



National Gazette

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Organic Law on National and Local-Level Government Elections

PUBLICATION OF BOUGAINVILLE REFERENDUM POLLING SCHEDULE AMENDMENTS

I, **Mauricio Claudio**, 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*, are publishing the Bougainville Referendum Polling Schedule amendments as of the 20th of November 2019, after the objection and appeals period. The amendments are as follows:

Dated this 20th day of November, 2019.

M. CLAUDIO,
Chief Referendum Officer.

*Organic Law on National and Local-Level Government Elections***REVOCATION AND RE-APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT RETURNING OFFICERS FOR
BOUGAINVILLE REFERENDUM COMMISSION**

I, **Mauricio CLAUDIO**, 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*, the Bougainville Referendum Commission:

1. Revokes the appointment made by Gazettal 673/2019 of each person specified in Column 1 of the table below as Assistant Returning Officers for the Administrative Units within the Bougainville Voting Districts; and
2. Appoint the person specified in Column 2 of the table as Assistant Returning Officers for the Administrative Units within the Bougainville Voting Districts for the forthcoming Bougainville Referendum.

SCHEDULE

Column 1 ARO revoked	Column 2 ARO Appointed
Brian Kiamana	Brian Kimana
Jack Doka	Jack Nunukumai
Gerard Takusi	Gerard Tacusy

Dated this 30th day of July, 2019.

M. CLAUDIO,
Chief Referendum Officer.

*Organic Law on National and Local-Level Government Elections***REVOCATION AND RE-APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT RETURNING OFFICERS FOR
BOUGAINVILLE REFERENDUM COMMISSION**

I, **Mauricio CLAUDIO**, 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*, the Bougainville Referendum Commission:

1. Revokes the appointment made by Gazettal 673/2019 of the person specified in Column 1 of the table below as Assistant Returning Officer for Non-residential Bougainvilleans in other parts of PNG and overseas, other than Bougainville and
2. Appoints the person specified in Column 2 of the table as Assistant Returning Officer for Non-residential Bougainvilleans in other parts of PNG and overseas, other than Bougainville for the forthcoming Bougainville Referendum.

SCHEDULE

Column 1 ARO revoked	Column 2 ARO Appointed
Terrence Hetim	Simon Sohe

Dated this 28th day of October, 2019.

M. CLAUDIO,
Chief Referendum Officer.

*Organic Law on National and Local-Level Government Elections***APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT RETURNING OFFICERS FOR BOUGAINVILLE REFERENDUM**

The Bougainville Referendum Commission, under Section 61(1) and Schedule 1.4 of the *Organic Law on Peace-Building in Bougainville - Autonomous Bougainville Government and Bougainville Referendum 2002*, hereby appoints each person specified in Column 1 of the table below as Assistant Returning Officer for the Administrative Units within the Bougainville Voting District, specified in Column 2 of the table for the forthcoming Bougainville referendum:

SCHEDULE

Column 1 NAME OF OFFICERS	Column 2 ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT
Felix SARIMU	ATOLLS
Marcellin BUTU	NISSAN
Brian KIMANA	TSITALATO
William KISU	HAGOGOHE
Lawrence SABIN	HALIA
Peter WANGA	HAKU
Moses DOKASARIS	PEIT
Wency SALIP	TONSU
Ignatius VEROMBOE	SELAU
Robert TOROMET	SUIR
Aloysius TSITSIRO	TEUA
Valentine RENGENE	MAHARI
Blaise VOSIVAI	TAONITA/TINPUTS
Rodney RASIN	TAONITA/TEOP
Martin AVOATA	TERRA
Hilda JANGET	RAU
Gerard TACUSY	IORO
Jack NUNUKUMAI	EIVO/TORAU
Vianney MALA	NORTH NASIOI
Peter ONAVUI	SOUTH NASIOI
Gideon TARUNA	KONGARA
Lawrence HAKOUT	KOKODA
Eris OVAI	MAKIS
Joe KINANI	LULE
Michael LOPINAU	BAUBAKE
Chris NOUVIRI	KONNOU
John TSIACA	MOTUNA/HUYUNO
Peter TENGKA	KOPII
George ARIKU	RAMU
Benjamin SINALA	BOLAVE
Joe NARA	LATO
Bernard KESIKO	BABA
Samuel ARIRAN	TOROKINA
Terrence HETINU	All areas in Papua New Guinea outside of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville; and all overseas areas outside of Papua New Guinea.

