



## **THE HONIARA DECLARATION**

**23 January 1991**

### **On Peace, Reconciliation and Rehabilitation on Bougainville**

1. Further to the Endeavour Accord signed on 5 August 1990 concerning dialogue and return of services to Bougainville, a meeting comprising representatives from the Papua New Guinea National Government led by the Right Honourable Sir Michael Somare and Mr. Joseph Kabui from Bougainville was held in Honiara from 22-23 January, 1991 at the initiative and auspices of the Solomon Islands Government and the Solomon Islands Christian Association (SICA) to review and formulate a common strategy and programmes for the implementation of restoration of services to enhance Peace, Reconciliation and Rehabilitation on Bougainville.
2. Other Ministers included on the National Government side were Honourable Bernard Narakobi, Honourable Bennis Sabumei, and Honourable Fr. John Momis. On the Bougainville side were Mr. Ken Savia, Bishop John Zale, Pastor Jeffrey Pau, Mr. Patrick Itta, Mr. James Sinko, Mr. Philip Takaung, Mr. Raphael Bele, MP and Mr. Peter Kunga, MP.
3. Observers from the Solomon Islands Government and the South Pacific Council of Churches (SPCC) and Solomon Islands Christian Associations (SICA) were also present at the Talks.
4. The two delegates expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and the people of Solomon Islands for their generous hospitality and excellent facilities for the meeting. They also thanked the Chairman of SICA, Bishop Lesley Beseto for his role as Mediator for the Talks.
5. The two delegates welcomed the opportunity for their continuing face-to-face dialogues and committed to searching for a lasting peaceful solution of the Bougainville crisis. Declared on the following principles and arrangements.



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## PRINCIPLES

6. We desire peace and reconciliation with each other and with our Heavenly Father.

We take a joint responsibility to restrain from the use of weapons and arms to help us to create an environment of peace and harmony as well as a precondition to justice and peace.

We agree to defer discussions on the future political status of Bougainville and have further agreed to embark upon a joint programme of Peace, Reconciliation, and Rehabilitation, within the current constitutional framework of the Nation of Papua New Guinea.

We reject violence and seek meaningful consultation as a means of solving the crisis, and deeply mourn the loss of lives and destruction to properties, and trust in the common fatherhood of God and resolve to find lasting justice, peace and security on the Island of Bougainville.

We recognise the importance of establishing legal and representative authority in Bougainville to assist in returning the land to normalcy.

We recognise the constitutional role of the Papua New Guinea Defence Force.

We agree to accept external assistance including a Multinational Supervisory Team (MST) to contribute to the implementation of this programme under the framework determined in this Declaration.

We commit ourselves to the welfare and security of all individuals and organisations who participate in this Programme.

We endorse maximum Bougainvillean involvement in the implementation of this Programme.

### **Definition of 'Programme'**

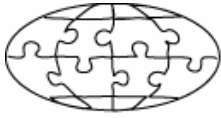
7. The 'programme' in this Declaration means the Package of phased arrangements for the restoration of services on Bougainville including:

#### Phase I

- i) Peace and Restoration.
- ii) Lifting of the Blockade.
- iii) Establishment of Task Force.
- iv) Establishment of Interim Legal Authority.

#### Phase II

- i) Restoration of Services.
- ii) Rehabilitation Programme including maintenance and reconstruction; and other associated activities determined by the Legal Authority in Bougainville in accordance with this Declaration;
- iii) Future negotiations.



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## **Task Force Membership**

8. In order to facilitate the execution of this Programme, we agree to hereby establish a Task Force which shall consist of representatives appointed by the National Minister for Provincial Affairs, in consultation with an Interim Legal Authority.

## **Terms of Reference**

9. We agree that the terms of reference for the Task Force shall include:

- i) Planning, Co-ordination and implementation of this Programme;
- ii) Monitoring and supervision of this Programme;
- iii) Investigate and determine the scope and components of the project under this Programme;
- iv) Investigate, mobilise and secure all financial avenues at its disposal to finance this Programme;
- v) Develop a detailed timetable to implement this Programme, which must be submitted to the Minister for Provincial Affairs for final approval as soon as practicable following their appointments;
- vi) The Task Force shall report to the Legal Authority in Bougainville;
- vii) Furnish monthly reports or otherwise as directed by the Legal Authority in Bougainville; and
- viii) Undertake other responsibilities as directed by the Legal Authority in Bougainville to implement this Programme.

## **Obligations and Responsibilities**

10. Parties agreed to take the following actions:

### **National Government**

- i) Grant amnesty and immunity from prosecutions to the members of BRA and BLF in accordance with legal and constitutional requirements of Papua New Guinea.
- ii) Organise a multinational supervisory team to participate in this Programme.
- iv) Commit and disburse funds to the Programme under its normal budgetary allocations.
- v) Allow and facilitate non-government agencies, including Churches and Community groups, to contribute towards the successful implementation of this programme.
- vi) Resume all government services including public and statutory administration, law and order and justice.



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## **Bougainville Side**

- i) Disarm the BRA, BLF and their associated militant activities, including the surrender and destruction of arms under the supervision of the Multinational Supervisory Team.
- ii) Release of all detainees held as a consequence of the conflict.
- iii) Guarantee the safety and welfare of the members of the Multinational Supervisory Team.
- iv) Assist the Task Force and the Legal Authority in Bougainville to expand funds towards effective implementation of projects to be developed under this programme.
- v) Receive and facilitate non-governmental agencies, including churches and community groups to contribute towards the successful implementation of this programme.
- vi) Provide conditions and environment conducive for the restoration of services under this programme.

## **Programme Schedule**

11. We agree that the following Time Schedule shall be adopted to implement this Programme from the signing of this Declaration:

- i) One (1) week to one (1) month - establishment of the Task Force and the assembling of the MSD.
- ii) Between one (1) month to six (6) months project identification and resource mobilisation.
- iii) Eighteen (18) to thirty-six (36) months completion of Programme, abolition of the Task Force, return to normalcy.

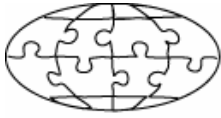
## **Review and Consultations**

12. We agree that this Declaration shall be reviewed at least on a six (6) monthly interval until the conclusion of the Programme in accordance with the programme schedule.

13. Notwithstanding the foregoing paragraph, the National Minister for Provincial Affairs may request a review either independently or on advice of the legal authority or the Task Force.

14. The programme under this Declaration does not, for the time being, include the programme of restoration of services undertaken by the National Government on Buka and adjacent islands.

15. The National Minister for Provincial Affairs shall determine and reconcile the relationships between these two programs on advice from the legal authority in Bougainville.



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## **Dispute Settlement**

16. We agree to resolve any dispute including conflict or misunderstanding arising from the Programme under this Declaration through consultation and dialogue.

17. Where resolution of disputes cannot be reached, each party may recommend arbitrators for approval by the other. When appointed, the arbitrators shall work towards resolving any such conflict and misunderstanding.

## **Termination**

18. This Declaration shall be terminated upon completion of this Programme or by one Party when acts of sabotage or similar action inconsistent with the spirit and letter of the Declaration is taken by the other.

Declared at Honiara this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January 1991.

## **SIGNED BY:**

*Sir Michael SOMARE, GCMG, CH, MP*  
*Leader of PNG Delegation*

*Joseph KABUI*  
*Leader of Bougainville Delegation*

## **WITNESSED BY:**

*Bernard NARAKOBE, MP*

*Fr. John MOMIS, MP*

*Bennis SABUMEI MP*

*Bishop ZALE*

*Patrick ITTA*

*James SINKO*