standat bilong Referendum. I gat nid long onerim BPA long inkludim vois bilong olgeta pipel bilong Bogenvil long dispela demokratik proses. Wantaim pipel na risoses tupela gavman na ol donor partna i provaidim, mipela traim bes bilong mipela long mekim referendum i transparent, inklusiv na aksesibal - isi long pipel i ken kamap na vot.

Mipela go pinis long ol haus bilong ol pipel, long ol haus- sik, long ol haiskul, long ol ples bilong wok na long ol koreksenel fasiliti long kisim ol pipel long enrol bihainim ol rul olsem lo i tok, na ol disisen bilong tupela gavman yet i bin setim. Dispela Referendum bai fest long:

- Provaidim enrolmen long ol Bogenvilien long olgeta 21 provins long PNG
- Provaidim enrolmen long ol Bogenvilien i stap long ol narapela kantri
- I gat pablik displei bilong rol long salens na verifikeisen
- Oferim provisenel vot long ol i enrol, tasol i no long rol we ol i vot
- Oferim postel voting long ol i travel, o bikos long disabiliti, o i hat long ol i kamap long poling ples i klostu long ol.

Kwik Feks

Hamaspela vota? (klostu)
190,254 long Bogenvil
11,505 long PNG
269 long Solomon Ailan na Australia

Hamaspela ples bilong poling?
Ova 829 inkludim:

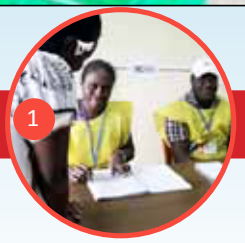
- Olgeta Wod long AROB
- 21-pela long ol PNG Provinsel Senta. Lihir, Ramu, Pogera, OK Tedi
- Gizo, Honiara (Solomon Ailan)
- Brisbane, Cairns (Australia).

Over 246-pela poling Tim
Klostu 2,000 temporari opisa

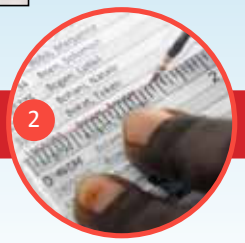
HOW TO VOTE

Olsem ileksen, Referendum bai i gat ol poling ples long olgeta Wod, ol balot pepa, ol balot boks, ol poling ofisa, ol skruntenia na ol observa. Wanpela spesel ink bilong vot long soim klia olsem, olgeta i vot wanpela taim tasol.

Before 23 November check polling schedule for date and location near you.

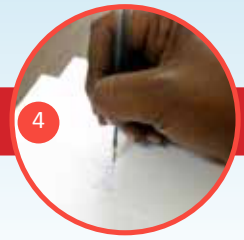


1 Go to polling place to check name: 8am-6pm

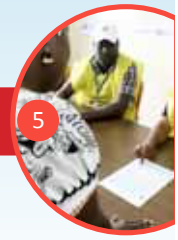


2 Name marked off Referendum Roll

3 Special voter ink put on your finger



4 Presiding Officer signs or initials ballot paper



5 Ballot paper is g need assistance

Greta atonomi o Indipendens?

Tupela gavamen i provaidim pinis ol diskripsen bilong wan wan sois:

Greta Atonomi
Negosiated o toktok bilong kamap wantaim politikel setelmen long kisim kain atonomi i gat greta o moa pawa, i winim kain pawa i stap nau aninit long konstitusenel arenjmen.

Indipendens
Independen nesen steit wantaim sovrein pawa na lo, we i kisim luksave long intenesel lo na ol forein steit olsem wanpela indipenden steit, seperet long Steit of Papua New Guinea.

BRC i save olsem pipel i laikim moa infomesen. Mipela i reisim dispela isiu wantaim tupela gavman- mipela i laik bai ol pipel i save na klia gut tru long dispela tupela opsen o sois nau i stap.

Olkain askim

Bilong wanem ol non- Bogenvilien i stap long Bogenvil i ken vot?

Long Bogenvil Pis Agrimen long 2001, ol lida bilong Bogenvil na Nesenel Gavman i bin agri long ol non-Bogenvilien i ken vot. Seksen 315, i tok ol pipel husat i ken vot long PNG nesenel Ileksen long Bogenvil inap vot long referendum. Em inkludim ol non- Bogenvilien PNG Sitisen husat i stap olsem six mun pinis long wanpela hap tasol bipo long deit bilong enrolment long vot.

Bilong wanem ol Bogenvilien i stap autsait long AROB i ken vot?

