



**Parliamentary Education in Bougainville  
APEC 2011 - 28<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> November 2011  
Queensland Parliament  
Brisbane – Australia**

**Brief History of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (ARB)**

The Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA) signed in 2001, at the Arawa Independence Oval is a joint creation by the Independent State of Papua New Guinea (PNG) and the leaders of Bougainville to resolve the Bougainville Crisis and to secure lasting peace. The Agreement has three pillars. They are:

- 1. Autonomy**
- 2. Referendum; and**
- 3. Weapons Disposal.**

BPA provides for an Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) operating under a home grown Bougainville Constitution.

**The Bougainville House of Representatives**

The Bougainville House of Representatives, a Post Conflict Parliament first met in 2005 fully represented by 33 Constituencies, three regional former combatants representatives, three regional women representatives, the popularly elected President, and the Speaker elected from outside by the elected leaders. It operates independently from the Executive Government and is



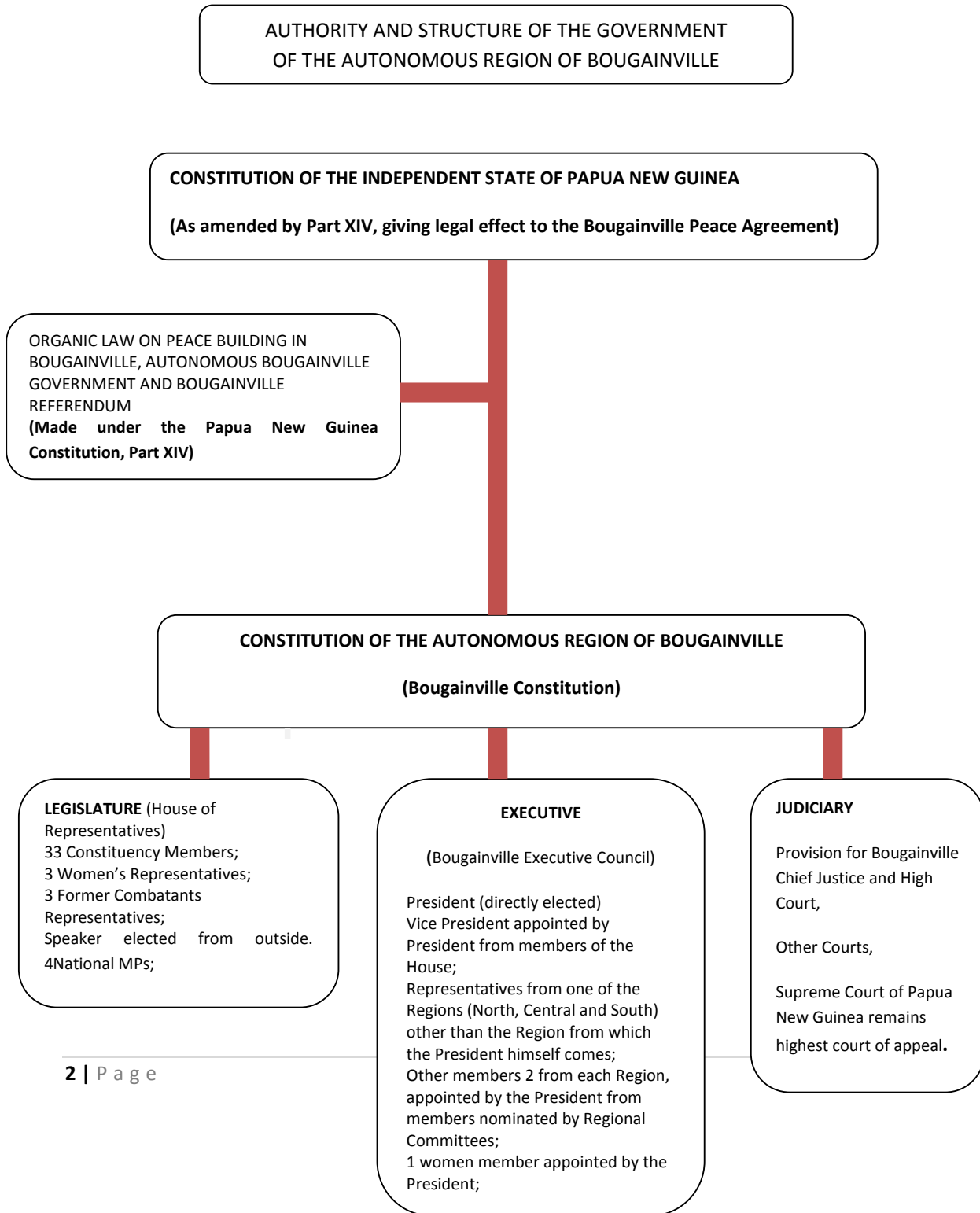
developing its procedures and also establishing other functions to ensure it is compatible with other Parliaments in the Commonwealth of Nations.

