



## **Official Joint Statement of the Joint Supervisory Body Meeting in Port Moresby by Co-Chairs Hon. James Marape, MP, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea and Hon. Dr. Chief John Momis, GCL, MHR, President of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville**

Having met at the Asia Pacific Economic Commission (APEC) House in Port Moresby on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020, the Joint Supervisory Body hereby endorses the following as the true records and resolutions of the meeting;

### **On the 12th of March 2020 JSB resolved;**

- That the Post Referendum joint consultation process commence soon after the ABG 2020 Elections and that a minimum of three consultations would be held in various parts of the country,
- That a 12 month program of the Joint Consultations would be developed and presented at the next JSB for approval
- That the Joint Supervisory Body name is changed to Joint Consultative Body and this body will continue to provide oversight to the post referendum consultation processes

### **Agenda Item 1: BRC Interim report**

The JSB;

- a) accepts the BRC Interim Report and notes that the final report of the BRC will be available in April 2020
- b) acknowledges and accepts the democratic choice of the Bougainville people for Independence,
- c) notes that the BRC may have funds remaining after full expenditure of all BRC decommissioning bills and advises that BRC manage the disbursement of remaining funds according to the financial processes of the BRC trust funds.
- d) directs the Ministries of Bougainville Affairs and ABG Post Referendum Consultations and Dialogue to effect the Post Referendum joint consultations processes.

## **Agenda Item 2: Post Referendum Inter-Government Consultation Process**

### **Framework**

The JSB;

- a) endorses the Post Referendum Inter-Governmental Consultations process Framework which contains joint Government agreed designs on,
  - (i) The consultation process structure,
  - (ii) The consultation process timeframe,
  - (iii) The consultation secretariat support,
  - (iv) The moderator for inter-governmental process.
- b) directs the Ministries of Bougainville Affairs and ABG Post Referendum Consultations and Dialogue to establish the Post Referendum Joint Ministerial Consultations Preparation Team to lead the Post Referendum Inter-governmental consultation process
- c) The Post Referendum Ministerial Task force to submit the CVs for shortlisted Moderators to the JSB Co-Chairs in the next JSB

## **Agenda Item 3: Ratification**

The JSB;

- a) directs the Department of Justice and Attorney General and ABG Department of Justice to convene and jointly develop an agreed definition of Ratification that is within the context of the Bougainville Peace Agreement and report to both Government immediately after the 2020 ABG Elections through the Post Referendum Joint Ministerial Consultations preparations team .
- b) acknowledges the existence of the National Parliament and Bougainville House of Representatives Inter-Parliamentary Partnership Agreement of 2019 and encourages both Speakers of the respective Parliaments to engage in regular dialogue on matters of the Ratification in close consultation with the Post Referendum Joint Ministerial Consultations preparations team

## **Agenda Item 4: Joint Key Messages**

The JSB;

- a) approves the resolution of the Joint Technical Team to delegate responsibility of preparing Post Referendum and pre-ratification joint awareness messages to the Post Referendum Joint Ministerial Consultations Preparations Team;

- b) authorizes the Co-Chairs of the Post Referendum Joint Ministerial Consultations Preparation Team to process and approve such messages on a progressive basis.

### **Agenda Item 5: Bougainville Economic & Investment Summit**

The JSB;

- a) notes the proposal of the Joint Technical Team to host the Bougainville Economic and Investment Summit 2020 in October.
- b) approves the proposal of the Joint Technical Team,
- c) directs the Ministries of Bougainville Affairs, Commerce and Trade and ABG Economic and Development to immediately establish a Joint Bougainville Economic and Investment Summit 2020 working group to progress preparations of the summit

### **Agenda Item 6: BCL Shares**

- a) The JSB notes that;
  - in 2017, the National Executive Council made a decision for the National Government to transfer 17.4% from its 36.4% shares to the Landowners of Panguna
  - and on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2019, at the joint announcement of the Bougainville Referendum results by the Prime Minister James Marape and President John Momis at Arawa, Hon. Prime Minister Marape further announced that the National Government will transfer to ABG its remaining 19% of the BCL shares.
  - Consistent with the National Government's undertaking and commitment, this will now result in the National Government transferring its full 36.4% BCL shares to ABG.
- b) JSB endorses the transfer of the National Government's allocation of 36.4% of shares in Bougainville Copper Limited (BCL) to Bougainville Minerals Limited who will manage on behalf of the ABG and the Panguna Landowners the shares.
- c) JSB directs the National Department of Treasury and Kumul Minerals Limited together with the Ministry of Mineral and Energy Resources to effect the immediate transfer of 36.4% BCL shares to the Bougainville Minerals Limited.

### **Agenda Item 7: 2020 ABG Budget**

#### **i). K100 million Commitment**

The JSB;

- a) acknowledges ABG's request to provide clear explanation on the K100 million National Government commitment endorsed in the September 2019 JSB resolution #4.