Tupela gavman i bin agri long dispela kraiteria bilong enrolmen bilong ol non- residen Bogenvilien olsem rekuaimen bilong BPA. Ol pipel i mas:

- I gat link long Bogenvil long birth (mama karim), adopsen, marit, o klen
- Bin bon long o bipo 23rd Novemba, 2001
- Em i PNG sitisen, na
- Em i entaitel long vot long PNG Nesenel Ileksen.

Em enrolmen risit bilong mi i min olsem bai mi vot?

Nogat. Enrolmen risit i no pruf long enrolmen na bai ol i no inap akseptim long taim bilong poling. Yu mas gat nem long fainal Referendum Rol long vot.

Poling bai stap we?

Poling bai stap olsem long 500 lokeisen, inkludim olgeta wod insait long AROB, long 21-pela PNG provinsel senta na long spesel wok sait, na Cairns na Brisbane (Australia). Long Gizo na Honiara (Solomon Ailan). Wanpela poling skeduel o toksave pepa bai ol i postim o putim bipo long poling i stat bai tokim yu long go wei na bai wanem taim poling bai kamap.

Wanem mining bilong non- bainding?

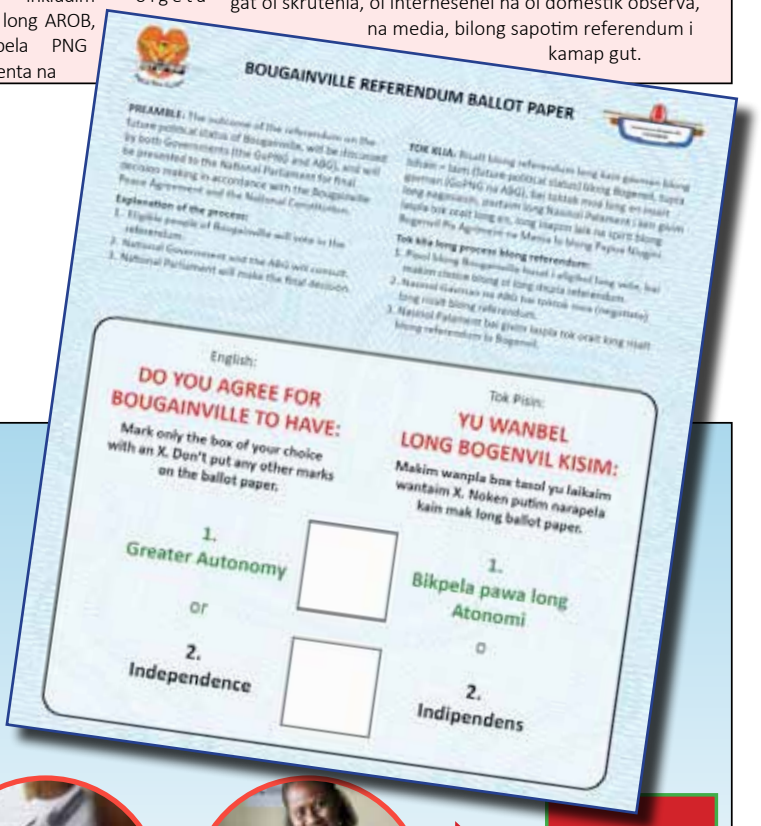
The Bogenvil referendum em non-bainding. I min olsem risal bilong wanem opsen o sois i no inap pasim (not 'bound') tupela sait long mekim disisen. Ol lain i bin sainim Bogenvil Pis Agrimen, ol i bin agri long dispela toktok long 2001, em ol lida bilong Bogenvil yet na Nesenel Gavman. BRC i no bin mekim ap nating. Tupela gavman i disaidim pinis proses bilong mekim fainal disisen, na dispela tok i stap long olgeta balot pepa:

1. Olgeta lain husat i stap long Bogenvil na inap vot bai vot long referendum
2. Nesenel Gavman na ABG bai i konsalt (skelim tingting wantaim)
3. Nesenel palemen bai mekim fainal disisen.

Wok bilong BRC em long ritenim tripela (3) namba,namba bilong vot long greta atonomi na namba bilong ol vot long Indipendens, na namba bilong ol infomal balot pepa). I Gat 40- dei long apil proses i bihainim proses tupela gavman wantaim i bin agri long en.

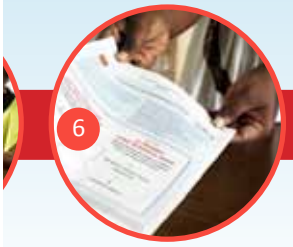
Bai referendum i fri na fea?