Dated this 5th day of June, 2019.

M. CLAUDIO,
Chief Referendum Officer.

POLICY FOR PROMOTING PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

1. The Bougainville Referendum Commission is mandated¹ 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. This policy sets out the BRC's approach to promoting public involvement in the referendum, the criteria for the recognition of interest groups for the purposes of the referendum, and the code of conduct to be observed by recognised interest groups (RIG).

Policy for Promoting Public Involvement—continued**Promotion of public involvement in the referendum**

2. The BRC will promote public involvement in the referendum by its own actions, including:
 - a) By the provision, through appropriate channels, of information on the work of the BRC, the enrolment of voters, and the conduct of the polling and scrutiny processes;
 - b) By the reproduction and dissemination of formally approved by the two Governments on the options presented in the referendum;
 - c) By the provision of materials produced under (a) and (b) for wide public dissemination;
 - d) By the convening of public meetings and discussions for the involvement of voters and sharing of information;
 - e) By the participation of the BRC in public meetings and discussions organised by other organisations and bodies for the involvement of voters and sharing of information, provided such events prohibit active campaigning for a referendum option by other speakers or participants; and
 - f) By utilising media and social media to inform voters of the information produced under (a) and (b) and to respond to public questions and concerns.
3. The BRC calls on other organisations and bodies to disseminate BRC materials, to organise meetings and discussions to generate public interest and informed debate and take other relevant steps to encourage public involvement.

Ensuring that the referendum is conducted in a free and fair manner

4. The legal framework for the conduct of the referendum makes clear that the responsibility for ensuring that the referendum is conducted in a free and fair manner is a shared one. The BRC is committed to the delivery of a free and fair referendum, and further assurance will be provided by:
 - a) The appointment of scrutineers by the two Governments and by Recognised Interest Groups;
 - b) The accreditation of impartial national and international referendum observers; and
 - c) The accreditation of national and international media organisations to provide information on the referendum process.

¹Schedule 1.9 of *Organic Law on Peacebuilding in Bougainville, Autonomous Bougainville Government and Bougainville Referendum 2002*

5. Applications for accreditation as an observer organization will be received during a period to be specified by the BRC. Guidance and forms will be available on the BRC website, www.bougainville-referendum.org.

Recognised Interest Groups

6. In addition to the two Governments, Recognised Interest Groups (RIGs) are the only organisations permitted to appoint scrutineers to be present at polling centres, during the transport of votes to the counting centre(s), and the during the scrutiny of votes.
7. In addition to the criteria specified in law², the BRC will apply the following criteria in deciding whether to declare a group to be a Recognised Interest Group for the purposes of promoting a common interest in the referendum:
 - a) Groups do not need to be formally registered as civil-society organisations or non-governmental organisations, but should explain how they are structured and the source of their funds;
 - b) Groups must be based in Papua New Guinea, but can be based anywhere in Papua New Guinea;
 - c) Group officers and those individuals proposed to be appointed as scrutineers must be eligible to vote in PNG National Elections;

Policy for Promoting Public Involvement—continued**Recognised Interest Groups—continued**

- d) Groups must specify which of the two options in the Referendum their group is in support of;
 - e) Groups must specify the particular geographic space they wish to be recognised for;
 - f) Groups must specify if they wish to be recognised for the poll, the scrutiny or both processes;
 - g) Groups must indicate their proposed total number of scrutineers³, and their general geographic locations; and
 - h) Groups can be 'umbrella' groups of several sub-groups, but a sub-group can only form part of one Group; and
 - i) Groups must use the BRC's forms and complete relevant undertakings in applying for Recognition.
 - j) The BRC may withdraw recognition of a Recognized Interest Group if the Recognized Interest Group commits a referendum offence⁴ or fails to adhere to the provisions of this policy and code of conduct.
8. Applications to be a Recognised Interest Group will be received during a period to be specified by the BRC. Guidance and forms will be available on the BRC website, www.bougainville-referendum.org.