- b) Acknowledges the RDG arrears in principle and direct National Planning to disburse 2020 RDG to the ABG
- c) Directs National Planning Ministry to clearly define the K100 million commitment and report back in the next JSB this year 2020

**ii). PIP**

The JSB;

- d) notes that consistent with the PNG revised Development Cooperation Policy (2018), the Department of National Planning and Monitoring has instructed both Governments to establish a Joint Inter-Government Project Steering Committee (JIGPSC) to manage the 10 year Bougainville Development Programme (2020 – 2030)
- e) directs the National Government and ABG to establish the Joint Inter-Government Project Steering Committee (JIGPSC),
- f) endorses the Terms of Reference of the Joint Inter-Government Project Steering Committee (JIGPSC).

**iii). ABG General Election 2020 Funds**

The JSB;

- a) notes that the ABG General Elections 2020 issue of Writs will be on March 27, 2020, however the JSB also notes that the issue of writs is subject to the Supreme Court decision
- b) directs the National Department of Treasury to make available on time funds to conduct the ABG General Election 2020,
- c) notes that the PNG Electoral Commission has still outstanding National General Election debt of K5 million for National General Elections conducted on Bougainville in 2012 and 2017,
- d) directs the National Department of Treasury to make available funds to the PNG Electoral Commission to settle all outstanding 2012 and 2017 National Election debt on Bougainville and provide a status report to both Governments in the next JSB meeting this year (2020).

## **Agenda Item 8. Weapons Disposal**

The JSB;

- a) accepts the Joint Weapons Secretariat Status Report 2020 and notes that the final status report will be presented to both Governments through the Ministries of Bougainville Affairs and ABG Post Referendum Consultations and Dialogue in April 2020,
- b) notes that all requirements of the Bougainville Weapons Disposal process has been fully complied with and that the Weapons Disposal Pillar of the Bougainville Peace Agreement has been successfully implemented,
- c) notes that the existence of the Joint Weapons Disposal Secretariat has ended and that all weapons related issues are now matters of law and order.
- d) That consistent with JSB resolution (2a) of 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019 (Enforcement of PNG Firearms Act), JSB directs the PNG Royal Police Constabulary and Bougainville Police Service to address all illegal weapons in Bougainville through enforcement of the PNG Firearms Act, Bougainville establishes its own Firearms Act;
- e) directs the Ministries of Bougainville Affairs and Post Referendum Consultation and Dialogue to coordinate peace-building advocacy programs that promote continued peace within Bougainville and with Papua New Guinea and Internationally.
- f) JSB resolves to transfer all remaining powers and functions as provided in the BPA to the ABG to manage its own affairs and further directs all ABG and National Ministries and Departmental Heads to consult and effect transfers of all remaining powers and functions to the ABG with priority given to the Police Powers and Functions including other law enforcement agencies
- g) Directs the JTT to identify all remaining powers and functions to be transferred and inform the JSB in its next meeting

## **Agenda Item 9: Fisheries**

The JSB directs the Department of National Fisheries and ABG Department of Primary Industry to convene and jointly establish an agreed new fisheries benefit sharing arrangement and propose to both Governments the agreed new fisheries benefit sharing arrangement at the next JSB (2020) meeting for endorsement.

## **Agenda Item 10: Taxation**

### **i. Rural Development Incentive**

The JSB;

- a) notes that all districts in Bougainville were not declared as prescribed least developed areas hence businesses in these districts would not qualify for the rural development incentive of 10 year tax holiday if prescribed businesses are operated in this districts,

- b) directs the IRC and Department of Treasury to amend the Income Tax Regulations to declare all districts of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville as least developed areas.

**ii. Reduced Corporate Income Tax rate**

The JSB directs IRC and Department of Treasury consider legislative changes to reduce the Corporate Income Tax to 25% for companies whose principle place of business or main activity is in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

**Agenda Item 11: Lands Matters**

The JSB;

- a) directs the National Department of Lands and Physical Planning to fast track the establishment of the Bougainville Land Board,
- b) directs the Ministry of Lands and Physical Planning to submit an NEC paper on the Lifting of the Moratorium to enable Bougainville commence all state land rental collections in Bougainville,
- c) approves the drawdown of the final land powers by way Land Policy and enactment of land legislation.

**Agenda Item 12: Delegation of Financial Powers and Functions**

The JSB notes the ABG Finance Minister's intention to give notice to National Minister Finance on delegation of certain Financial Powers and Functions.

**Agenda Item 13: AROB**

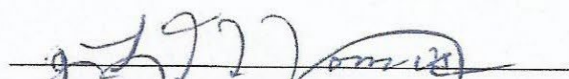
**Next JSB Meeting**

The JSB agree that the next meeting of the JSB be held immediately after the 2020 ABG elections



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**Hon. James Marape, MP**  
**Prime Minister**  
**Government of Papua New Guinea**



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**Hon. Chief Dr. John Momis. GCL, MHR**  
**President**  
**Autonomous Bougainville Government**