Gazette Notification

AGE ELIGIBILITY CUT-OFF FOR ENROLLMENT AND VOTING
FOR BOUGAINVILLE REFERENDUM

I, Desmond TSIANAI, Acting Chief Referendum Officer of the Bougainville Referendum Commission, give notice under Section 62 of the Organic law on Peace-Building in Bougainville – Autonomous Bougainville Government and Bougainville Referendum 2002, on the Age Eligibility Cut-off for Enrollment and Voting for the Bougainville Referendum.

The Bougainville Referendum Commission hereby determines that a person who will reach eligibility as per Section 50 of the PNG Constitution on or before the first date of polling specified in the writ – and who meets the other eligibility requirements – will be eligible for voter enrollment. The first date of Polling for the Referendum is 23 November 2019.

Dated 14 October 2019

Desmond TSIANAI
Acting Chief Referendum Officer
9 October 2019

Ambassador Isaac B. Lupari, CBE
Chief Secretary, Government of Papua New Guinea

Colonel Thomas Raivet (Ret). MBE, DMS
Acting Chief Secretary, Autonomous Bougainville Government
Papua New Guinea

Dear Chief Secretaries,

Further to the provisions in Section 62 of the Organic Law on Peace-Building in Bougainville – Autonomous Bougainville Government Referendum 2002, the Bougainville Referendum Commission is mandated to resolve difficulties arising from an inconsistency, gap or uncertainty in the operation of the provisions of the Law.

I hereby request notification as soon as possible in the National Gazette and ABG Gazette on the Age Eligibility Cut-Off for Enrollment and Voting. The instruments of gazettedal are attached to this email transmission.

I request a scanned PDF copy of the gazette and newspaper notifications once they have been finalized. I also request formal acknowledgement of receipt of this email communication.

I thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter of critical and time-sensitive importance to the referendum.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Desmond TSIANAI
Acting Chief Referendum Officer

cc: ABG Secretary for Law and Justice
National and ABG ministers for Bougainville Affairs
Director, NCOBA
ABG Secretary for Peace Agreement Implementation
Issuance

Age Eligibility Cut-Off for Enrolment and Voting

7 August 2019

Section 62 of the Organic Law on Peace-Building in Bougainville-Autonomous Bougainville Government and Bougainville Referendum 2002 (hereafter the “Organic Law”) provides that the BRC may resolve difficulties arising from an inconsistency, gap or uncertainty in the operation of the provisions of the law.

While section 50 of the Papua New Guinea Constitution and Sch. 1.23 of the Organic Law is clear that the age of eligibility to vote in the referendum is 18 years, the Organic Law does not specify the age eligibility cut-off date for the enrolment of those turning 18 years of age prior to the referendum. Hence, the BRC has determined that there is a gap in the operation of the provisions of the Organic Law.

To remedy this gap, the BRC hereby determines that a person who will reach age eligibility as per Section 50 of the PNG Constitution on or before the first date of polling specified in the writ – and who meets the other eligibility requirements – will be eligible for voter enrolment. The first date of polling for the referendum is 23 November 2019.

Voters who are eligible to be placed on the roll for the referendum must submit a claim for enrolment and a declaration in the prescribed form prior to the date of the issue of the writ, which is scheduled for 27 September 2019. After this date, no new claims for enrolment will be accepted, as per sch.1.30 of the Organic Law.