Mipela i bilip referendum bai fri na fea. Eim (aim) bilong mipela I olsem: Referendum i mas kamap long intenesenel standard. Ol pipel i mas kisim kliapela na trupela infomesen, inklusiv na olgeta pipel husat inap vot i vot long eksesaisim rait bilong ol, taim ol i makim opsen o sois bilong ol. Ol i mas no gat pret na no gat sampela i mekim olkain pasin o toktok bilong pretim ol. Referendum bai i gat ol skrutenia, ol internesenel na ol domestik observa, na media, bilong sapotim referendum i kamap gut.



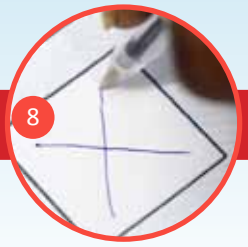
Referendum proses tupela gavman wantaim i bin agri long en, bihainim BPA:

1. Ol manmeri bilong Bogenvil husat inap vot bai ol i vot
2. Nesenel Gavman na ABG bai skelim tingting na toktok/konsalt
3. Nesenel Palemen bai i mekim final disisen.

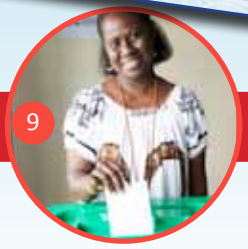


to you - if you are illiterate or an have someone to help you

Go to voting compartment to mark ballot paper



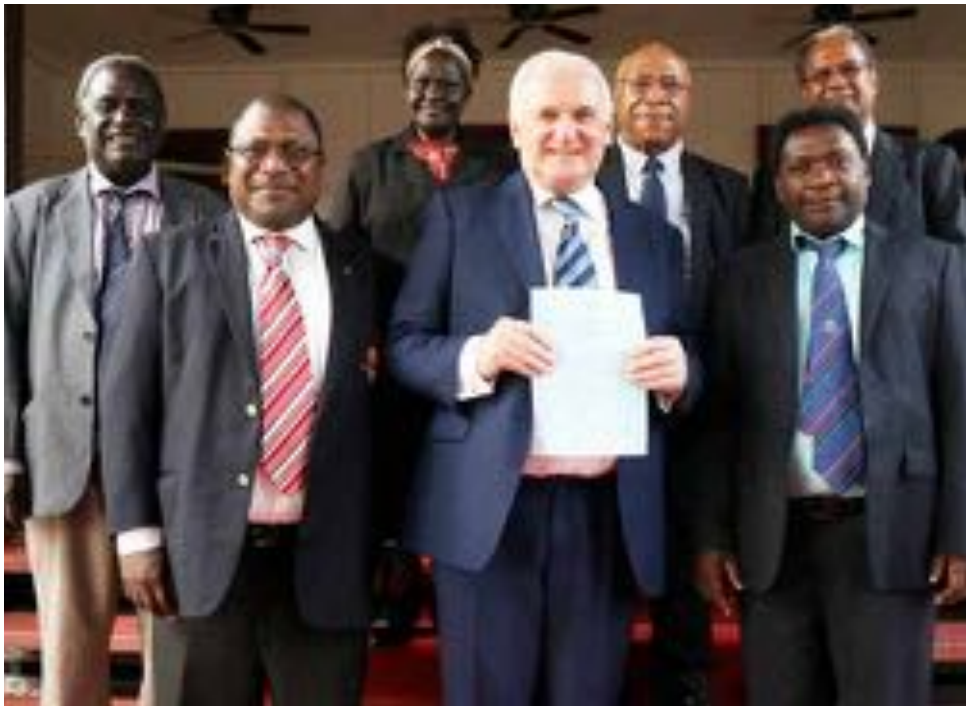
Mark the box of your choice with an X



Fold ballot paper and put in ballot box

Leave the polling place

Wanem tingting o mining bilong fea na fri?



BRC Chair and Commissioners with the Referendum Writ, issued by the Governor-General, 27 September, Port Moresby.

Ol Ileksen na referendum em ol demokratik proses i save bihainim intenesenel standard bilong 'fri na 'fea' ileksens. Tasol em i min wanem tru?

Ol Ileksen na referendum em ol demokratik proses i save bihainim intenesenel standard bilong 'fri na 'fea' ileksens. Tasol em i min wanem tru?

