



# Bougainville Gazette

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GN № 67/2019

## 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

GN № 68/2019

## APPOINTMENT OF REGISTERED INTEREST GROUPS FOR BOUGAINVILLE REFERENDUM

I, **Desmond Tsianai**, Acting Chief Referendum Officer of the Bougainville Referendum Commission, give notice that under Section 61(1) and Schedule 1.4 of the *Organic law on Peace-Building in Bougainville – Autonomous Bougainville Government and Bougainville Referendum 2002*, of the following Registered Interest Groups for the Bougainville Referendum.

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
No.	File no.	Name of Registered Interest Group
1	SA001	Aita Native Life Foundation
2	SA002	UPNG Soccer Association
3	SA003	Bougainville People's Congress
4	SA004	Outongi Business Group Inc.
5	SA006	Special Mining Lease, Osikayang & LO Ass
6	SA007	Tinputz Referendum RIG
7	SA008	Bougainville Christian Churches

8	SA009	Mother Mary Evangelization Ministry
9	SA010	Central Bougainville Veterans Association
10	SA011	North Bougainville Veterans Association
11	SA012	South Bougainville Veterans Association
12	SA013	Port Moresby Bougainville Association Inc
13	SA014	Bougainville Unification Core Group

Dated 14 October 2019

**Desmond Tsianai**  
Acting Chief Referendum Officer

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GN No 69/2019

#### **PROVISIONAL 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 Provisional Voting of the Bougainville Referendum.

The BRC hereby determines that –

##### Polling

Where a voter's name cannot be located on the roll at a polling place, the voter will make a declaration (marked 'provisional') and cast their vote in the same manner as votes cast under Sch.1.88 to Sch.1.91 and as further set out in the BRC Issuance *on Transmission ad Scrutiny of Postal and Declaration Votes* dated 20 August voter will have their finger marked with indelible ink, as set out in the Bougainville Referendum Regulations 2019.

##### The Scrutiny

The Returning Officer will mark the voter off the roll and accept the vote for further scrutiny if, following an examination of the declaration, the Returning Officer is satisfied that the voter should have appeared on the roll for the voting district, the declaration indicates that the voter has not already voted elsewhere and/ or received a postal ballot paper, and the declaration is signed and marked by the voter and witnessed by an authorized witness to verify authenticity.

The further scrutiny will be conducted in the same manner as for other declaration votes under Division 5 and PART XIII and as set out in the BRC Issuance *on Transmission and Scrutiny of Postal and Declaration Votes*.

Dated 14 October 2019

**Desmond Tsianai**  
Acting Chief Referendum Officer

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GN No 70/2019

#### **CANVASSING, BROADCASTING, PUBLICATIONS, ADVERTISING, MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS 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 Canvassing, Broadcasting, Publications, Advertising, Media and Communications for the Bougainville Referendum.

1. The BRC calls for a silence period starting from 00:00 on 20 November 2019 to 08:00 on 23 November when polling commences. This period will 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 bock voting in any way undermining the 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 of any form is prohibited.
5. Canvassing, broadcasting, publication, media and communication activities is unacceptable and using language that incites hatred or violence in any form is prohibited.

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).

1. Media Outlets must label, announce or describe any referendum content as an 'advertisement' that is paid or compensated for by any group. (Sch.1.127)
2. Any media article, broadcast announcement or advertisement published from the date of the writ until the return of the writ, that comments on the referendum question ( greater autonomy or independence) must also include the author's true name and address.(Sch.1.128)
3. All advertisements, posters, pamphlets etc. must include the name and address of the person authorizing the publication or issue, and the name and place of business of the printer being printed at the foot if it. (Sch. 1.126)
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 on or in relation to the casting of his vote. ( Sch. 1.126)
5. It is an illegal practice at any time to write or display any material in a public place, intended or calculated to affect the result of the Referendum. (Sch.1.130)
6. Disorderly behavior is prohibited at any meetings or gatherings related to the Referendum. (Sch.1.146)

Dated 14 October 2019

**Desmond Tsianai**  
Acting Chief Referendum Officer

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GN Nº 71/2019

**TRANSMISSION AND SCRUTINY OF POSTAL AND DECLARATION VOTES  
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 Transmission and Scrutiny of Postal and Declaration Votes for the Bougainville Referendum.