The Bougainville Parliament became a member of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) in 2006. The first Speaker of the House, Mr.

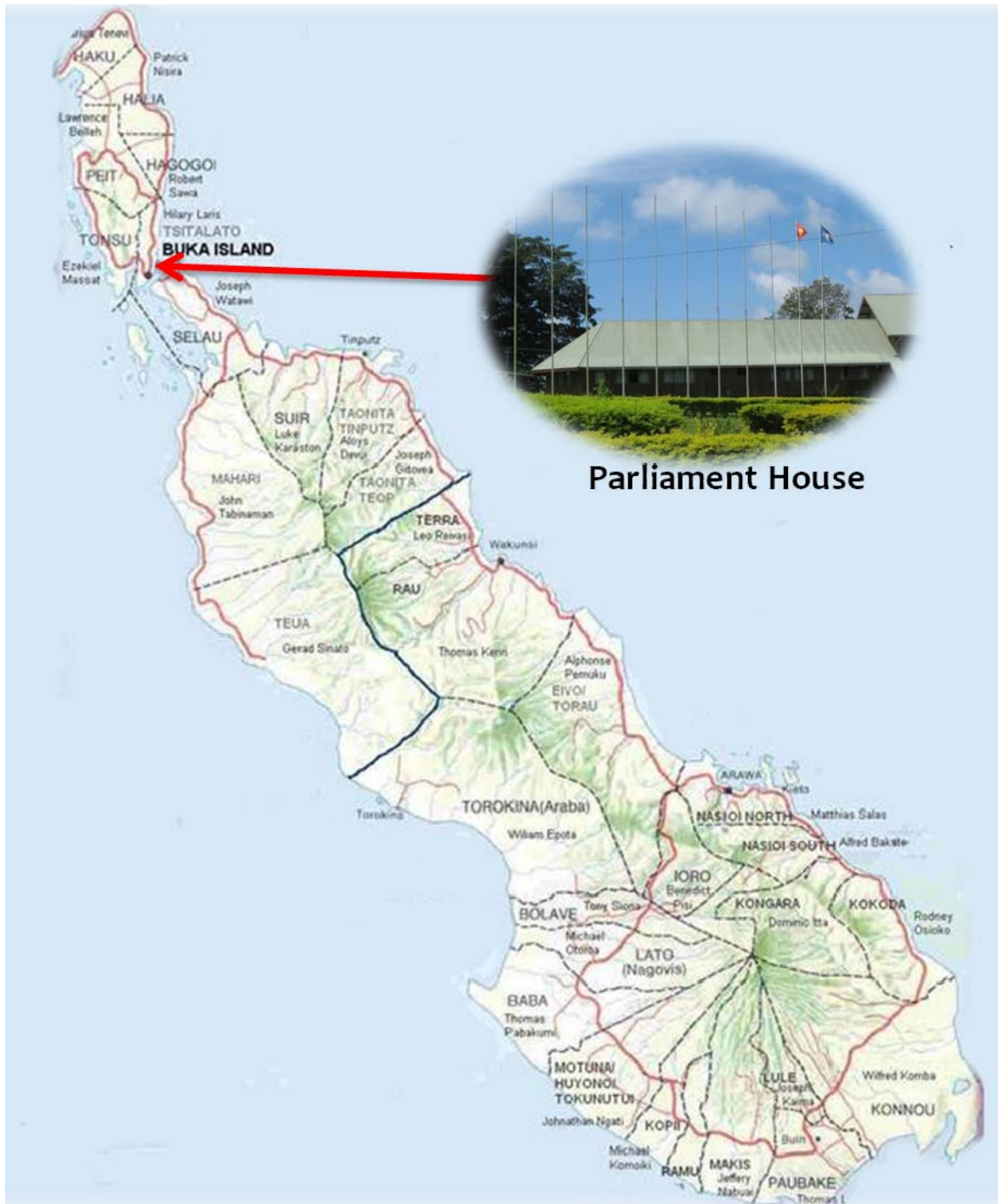
Nick Peniai was in Abuja, Nigeria on 6th September to receive the announcement.

The election of the first Members of the House was conducted in 2005 using the first past the post system.

