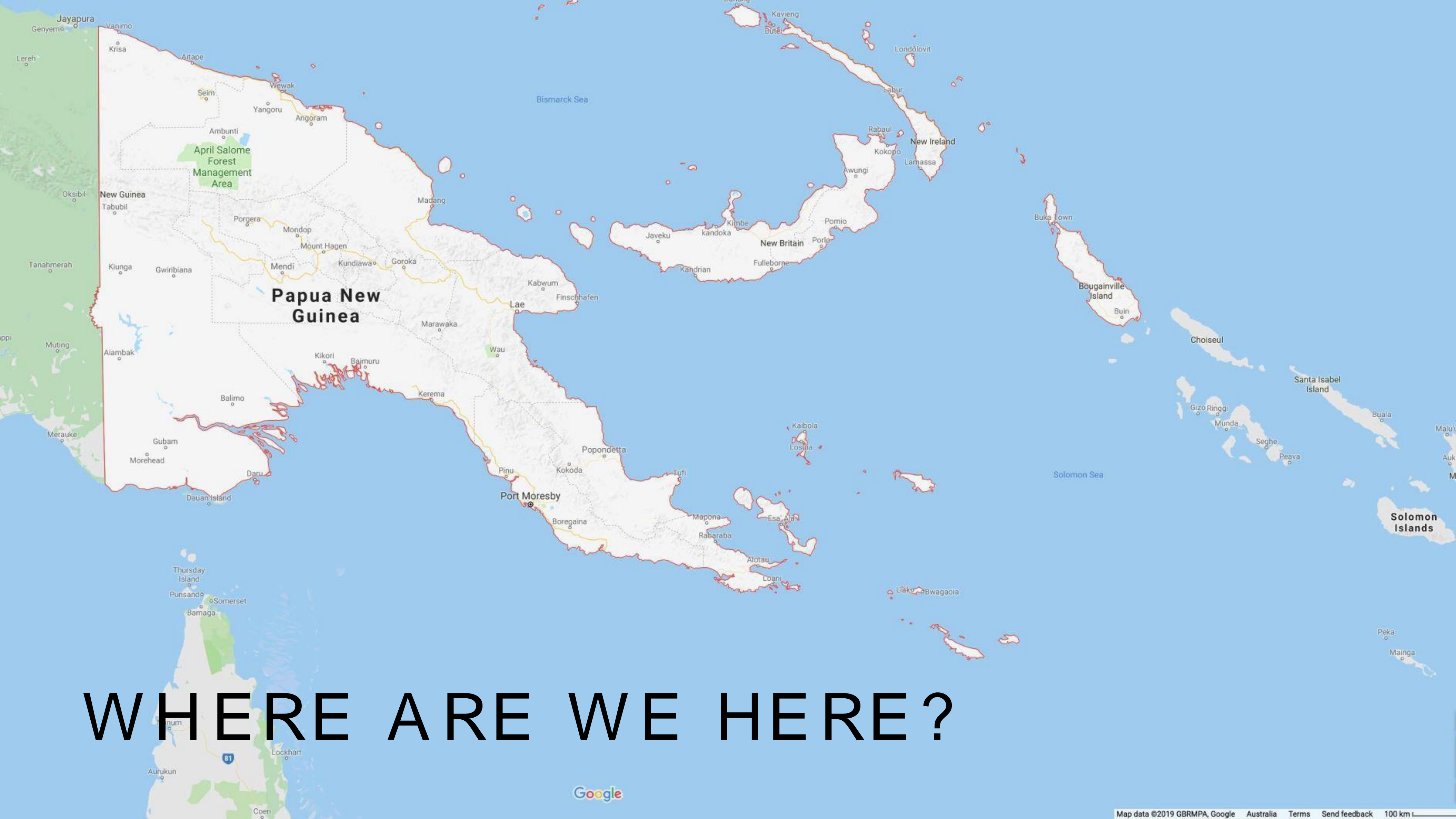




WHAT THE WORLD CAN LEARN FROM POLITICAL DIALOGUE IN BOUGAINVILLE

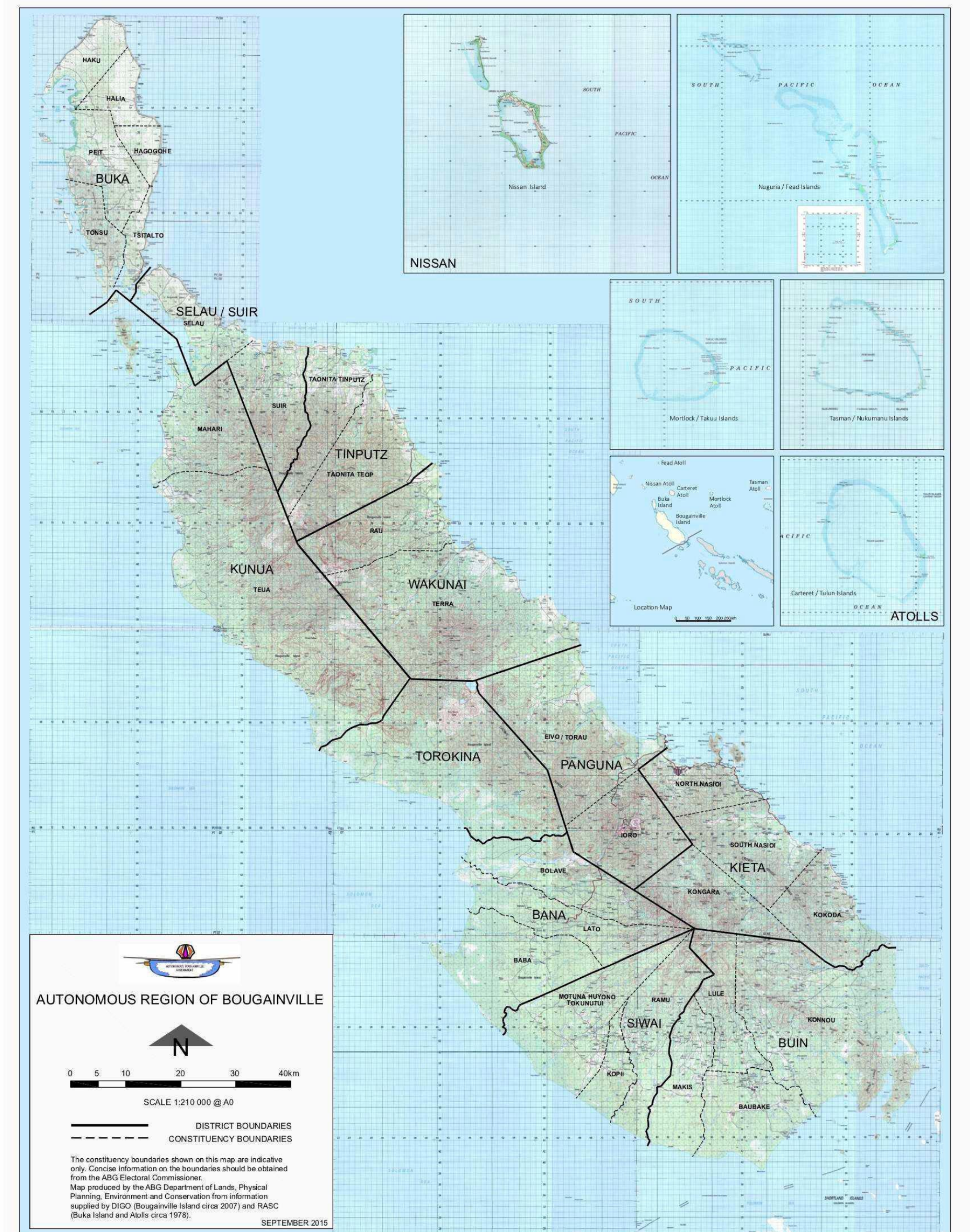
MEDIATING DEMOCRACY



WHERE ARE WE HERE?

BOUGAINVILLE

- Geographically part of Solomon Islands.
- Originally colonised by Germany and then taken over by Australia in WWI.
- Since 1975 politically part of Papua New Guinea.
- Bougainvilleans are ethnically and culturally different from mainland Papua New Guineans.



THE WAR ON BOUGAINVILLE

- For almost a decade (1989 to 1998) Bougainville was the scene of the bloodiest conflict in the South Pacific since the WWII.
- The Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) fought for the separation of Bougainville from PNG. The war broke out after Bougainvilleans sabotaged the Panguna gold and copper mine (run by CRA - today Rio Tinto) in Central Bougainville over unfair distribution of revenue and environmental degradation. PNG sent in their defence force to protect the mine.
- PNG equipped and supported the so-called Resistance against the BRA. This led to an all-out civil war amongst Bougainvilleans. Almost 20,000 people died.






THE PEACE PROCESS


- Comprehensive peace process since 1997.
- Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA) 2001.
- Autonomous Region of Bougainville with its own constitution.
- Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) elections in 2005, 2010, 2015 and 2020.
- Draw-down of powers from PNG National Government to ABG from 2005 to today.
- Referendum on Bougainville's future political status in November 2019.



THE REFERENDUM

- All Bougainvilleans 18 years and over could vote.
