



JOINT CONSULTATION MEETING

Joint Statements (Kokopo & Wabag)



On the Outcomes of the first Post-Referendum Consultations held at Kokopo, East New Britain

Whereas we acknowledge the requirements under s.342 of the Constitution for both the National Government and the Autonomous Bougainville Government to consult on the results of the Referendum.

Whereas we jointly recognize that the first post referendum consultations (first consultations) have been held from 18th – 19th May, 2021 here in Kokopo, East New Britain.

We jointly acknowledge that the results of the Bougainville Referendum have been tabled in the first consultations and that the Bougainville people have voted 97.7% in favour of Independence.

We jointly appreciate the positions of both Governments on the Referendum results and the road ahead of us.

We jointly direct the technical teams for both the National Government and the Autonomous Bougainville Government to:

- I. consult on the definition and process of ratification;
- II. identify Constitutional issues relating to the referendum result and the tabling of the consultation outcomes in the National Parliament;
- III. develop a Joint Roadmap on Post-Referendum Consultations; and
- IV. fully implement the Sharp Agreement as a matter of priority.

We jointly agree that the second Post-Referendum Consultations will be held in Wabag, Enga on the margins of the Joint Supervisory Body meeting in June 2021.

Signed at Kokopo this 19th day of May 2021.

Hon. JAMES MARAPE, MP
Prime Minister
Government of Papua New Guinea

Hon. ISHMAEL TOROAMA, MHR
President
Autonomous Bougainville Government

The Government of Papua New Guinea (National Government) and the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG):

- (i) Acknowledge the requirements of s. 342 of the National Constitution for both the National Government and the Autonomous Bougainville Government to consult on the results of the Referendum;
- (ii) Acknowledge that the first consultation was held on 18th and 19th May, 2021 at Kokopo, East New Britain Province, and that the Referendum results of 97.7% choice for separate independence was tabled at this consultation;
- (iii) Acknowledge that the Bougainville Independence Consultation Team tabled in the Kokopo Consultation, the Year "2025" as the year for the Declaration of Bougainville's Independence;
- (iv) Acknowledge that the Kokopo Consultations agreed to consult on a joint roadmap in the second consultation;
- (v) Acknowledge that the second consultation was held in Wabag on 6th of July 2021;
- (vi) Consulted on the joint roadmap that will guide the post referendum process;
- (vii) Acknowledge that the process needs to be agreed upon to decide the final settlement.

We agree to:

- 1. Continue to consult and develop clarity on establishing the constitutional and parliamentary pathway for the tabling of the results of the Referendum, the outcome of the consultation to give effect to the results of the Referendum and the outcome of the Consultations, and the pathway consequential to the outcome of the National Parliament's decision.
- 2. Take all actions necessary to process an end point which is the culmination of all the activities that flows from the constitutional amendments give effect to the National Parliament's decision.
- 3. Take immediate actions which are focused on the full implementation of the Bougainville Peace Agreement subject to the National Constitution, with a focus on completing outstanding tasks under the pillars of the Bougainville Peace Agreement, including the implementation of the Sharp Agreement to support the economic growth of Bougainville to ensure that Bougainville is in a position to effectively and efficiently manage its own economic affairs in preparation for a political settlement.
- 4. Allow the National Government to undertake national consultations across Papua New Guinea on the outcome of the Referendum, noting that the constitutional amendments which would have been set in motion by the signing of this Statement will need to be enacted to give effect to Bougainville's final political status.
- 5. Determine a political settlement no earlier than 2025 and no later than 2027 guided by an agreed joint road map which is annexed to this Statement.