***The ABG Structure***



# MAP SHOWING REGIONS AND CONSTITUENCIES OF BOUGAINVILLE



## PARLIAMENTARY EDUCATION SECTION

### *Why Parliamentary Education?*

The Parliamentary Education Section develops and implements programs and services intended to increase the knowledge and understanding on the role and functions of the Parliament on Autonomy implementation and support the development of civics skills necessary for active citizenship.

### **Programmes**

#### **1) Inside Parliament Program:**

This is a Radio Broadcasting Program aired on a weekly basis. It is aimed at disseminating parliamentary information on Governance of the Parliament which includes accountability and transparency and the progress of the committee work on certain issues.

##### **a) Purpose of This Program:**

Disseminating vital information to the communities in Bougainville is a challenge to both government and private sectors on the developments and other issues that have taken place since the implementation of the Bougainville Peace Agreement in 2005. The NBC regional radio station, Radio Bougainville *Maus bilong Sankamap* can be access by **60% of the total population of approximately 200,000** to keep the mandated leaders and the general public well informed on Parliamentary practices, Parliamentary Democracy and the government system.

##### **b) Objectives:**

The general public will be able to know and understand the systems of government and appreciate the roles and responsibilities of Members of the House of Representatives, the legislative body and meaningfully participate in the development of the Region through their respective Members of the HOR.

##### **c) Program Implementation:**

This program provides for the opportunity to the Key presenters to present and facilitate some important information about the functions of the Parliament and in respect to what they do in their offices and promote accountability and transparency, good governance and other related issues.

*Presenters:* Speaker of the HOR- Hon. Andrew Miriki  
Chairpersons of Parliamentary Committees  
Clerk of the HOR- Mr Robert Tapi  
Parliamentary Committee Secretariat-Mr Moses Havini  
Parliamentary Education Officer- Mr Edwin Kenehata

*Service providers:* New Dawn FM & Radio Bougainville

*Sources/materials:*

1. Members' Weekly Update
2. Parliamentary Fact Sheets-Our Parliament, Roles and Responsibilities of Members, Roles of Parliamentary Committees, Law Making Process, Parliamentary Privileges, Accountability, Constituencies and Elections etc..
3. Member's Constituency Update (Constituency focus)

Air Time: 30 minutes, Wednesdays, 8 .30 p.m. (weekly)

## **2) Youth Parliament Program:**

This program is conducted in order to deepen the young people's understanding of parliamentary democracy. In doing so, young people will "learn by doing" and that is by taking part in youth parliaments or mock parliaments.

### **a) The Bougainville Youth Parliament 2007 and 2010**

The first Bougainville Youth Parliament was conducted in 2007. It involved students from Hutjena Secondary School. It was staged at the Bel Isi Park of Buka Town where it captured the interest of a large crowd who also became the audience to witness the occasion.

The second Bougainville Youth parliament was conducted in the Parliament's Chamber on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March, 2010. The event was organized by the House of Representative to commemorate the year's Commonwealth Day.

Forty-five students of Bishop Wade Tarlena and Hutjena Secondary Schools were selected to participate in the event. It was a one day Mock Parliament

Session whereby students debated a proposed bill and participated in the question time session.

The main aims of both events were for Bougainville to commemorate the Commonwealth Day and also to signify the Bougainville House of Representatives Membership to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) in 2006.

Therefore as a member of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, BHOR is obliged to observe the Commonwealth Day annually and relevant activities such as the youth parliament is used to teach young people to understand how this parliament operates and understand the principles which underpin democracy. The theme for 2010 Commonwealth Day was “Science Technology Culture and Society”.

#### **b) 2011 Youth Forum**

This Bougainville Wide Youth Forum was organized by the Division of Community Development in partnership with UNDP and was held in Arawa Youth Centre on the 29<sup>th</sup> August to 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2011.

The expected outcome of the Forum was to establish consensus on the Youth structures from the COE to the District and Regional Level. The Parliamentary Education Officer contributed meaningfully with a presentation on Youth and Parliament and an establishment of the net working with youths in the region.

#### **c) International Youth Parliament**

International Youth Parliament is another initiative by both Bougainville and the Solomon Islands Parliaments. Youth Parliament is an educational program that is targeted to young people to instil and promote democracy and governance. Young people participate in mock parliament sessions and other related activities such as quiz and essay competition. Selected students from Secondary Schools will travel to Honiara in 2012 to participate in the International youth Parliament. International Youth Parliament was originally planned to be held this year, 2011, however, the postponement was advised to the Solomon Islands Parliament by its Ministry of Youth, Churches and

Community Development which normally hosts this program for some reasons that it will be held in 2012.