'Fea' generali em responsibiliti bilong Komisen long:

- Mekim proses i kamap inklusiv bai ol pipel bilong Bogenvil i ken vot, olsem ol disabel, ol lain i no save rit na rait (illiterate), ol lain long ol haus- sik, ol yangpela, o ol lapun man o meri.
- Mekim toktok i klia tru bai ol vota i save gut long proses na ol opsen o sois i stap long balot pepa.
- Mekim bai proses i transparen o i stap klia na i no gat tok i hait long ol (observa, Skrutenia, media).

'Fri', generali em risponsibiliti bilong komyuniti long:

- Krietim o kamapim envairomen bilong promotim fri spis (speech) o toktok, fridom bilong ekspresen o autim tingting.
- Fridom bilong harim tupela opsen wantaim
- Rispektim rait bilong ol wan wan long mekim sois ol yet wantaim kliapela tingting.

Em i impoten long ol vot i kamap gut, bai dispela proses i kisim gutpela luksave, na ol husat i bin enrol, maski ol i stap long Bogenvil o PNG, inap vot na i no poret na i no gat intemideisen o olkain toktok o pasin bilong pretim ol.

Mipela i bilip strong olsem dispela proses bai kamap gut. Mipela i bilip tu olgeta i luksave long impotens na rait bilong ol pipel bilong Bogenvil long faineli givim tingting bilong ol.

Kempein bai i wok olsem wanem?

Ol lo i no gat kliapela stiatok long 'kempein'.

BRC i save ol manmeri i pret long olkain kempein i brukim ol lain na i gat negetiv asosiesen wantaim nomal ileksen kempein. Mipela i bin provaidim gaidlain bilong dispela isiu bilong referendum, na mipela go raun na toksave long ol pipel i mas vot. Mipela Broadkastim tu ol dispela toktok na putim aut ol Pablikeisen wei ol pipel i ken rit na save moa. Ol ki poin:

1. **Kempein**
   - Bai i no gat fomal kempein piriod o pati (dispela em i stap long laik bilong ol pipel)
   - Piriod of sailens 72 haua bipo poling.
2. **Ol midia autlet**
   - i mas tokaut o anaunsim o diskraibim sampela referendum konten o toktok. Em olsem, ol i ken advertaisim husat i sposorim Kempein o wanpela grup i kompensetim narapela grup.
   - Eni midia atikel, brodkas, anaunsmen o advertismen ol i ken pablisim inap ol i ritenim o givim bek Writ.
   - Ol i mas pablisim nem tru na adres bilong ol husat i toktok o koment long kwesten bilong referendum (greta atonomi o indipendens).
   - Olgeta advertismen, posta, pamphlet etc . i mas inkludim nem na kontek adres bilong man o meri husat i givim tok orait bilong dispela pablikeisen o isiu.
   - Em i ofens o rong long pablisim wanpela stetmen , instraksen bilong vot o sampela balot pepa wei bai mislidim o givim rong infomesen o tingting long man o meri husait bai vot.

Skrutenia

Oganik Lo i provaidim ol lo bilong ol interest grup o pati olsem; GoPNG, ABG na ol narapela interest grup i gat luksave bilong Komyuniti. Em ol dispela grup tasol i gat tok orait bilong provaidim ol skrutenia. Rol o wok bilong ol i olsem:

- Stap long ol poling senta, transpotim ol vot pepa, na wokim wok olsem Skrutenia long taim bilong kaunting.
- Ol i ken askim sikspela kwesten tasol long taim bilong poling.
- Ol i no gat fomal rol long kempein.

The Bougainville Referendum Commission (BRC) Bogenvil Referendum Komisen (BRC) em i independen bodi em ABG wantaim Gavman bilong PNG tupela i bin establisim long kondaktim referendum. Komisen i gat independen intenesenel Siaman o Sia (Bertie Ahern) na sikspela Komisina gavman bilong Papua New Guinea wantaim Bogenvil i bin makim. BRC i wok wantaim, tasol i seperet long tupela ilektoral komisen. BRC i no sabjek o stap aninit long daireksen bilong tupela gavman wantaim na i no save promotim na givim sapot long wanpela kain autkam bilong referendum.

BRC BOUGAINVILLE REFERENDUM COMMISSION

A fair vote for your future!

www.bougainville-referendum.org

BOUGAINVILLE REFERENDUM COMMISSION

neutral • impartial • transparent • inclusive • professional

Polling begins 23 November

A fair vote for your future!

1. Greater Autonomy	☐	**1. Bikpela pawa long Atonomi**
2. Independence	☐	**2. Indipendens**

www.bougainville-referendum.org

THIS PUBLICATION IS AUTHORISED BY THE CHIEF REFERENDUM OFFICER
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