- Outcome declared on 11 December 2019: 97.7% vote for independence.
- Non-binding. The final ratification lies with the PNG Parliament.
- Transition period after the declaration of the outcome. Aim to put a negotiated agreement to the PNG parliament in 2022.

2019 BOUGAINVILLE REFERENDUM

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2019 BOUGAINVILLE REFERENDUM
BALLOT PAPER

Preamble

The outcome of the referendum on the future political status of Bougainville, will be discussed by both Governments (the GoPNG and ABG), and will be presented to the National Parliament for final decision making in accordance with the Bougainville Peace Agreement and the National Constitution.

Question in English: *(Put X in the box)* Askim long Tok-pisin: *(Putim X insait long box)*

Do you agree for Bougainville to have: You wanbel long Bougainville kisim:

1. Greater Autonomy Bikpela pawa long Atonomi

2. Independence Indipendens

Referendum process is:

1. Eligible people of Bougainville will vote in this referendum
2. National Government and the ABG will consult
3. National Parliament decides on the outcome of the referendum

AUTHORISED BY JOINT SUPERVISORY BODY

THE 2020 ELECTIONS AND THE FUTURE

- September 2020 first post-referendum elections in Bougainville. Ishmael Toroama, a former BRA commander, is elected President.
- More than 70% of the Members of the House of Representatives (HoR) are new members.
- 4 women elected to HoR, one of them in the open seat of Ioro (in Panguna).
- Key pillars: independence, fighting corruption and improving law and order.
- Currently ABG and GoPNG are discussing the transition process.