#### **d) The Bougainville Youth Parliament Manual (BYP)**

The BYP Manual is a guide intended to assist Teachers and Youth leaders in the Region to help manage Youth Parliament Programs. Currently, there are no resources available in any way to assist on how community youths and also School students can go about conducting Youth Parliament programs. It is now an initiative the Education Section has developed and to promote the principles underpinning democracy thru the conduct of Youth Parliament Program. The manual contains some of the practices and procedures that reflect the Bougainville House of Representatives.

#### **3) Forest for Children- Bougainville Program (FFC):**

This parliament being a member of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association is committed in supporting the United Nations Millennium Development Goal that is to promote the sustainability and management of the environment. This program involves and encourages schools and communities on the activity of reforestation.

**The table below shows the Schools, Communities and Individuals who are part of this program since establishment of the Program in 2008..**

<b>School/Community/individuals</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Year of Membership</b>
<b>Gogohe Primary</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>Lonahan Primary</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>2008</b>
<b>Hantoa Primary</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>2008</b>
<b>Hamatana Primary</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>Inus Community</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>Sohia Family</b>	<b>Family</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>Sokela Community</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>2009</b>

<b>Tarlana STC</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>Suni</b>	<b>Family</b>	<b>2009</b>

### 3) Talks and Visits:

Presentations are provided on request from schools, or community groups, institutions or organizations on parliament and civil related topics, at Parliament House or externally.

#### Summary of Visits Since 2009

Year	Type	Students	Adults	Figures	Total
2009	Parliament Visit & Presentation	572	58	630	630
2010	Parliament Visit & Presentation	207	50	257	887
2011					

### 4) Parliamentary Education Awareness Program:

This program is conducted by a team of Parliamentary Officers targeting communities of different districts covering the whole aspects of the autonomy implementation and governance.

#### a) Aim

Education Awareness Program for the House of Representatives is aimed at promoting the work of the ABG Parliament and creating a better understanding of the functions of the Parliament and the roles and responsibilities of the Members of the House in the communities of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. Programs and services are based on the theme “Bringing Parliament to the People.”





**Balil Primary School Students- Nissan Island**

Parliamentary Education Awareness Programme has been intensively conducted thru out South, Central and North Regions of Bougainville.

Parliamentary Education Awareness also compliments one of the ABG's key principle tasks and that is to conduct "Public Awareness."Therefore it is important to disseminate information on the progress of autonomy, referendum to independence and other major developmental issues such as weapons disposal program etc..

In light of this, Bougainville Parliament has an obligation of taking this Parliament to the People.

And through the Education Section, it has already carried out such program activities and is keen to continue reaching out to the most remote parts of Bougainville to ensure Bougainvilleans are fully aware of the developments that are taking place.

Presentation Content

- 1. Authority and Structure of ABG**
- 2. Bougainville Peace Agreement**
- 3. Composition of the Legislature**

4. **Organizational structure of the Legislature**
5. **Offices and their functions of the Legislature**
6. **Youth Parliament Project**
7. **Supplementary Information:**
  - **Mace**
  - **ABG Flag**
  - **Parliament Complex**

#### **4. One more for more- [The Professional Development Program]**

The Professional Development Program is a new initiative and will need more research, consultation with the Education Division and preparation before being implemented. A need to conduct research involving relevant officers from the Education Division and other stakeholders i.e. community leaders and parents etc and report to the Clerk for approval of the program. This program is planned to initially commence in 2012.



The premise of the Professional Development Program is to focus on delivering information on the parliament and the electoral system to teachers to allow them to incorporate the information into their lesson planning for their students. In Australian parliaments, the Education sections refer to their State or Territory curriculum (soon to be a National curriculum) and develop material that meets the curriculum – an attractive option for teachers.

#### **Conclusion**

The Bougainville House of Representatives acknowledges the support from the Australian Government thru the Twinning Program. The Program has been very fruitful to our Members and Staff enhancement and acquiring of the

necessary knowledge and skills required to develop and progress the Bougainville House of Representatives.

The annual APEC hosted by the NSW Parliament in 2010 and the Queensland Parliament this year is an opportunity for the BHOR Education Section to learn from and share some useful tips that will help in some ways to develop our small jurisdiction and our people in light of the implementation of the Bougainville Peace Agreement.



**Formal signing of the Twinning Agreement between NSW Parliament and the Bougainville House of Representatives in 2010.**