² Schedule 1.10 of *Organic Law on Peacebuilding in Bougainville, Autonomous Bougainville Government and Bougainville Referendum 2002*

³ The BRC reserves the right to limit the number of scrutineers and observers in each polling station and counting centre for the purposes of ensuring smooth and secure polling and scrutiny processes.

⁴ Part XVI - Offences of *Organic Law on Peacebuilding in Bougainville, Autonomous Bougainville Government and Bougainville Referendum 2002*

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 23rd 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 27th September 2019. After this date, no new claims for enrolment will be accepted, as per Sch. 1.30 of the *Organic Law*.

ISSUANCE

DETERMINATION OF VOTING DISTRICTS FOR BOUGAINVILLE REFERENDUM

21st October 2019

Under Sch. 1.12 of the *Organic Law on Peace-Building in Bougainville-Autonomous Bougainville Government and Bougainville Referendum 2002* (hereafter “the *Organic Law*”) the Agency shall determine the areas to be voting districts for the purposes of the Referendum. In accordance with this provision, the BRC has determined that there will be two (2) voting districts for the Bougainville Referendum as follows:

Voting District inside Bougainville

In accordance with Sch. 1.12, the Agency has determined that there will be one (1) single voting district inside Bougainville that will consist of the full territory of Bougainville.

Sch. 1.15 of the *Organic Law* also provides that while there shall be one roll of voters for the voting district, for the purpose of effectively administering the Referendum the BRC can arrange for the roll for a voting district to be divided into smaller units corresponding to different areas. In accordance with the provision, the BRC will administer the referendum in smaller areas within the single voting district of Bougainville. These areas will be the same as the constituencies used for the Autonomous Bougainville Government elections, as follows:

NORTH REGION

Atolls	Mahari
Hagogohe	Teua
Haku	Nissan
Halia	Selau
Peit	Suir
Tonsu	Taonita Teop
Tsitalato	Taonita Tinputz

CENTRAL REGION

Eivo/Torau	Kongara
Ioro	South Nasioi
North Nasioi	Rau
Kokoda	Terra

SOUTH REGION

Baba	Bolave
Lato	Ramu
Baubake	Kopii
Konnou	Motuna/Huyono
Lule	Torokina
Makis	

A map of the single voting district boundary for inside Bougainville, divided by the constituencies, is provided in an annex below.

For the purposes of enrolment by a resident of Bougainville under Sch. 1.23(1), a place of residence may be a family residence, clan residence, or work residence. Periods of temporary absence from the identified residence do not affect the continuity of residence for the purposes of enrolment.

Section 62 of 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. The BRC has determined that there is a difficulty in the operation of Sch. 1.79 of the *Organic Law*, which provides that a person can vote at any prescribed polling place for the voting district for which he or she is enrolled. Because the BRC is designating one voting district for all of Bougainville, but administering the referendum in smaller areas correlating to the 33 Bougainville constituencies according to the authority granted under Sch. 1.12 and Sch. 1.15, the BRC has remedied this difficulty in accordance with Section 62 as follows:

Voters may vote at any polling place within their constituency, or if absent from that constituency, they may vote in person at a designated polling place (DPP), a full list of which will be provided by the BRC. Each DPP

