

# 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.

**BRC** 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



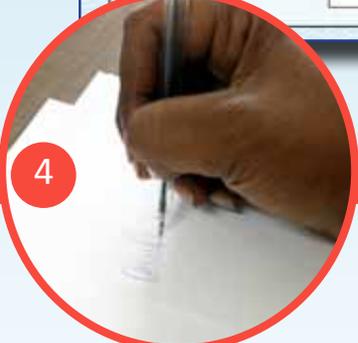
1 Go to polling place to check name: 8am-6pm



2 Name marked off roll



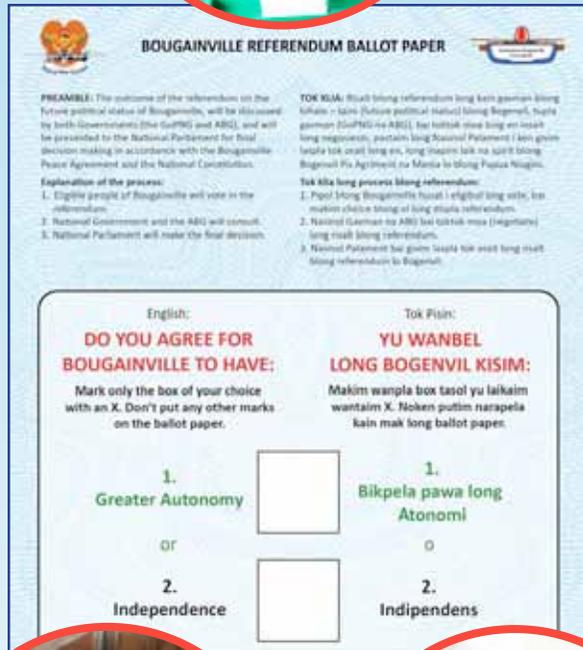
3 Special voter ink



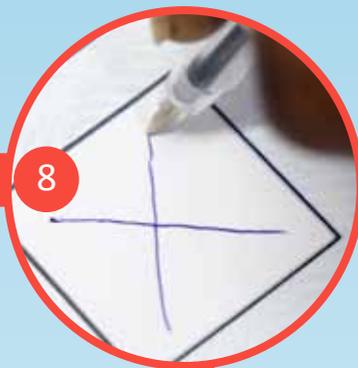
4 Presiding Officer signs or initials ballot paper



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



6 Fold ballot paper and put in ballot box



7 Mark 'X' in the box of your choice



8 Go to voting compartment to mark ballot paper

## 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 governments then continues as:

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