

Bougainville Referendum Support Project

Project Board Meeting

27 July 2018

Minutes of Meeting

Venue: PNGEC

Attendees:

PNGEC: Commissioner Patilias Gamato

OBEC: Commissioner George Manu

GoPNG: Deputy Secretary John Punde, Oroqkor Inerehu (DFA),

ABG: Chief Secretary Joseph Nobetau

UN/UNDP: Gianluca Rampolla, Tracy Vienings, Gianpiero Catozzi, Julie Bukikun, Ray Kennedy

IFES: Robert Irish

NZHC: Hon. Sue Mackwell

AusHC: Alistair McEachern

EU: Rudie Filon

Japan: Shunsuke Saito

UK: Simon Burton

France: Yauka Liria

Agenda Items:

1. Presentation of updated Project Document by Mr. Catozzi, Senior Electoral Advisor, UNDP/Brussels
 2. Discussion
 3. AOB
-

Minutes and key actions:

- **Updated Project Document**
 - The revised project budget of approximately US\$5 million includes some level of support for almost every aspect of the referendum.
 - IFES will continue to provide much of the technical assistance, substantially reducing the need for BRSP to provide technical assistance.
 - The two governments are expected to fund the general running costs of the BRC (HQ management, full-time field staff).
 - [Rampolla] The team came to fulfill EU requirements and verified that some of the basic assumptions of the original project document had not held, leading to a need to revise the budget.
 - [Gamato] The original BRC TC estimates had included other activities beyond referendum implementation. Expressed appreciation for UN assistance in refining the understanding of what would be required for the

referendum. Need to look at the costs for registration and voting of Bougainvilleans outside Bougainville. Working with NCOBA to prepare 2019 budget submission. Both governments will need to support the BRC Board and Secretariat. Commissioners are working to identify secondees to BRC Secretariat. BRC Trust Account is being operationalized.

- [Manu] OBEC and the Bougainville Public Service have seconded staff. Office space is still problematic; looking at temporary space adjacent to UNDP/Buka. Have printed the 2015 ABG voter roll with IFES assistance and have trained ward recorders and are now proceeding to verification of the roll with resources from the ABG contribution with agreement of Commissioner Gamato and Chief Secretary Nobetau.
 - [Rampolla] Revised BRSP budget is for twelve months; any delay in the referendum would require the budget to be revised.
 - [Manu] Both governments must firmly commit their own funds to the process.
 - [Gamato] UN to assist in developing conceptual compensation package for the Chair.
 - [Rampolla] Irish government has signaled intent to fund the Chair.
 - [McEachern] Australia appreciates UNDP's work in clarifying requirements.
 - [Mackwell] It is good to see a more realistic budget. NZ is not in a position to endorse the new budget today; will review to ensure their concerns are addressed and report to Wellington.
 - [Irish] IFES is committed to working with UNDP and others to move the process forward.
 - [Rampolla] There is no change in priorities – just better focused. UK and Korea have recently expressed interest. PNG Foreign Affairs is generating letters requesting support from potential donors. Still have to resolve contract modality and funding for Chair.
 - [Mackwell] Will the cost of the Chief Referendum Officer be covered by the ABG?
 - [Nobetau] CRO will be covered by both governments.
 - [Irish] IFES expects a national CRO to replace Oliver Green in due course.
- **Recommendation for the Project Board**
 - Seeking endorsement of the revised Project Document to facilitate resource mobilization so that implementation can proceed and not obstruct a timely referendum.
 - [Catozzi] Once the budget is endorsed, a new narrative will be generated.
 - [Mackwell] NZHC will provide feedback following receipt of guidance from Wellington.
 - [Rampolla] This will be a budget revision, not requiring new signatures from both governments.
 - [BRC TC, all four members being present] BRC TC endorses the revised budget.
 - **Next meeting**
 - No date was set for the next meeting.

Wienings
Tray Wienings
DRR - UNDP