Issuance—continued

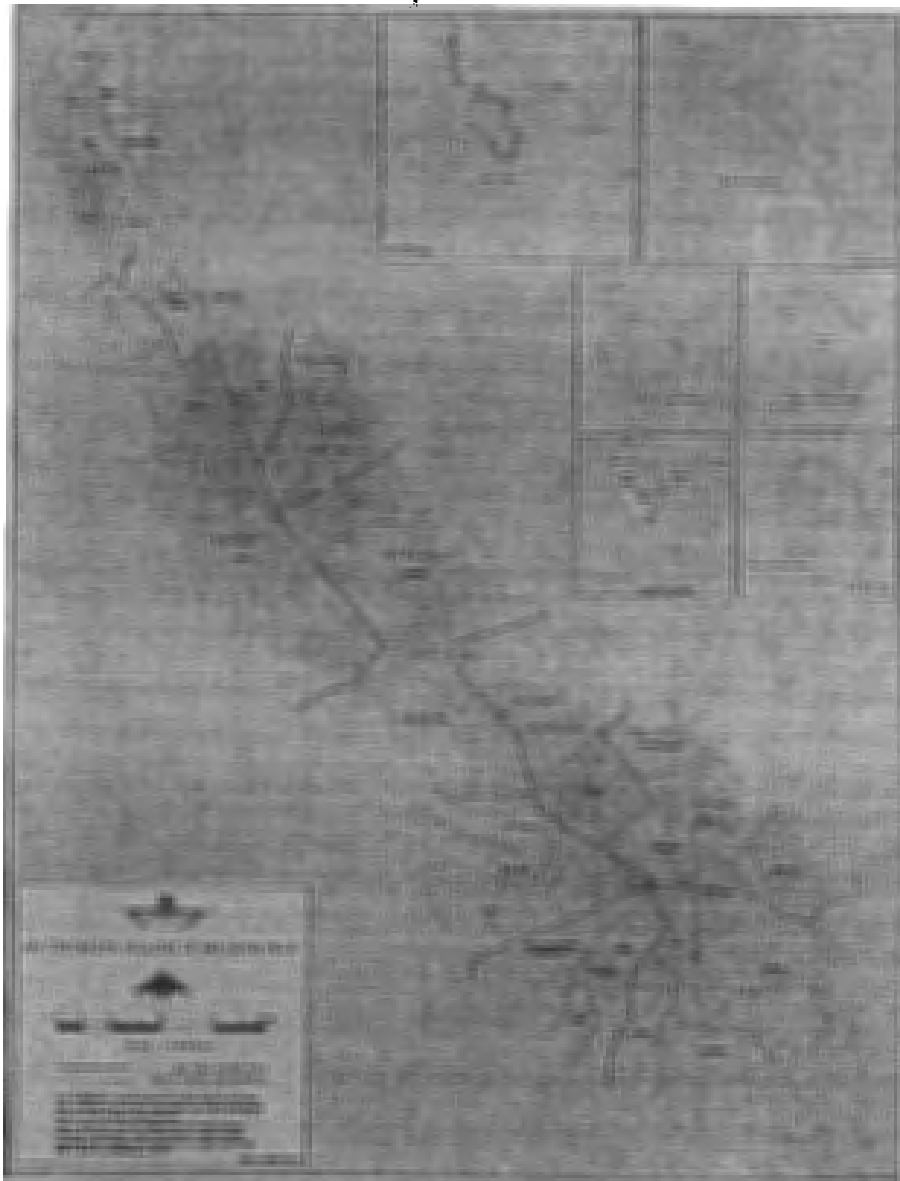
Determination of Voting Districts for Bougainville Referendum—continued

will be a prescribed polling place for all constituencies within the voting district, and a full copy of the Bougainville voter roll will be available at every DPP. In addition, the BRC has outlined in a separate issuance an administrative process of declaration voting that can be followed when a voter's name cannot be located on the roll at a polling place but the voter maintains they should be on the referendum roll.

Voting District Outside Bougainville

Sch. 1.12(1) of the *Organic Law* mandates the Agency to determine one or more areas outside Bougainville to be voting districts for non-resident voters. In accordance with this provision, the BRC is designating all areas outside of Bougainville as one (1) single voting district for non-resident Bougainvilleans.

Annex: Map of Bougainville Voting District and Voting Areas



ISSUANCE

TRANSMISSION AND SCRUTINY OF POSTAL AND DECLARATION VOTES

29th August 2019

Section 62 of the *Organic Law on Peace-Building in Bougainville-Autonomous Bougainville Government and Bougainville Referendum 2002* (hereafter "*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.

The BRC has determined that there is a difficulty in the operation of Part XI of the *Organic Law* regarding the secrecy and preservation of postal votes during the transmission process, and PART XIII of the law regarding the integrity and secrecy of postal votes cast under Division 4 of Part XII (hereafter "declaration votes") during the scrutiny process.

To remedy these difficulties, the following administrative process will apply to ensure the integrity, secrecy and physical integrity of postal votes and declaration votes is preserved:

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 authorised 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 authorised witness to verify authenticity.

Issuance—continued

Transmission and Scrutiny of Postal and Declaration Votes—continued

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 scrutinised 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.

