Preparing For The Referendum

The people of Bougainville are due to vote in a Referendum to determine their future political governance system. The target date for the Referendum is 15 June 2019.

The Referendum is arising from the Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA) that was signed in 2001.

The key principles of BPA often referred to as the three pillars are:
1. To Restore Peace and Dispose of Weapons in an orderly way.
2. To establish an Autonomous Government for Bougainville.
3. To hold a Referendum before 2020.

The people of Bougainville should be clear about the purpose of the Referendum, the choices available and the implications of their choices of a political future when they cast their votes.

It is important to have a well prepared, well informed Referendum so that the outcome is credible and respected by all parties, ensuring a peaceful outcome for the people of Bougainville.

The PNG NRI Referendum Research Project

The Papua New Guinea National Research Institute (PNG NRI) as an independent institution works in researching and analysing strategic issues for national development.

PNG NRI considers the upcoming Referendum on Bougainville to be a significant national event that will impact the wellbeing of the people of Bougainville and PNG.

Therefore, the PNG NRI Bougainville Referendum Research Project is inquiring and informing stakeholders through seven (7) key studies;
1. Referendum Case Study
2. Autonomy Study
3. Fiscal Autonomy Study
4. Outcome Issues Study
5. Referendum Administration Study
6. Peace Agreement Study
7. Implementation of the Peace Agreement Study

The PNG NRI has commissioned experts (independent researchers) to conduct desktop studies on the key topics identified from these questions.

Preliminary findings from the studies will be communicated to stakeholders such as the PNG and ABG government officials, development agencies, the people of Bougainville and PNG. They will be presented in a series of seminars, the first in November 2017, the second in February 2018 and the third around May of 2018.

The research reports will be freely available and PNG NRI encourages its wide use to raise issues and prompt informed discussions and decision making. It will also help bring out complex and sensitive issues that need to be addressed before voters go to the Referendum in 2019.

This is an independent research by the leading public policy think tank in PNG wanting to see a credible process leading to a peaceful outcome for Bougainville.
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BOUGAINVILLE REFERENDUM RESEARCH PROJECT

Leading To A Credible Referendum And A Peaceful Outcome

For more information

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DISCLAIMER: PNGNRI inquires, inform and influences. For this project we want to influence the preparation of the referendum process and NOT the outcome.

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