



## **BOUGAINVILLE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

### **JURISDICTION REPORT**

#### **50TH PRESIDING OFFICERS' AND CLERKS' CONFERENCE**

**JULY 2019, BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA**

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Bougainville joins the Presiding Officers and Clerks to thank and congratulate the Speaker, Hon. Curtis Pitt, Clerk Neil Laurie and staff of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland Parliament in organizing the 50<sup>th</sup> Presiding Officers and Clerks Conference. And thank you for the warm welcome to Queensland, the Sunshine State of Australia.

#### **SHORT HISTORY AND PERFORMANCE OF THE HOUSE**

The Jurisdiction Report highlights the short history of a 41-member unicameral House which comprises of a popularly elected President, 33 single member constituencies, three Regional Women Representatives, three Regional Former Combatants Representatives, and the Speaker who is elected from outside by the members of the House. Four Members of the National Parliament are also members of the House- able to participate in parliamentary debates but cannot vote.

The Bougainville House of Representatives was accepted as a youngest and smallest legislature, when it became a member of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in Abuja, Nigeria in September 2006, a year after its establishment.

The Constitutional and political arrangement which is often referred to as the Authority and Structure of the Region derives its mandate from the Organic Law on Peace Building, Autonomy and Referendum that implements the Bougainville Peace Agreement, and the Constitution of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. The status of the Bougainville Constitution shall be determined by the outcome of the Bougainville Referendum.

The Bougainville House of Representatives has all jurisdictions to pass laws. However, where Bougainville legislative laws are inapplicable, the statutory laws of Papua New Guinea are applying to the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

The Bougainville House of Representatives also performs the traditional oversight and scrutiny functions of Parliament through the work of its Parliamentary Committees including the Public Accounts Committee and the Members as highlighted on page 3 of the Jurisdiction Report- a summary of parliamentary business transacted, and the overall performance of the House since 2005.

It is important to mention the work of the Parliamentary Committees. We are gradually beginning to see the fruit of the work of the 10 Parliamentary Committees in the Third House. The establishment of the Parliamentary Committee on Referendum, Peace and Security, the Parliamentary Committee on Gender Equality which recently assumed the Human Rights functions, the Parliamentary Committee on United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and the decision by the House to expand the functions of the Regional Parliamentary Committees for North, Central and South Bougainville demonstrates the ongoing role played by a post-conflict parliament in promoting reconciliation and unity, peacebuilding, and good governance.

The 2016 Resolution on the Constituency Referendum Ready Process, is a unique political process that fully engages members of the House to conduct public awareness on the Bougainville Peace Agreement, and referendum preparedness.

The Conference is informed that the work of the Regional Parliamentary Committees has brought Parliament much closer to the third-tier local level government that are established by the Community Government Act.

## **BOUGAINVILLE REFERENDUM**

The dates for the conduct of the Bougainville Referendum that were agreed upon by the Papua New Guinea Government and the Autonomous Bougainville Government have changed. The Bougainville Referendum Commission will meet in Bougainville this week to consider the changes and formally announce the new dates for the issue of referendum writs and actual conduct of the referendum.

The Bougainville Referendum Commission will ensure that the people are allowed to freely vote on the agreed questions on (a) Greater Autonomy and (b) Independence.

One of the challenges for the Papua New Guinea Government and the Autonomous Bougainville Government will be to ensure that the outcome of the Bougainville Referendum is accepted by the people of Bougainville and Papua New Guinea.

## **PARLIAMENTARY PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENT**

### **Twinning Belong Yumi Scholarship**

The New South Wales Parliament, the Solomon Island Parliament, and the Bougainville House of Representatives have maintained the parliamentary partnership arrangement through the ***Twinning Belong Yumi Scholarship (Our Twinned Parliaments)***.

While the Twinning Belong Yumi Scholarship is being reviewed, staff have spoken positively about the scholarship, and are looking forward to submit their applications for consideration by the Twinning Steering Committee.

## **REGIONAL CPA PROGRAMS**

The Bougainville House of Representatives also acknowledges the CPA Pacific Region, and CPA Australia Region in promoting good governance

and sustaining parliamentary democracy through regional programs designed for Speakers, Clerks and the Members of Parliament. Twinned Parliaments in the Pacific Region envy this ongoing support as we continue to strengthen the institutions of parliament.

The CPA Australia Region's support to Bougainville through the Pacific Parliamentary Partnership Trust has enabled Bougainville to receive a new printer for the Parliament Library this year.

**Hon. Simon Pentanu MHR**  
**Speaker**

**Robert Tapi**  
**Clerk of the House**

## A summary on Parliamentary Business transacted

*Towards a common future for growth and sustainability, the Parliament of Bougainville.*

The Bougainville House of Representatives of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville continues to strive to fulfil its legislative functions and responsibilities towards the Members of the Parliament, the Government and the People of Bougainville.

The Bougainville House of Representatives to date has sat for **207** sittings and **76** meetings in total since its establishment in 2005. It has passed a total of **84 laws** out of the **88 proposed laws** introduced to the House for debate.

Members of House have continued to play a proactive role in scrutinizing and holding the Executive Government to an account by asking questions during parliamentary Question Time. A total of **1,010 principle questions** and **656 supplementary questions** have been asked so far.

Members of House do have opportunities to raise issues of significance concerning their citizens through petitions on the floor of Parliament.

The House have also passed a total **21 resolutions** on various issues of significance raised by Members of the House, one being a resolution on the

**Establishment of Parliamentary Committee on Gender Equality and Human Rights** to name a few.

This year 2019, have been a very busy year for the Parliamentary Committees. There have been a lot of inquiries and public hearings conducted by the Parliamentary Committees across the **three Regions** of Bougainville. A total of **75 reports** have been tabled and debated in the House.

	Total
Sittings	207*
Meetings	76*
Legislations passed	84
Bills introduced	88
Bills still before the House	4^
House Resolutions passed	21
Annual Reports- (Parliamentary Service)	10
Questions Without Notices	726
Supplementary Questions asked on questions without notices	404
Written Question for Oral Replies	284
Supplementary questions asked on Oral Replies	252
Written question for written Replies	6
Petitions	9
Matters of Public Importance	12
Gov't Notice of Motions	87
Gov't Statements	210
Gov't Reports	40
Private Members Notice of Motion	37
Private Members Reports	9
Private Members Grievances	46
Parliamentary Committees	
Statutory Reports	
Public Accounts Committee	10
Standing Committees	8
Portfolio Committees	52
Parliamentary Regional Committee	5