ISSUANCE

**CANVASSING, BROADCASTING, PUBLICATIONS, ADVERTISING, MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS
FOR THE BOUGAINVILLE REFERENDUM**

20th August 2019

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 4th 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 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 persons from airing their views and to respect the right to free speech and opinion held by others. This includes the choices to be put to voters on the Referendum ballot. The BRC further calls on those engaging in the Referendum to act responsibly by avoiding hate speech and by encouraging social cohesion.

1. The BRC calls for a silence period starting from 00:00 on 20th November 2019 to 8:00 on 23rd 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 block voting or in any way undermining of secrecy of the vote.

Issuance—continued**Canvassing, Broadcasting, Publications, Advertising, Media and Communications for the Bougainville Referendum—continued**

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 grounded in fact 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).¹

1. Media outlets must label, announce or describe any referendum content as an 'advertisement' that is paid or compensated for by any group.²
2. Any media article, broadcast announcement or advertisement published from the date of issue 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.³
3. All advertisements, posters, pamphlets ect. 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 at the foot of it.⁴
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.⁵
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.⁶
6. Disorderly behaviour is prohibited at any meetings or gatherings related to the Referendum.⁷

¹ 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*.

² 1.127

³ 1.128

⁴ 1.126

⁵ 1.126

⁶ 1.130

⁷ 1.146

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.⁸
8. Using a loudhailer during the polling period is prohibited (unless used by the police or voting official).⁹

Issuance—continued

Canvassing, Broadcasting, Publications, Advertising, Media and Communications for the Bougainville Referendum—continued

A BRC Code of Conduct prohibits canvassing or otherwise promoting a particular outcome of the Referendum by any BRC official.

This Issuance; the National 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 constitutions, electoral laws, regulations, and issuances should be reported to the appropriate authorities.

⁸ 1.140

⁹ 1.133

ISSUANCE

PROVISIONAL VOTING

26th September 2019

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

The BRC has determined that there is a difficulty in the operation of Schedule 1 of the *Organic Law* arising from an inconsistency and a gap, regarding when a voter's name cannot be located on the roll at a polling place but the voter maintains they should be on the referendum roll.

To remedy this difficulty, the following administrative process will apply to ensure that the referendum provides for free and fair participation in accordance with Section 341 of the Constitution of Papua New Guinea and that all eligible voters are entitled to vote:

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 and Scrutiny of Postal and Declaration Votes dated 20 August 2019. The voter will be declaring that they are enrolled for the referendum and that they have not already voted in the referendum. The 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 or marked by the voter and witnessed by an authorised witness to verify authenticity.

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

APPOINTMENT OF REGISTERED INTEREST GROUPS FOR THE BOUGAINVILLE REFERENDUM

The Bougainville Referendum Commission, under Section 61(1) and Schedule 1.4 of the *Organic Law on Peacebuilding in Bougainville - Autonomous Bougainville Government* hereby appoints each organization in Column 3 as a Registered Interest Group for the forthcoming Bougainville Referendum.

Column 1 No.	Column 2 File No.	Column 3 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 16th October, 2019

D. TSIANAI,
Acting Chief Referendum Officer.

ISSUANCE**MIXING OF BALLOTS ACROSS VOTING DISTRICTS**

24th October 2019

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

The BRC has determined that there is a difficulty in the operation of Schedule 1 of the *Organic Law* arising from an inconsistency, regarding the requirement that only one tally of the results be announced, but that tallies are also recorded at the voting district level.

To remedy this difficulty, the following administrative process will apply to ensure that the referendum provides for free and fair participation in accordance with Section 341 of the Constitution of Papua New Guinea, and clause 317 of the Bougainville Peace Agreement, and that the secrecy of the vote will be protected:

THE SCRUTINY:

Before conducting the scrutiny and count of the votes, the votes from the 2 Voting Districts will be mixed so that those observing the scrutiny cannot identify the location of a voter or group of voters.

**ADDITIONAL APPOINTMENT OF REGISTERED INTEREST GROUPS FOR BOUGAINVILLE
REFERENDUM**

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, in addition to the list of Registered Interested Groups, on the *Bougainville Gazette* No ABG23/2019, Thursday, 17th October 2019.

No.	File No.	Name of Organization
14	SA015	Kieta District Youth Group
15	SA016	Domaakung/Wida 7 Clan Organisation

Dated 28th October, 2019

M. CLAUDIO,
Chief Referendum Officer.