**PART XI –POSTAL VOTING**

1. When a postal voter is issued a ballot-paper and postal vote certificate under Sch.1.50, the Returning Officer will also provide to the voter a secrecy envelope and a transmission envelope, along with instructions for their use.
2. Under Sch.1.55 of the Organic Law, after a postal voter has marked the ballot paper, he or she will place the ballot paper into a secrecy envelope, which shall be free from any mark that would indicate the identity of the voter, in order to protect the secrecy of the vote. This secrecy envelope will be placed inside the completed and signed declaration envelope.
3. The declaration envelope will then be placed inside a transmission envelope for the purpose of delivery to the Returning Officer for the voting district for which he or she is entitled to vote. The transmission envelope shall be free from any mark that would indicate the identity of the voter, in order to protect the secrecy of the vote. The transmission envelope will also protect the postal votes from the risk of inadvertent damage or destruction in the transmission process.
4. On receipt of the postal votes, the Returning Officer will place the unopened transmission envelopes into a separate, locked ballot box in preparation for scrutiny.

**PART XII – POLLING: Division 4 Declaration Votes**

5. Under Part XII, Division 4 of the Organic Law, after a declaration voter has marked the ballot paper, he or she will place the ballot paper into a secrecy envelope, which shall be free from any mark that would indicate the identity of the voter, in order to protect the secrecy of the vote. This secrecy envelope will be placed inside the completed and signed declaration envelope and deposited into the locked ballot box.

**PART XIII – THE SCRUTINY**

6. Under Division 4 (Scrutiny of Postal Votes), the Returning Officer will accept postal votes for further scrutiny if, following an examination of the postal vote certificate, the Returning Officer is satisfied that the person making the vote is a voter enrolled for the voting district, the declaration is signed or marked by the voter, and the declaration is witnessed by an authorized witness to verify authenticity.
7. Under Division 5 (Scrutiny of Declaration Votes) of the Organic Law, the Returning Officer will accept votes cast under Division 4 of Part XII for further scrutiny if, following an examination of the declaration, he or she is satisfied that the voter is entitled to vote in the voting district, the declaration indicates that the voter has not already voted elsewhere and/or received a postal ballot-paper, and the declaration is signed or marked by the voter and witnessed by an authorized witness to verify authenticity.
8. Under Division 4 (Scrutiny of Postal Votes) and Division 5 (Scrutiny of Declaration Votes) of the Organic Law, after the envelope bearing the declaration is opened, the secrecy envelope bearing the ballot-paper shall be marked with a number corresponding with the declaration envelope from which the secrecy envelope has been withdrawn. The unopened, numbered secrecy envelopes will be placed in a parcel, which will then be passed to another officer engaged in the conduct of the scrutiny.
9. This officer will withdraw from the secrecy envelopes each ballot-paper and, without inspecting or unfolding the ballot-paper or allowing any other person to do so, place on it a number corresponding with that placed on the secrecy envelope from which the ballot-paper has been withdrawn. The officer will then deposit the folded ballot-paper in a locked ballot-box for further scrutiny.
10. The Returning Officer will place the secrecy envelopes in a separate parcel endorsed with the words “secrecy envelopes from which ballot-papers have been withdrawn for further scrutiny”, fasten the parcel, add the name of the voting district, his or her signature, and the date.

11. Once the preliminary scrutiny of postal votes and declaration votes has been completed according to Sch.1.105 and Sch.1.109 respectively, the locked ballot boxes containing the accepted postal votes and declaration votes will then be opened and scrutinized along with other ballot boxes at the Voting District level, in the same manner as for ordinary votes, as set out in Sch.1.103. This is to ensure that the identity of postal voters and declaration voters is not disclosed during the scrutiny process, thus preserving secrecy of the vote.

Dated 14 October 2019

**Desmond Tsianai**  
Acting Chief Referendum Officer

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GN № 72/2019

**PUBLICATION OF BOUGAINVILLE REFERENDUM POLLING SCHEDULE  
FOR BOUGAINVILLE REFERENDUM**

I, **Desmond Tsianai**, Acting Chief Referendum Officer of the Bougainville Referendum Commission, give notice that under Section 61(1) and Schedule 1.4 of the *Organic law on Peace-Building in Bougainville – Autonomous Bougainville Government and Bougainville Referendum 2002*, that Polling for the Bougainville Referendum will commence for Out of Country Voting, Resident Bougainvillians and Non Resident Bougainvillians according to the Bougainville Referendum Polling Schedule set in this Gazette for the Bougainville Referendum.

Dated 14 October 2019

**Desmond Tsianai**  
Acting Chief Referendum Officer

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*ENDS.*