

# BOUGAINVILLE YOUTH *Policy* 2024 - 2028



"Creating an Educated, Healthy, High Income and Sovereign Bougainville Through Empowering The Young Generation"



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**Acronyms /Abbreviations**

ABG	Autonomous Bougainville Government
AROB	Autonomous Region of Bougainville
ABSF	Autonomous Bougainville Sports Federation
BACTA	Bougainville Arts Culture and Tourism Authority
BEC	Bougainville Executive Council
BPA	Bougainville Peace Agreement
BYDP	Bougainville Youth Development Policy
BYF	Bougainville Youth Federation
CG	Community Government
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DCD	Department of Community Development
DCTED	Department of Commerce Trade and Economic Development
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Australian High Commission)
DOE	Department of Education
DOH	Department of Health
DPMAS	Department of Personnel Management and Administrative Services
DPI	Department of Primary Industries
DYA	District Youth Association
INGOs	International Non-Government Organizations
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MTDP III	Medium Term Development Plan III
NGOs	Non-Government Organizations
NYDA	National Youth Development Authority
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UYA	Urban Youth Association

## **Foreword by the Minister for Community Development**



The continuous progress of Bougainville towards its determined political future depends on the full involvement, participation, and contributions of our young people in advancing development priorities at all levels.

Youth development work in Bougainville has remained a major challenge that has been pursued at varying levels through different approaches across different sectors. Government and Non-Government Organizations, including our key Development Partners, and the Civil Society, have been playing vital roles in creating viable spaces and opportunities for youths to be utilized more as resources and development platforms than subjects of social problems or liabilities in nation building priorities. However, considering current contexts of Bougainville's advancements towards achieving self-determination, youths deserve to be accorded more attention.

The Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) Ministry and Department of Community Development (DCD) have a mandate for the delivery of Youth development and empowerment programs and services in AROB. A major trajectory for the realization of the priorities of this mandate is the development of policies as strategic road maps to guide the implementation of required youth programs aimed at empowering and supporting young Bougainvilleans to be helpful and proactive in taking ownership of current changes and contribute collectively towards development objectives pertaining to nation building within the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (AROB).

AROB developed its first Youth Policy (2012 – 2017) in 2012 with key priority areas that clearly responded to the issues and hardships faced by youths during the Bougainville Crisis (1988 – 1998). This included the provision of services focusing on improving living standards and quality of the life of youths; access to better education, health, justice, and information and livelihood services, while also promoting their identities considering the Bougainville Peace building and restoration processes.

This reviewed policy takes a further step forward from the previous policy through significant policy shifts that focus on Youths in Bougainville as untapped resources with the potential to influence decision making at the political level and across all sectors to foster the efforts of realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Bougainville.

Furthermore, through its key strategies and key policy areas, this policy recognizes that youths represent about 60%<sup>1</sup> of Bougainville's total population and calls for a whole of stakeholder and government approach towards its implementation in ensuring wider youth involvement and participation in the planning, design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of all development programs. This will also call for strengthening and improving youth networks and partnerships through setting effective and measurable administrative and coordination structures that tie youth development work – including required obligations and responsibilities down to the community government ward levels.

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<sup>1</sup> This figure was obtained from the 2011 National Census records.



The policy also recognizes the provisions of existing regional, national, and international legal and planning frameworks (including the Bougainville Constitution, the Sharp Agreement, the Bougainville Integrated Development Plan, the National Youth Development Act, the National Development Strategic Plan, the Medium-Term Development Plans, the PNG Vision 2050 and other international policies and strategies) that provide for guiding and advancing youth development work at all levels.

As the ABG Minister responsible for Community Development, I am very grateful for the contributions made by youths as the target beneficiaries, development partners, stakeholders, and communities towards the successful review of this policy.

We must appreciate and accept that this policy sets out a strategic road map for Bougainville in achieving our major development agendas (including the drawdown of remaining s.290 powers on youth and home affairs) that focus on improving, nurturing, and promoting the quality of the life of our young generation in Bougainville.



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**Hon. Morris Opeti (MHR)**  
**Minister for Community Development**

## **Secretary's Statement**



Youth development and empowerment work is one of the core mandated responsibilities of the ABG Department of Community Development that has been implemented at various levels through partnership with key ABG Organizations, Development Partners, stakeholders, and Youths, through their representative Organizations.

This reviewed policy responds to a need for improving and strengthening the level of advocacy on the rights of our young people to be recognized and utilized as resources for achieving Bougainville's transitional development priorities. The policy follows and builds on from the preceding Policy. It provides a strategic direction that sets out new paradigm shifts, and key policy areas aimed at elevating and changing our previous perspectives on youths and our contributions towards creating spaces for wider youth involvement and participation in advancing development agendas.

While aligning itself with ABG's priorities for nation building, the policy also seeks to acknowledge that youths represent about 60% (ibid) of the total population of Bougainville and therefore, calls for more collaborative efforts towards the provision of more targeted service delivery for improving and strengthening Youth Development work in Bougainville.

As the Secretary responsible for Community Development, I am very grateful for the contributions of our key Development Partners, Government Organizations, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), communities and youth as the target beneficiaries, for providing valuable inputs towards the successful completion of the review of this policy.

I must declare that this policy is an accurate reflection of the interests of our youth and the issues they face (as expressed during the policy consultations) in coping with current transitional trajectories. It supports the ABG's current development goals and offers a simplified pathway for embracing future priorities on empowering our young people as resources and platforms for nation-building.

I must also note that the current progress of Bougainville requires collaborative efforts for involving our young people in all development initiatives by setting appropriate and more coordinated strategies and avenues through which they can embrace wider opportunities for increased participation and involvement at all levels.

The ABG DCD will ensure support from all organizations – including the government, Non-Government Organizations, Civil Society, other key stakeholders and our development partners through improved and effective working partnerships towards realizing the key priorities of this policy.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Medley Koito', written in a cursive style.

**Mr. Medley Koito**  
**Secretary (ABG Department of Community Development)**

## **Acknowledgements**

The ABG Department for Community Development commends the cooperation, partnership and contributions of all its stakeholders, including government agencies, communities and community organizations, Non-Government Organizations, Civil Societies and development partners in providing valuable inputs in the review process of this policy. Without their cooperation, partnership and contributions, the policy process would have been unsuccessful.

Special acknowledgement is extended to the Bougainville Youth Federation (BYF) Executives of 2019 – 2023. They were very instrumental in mobilizing youths and communities for the duration of the policy consultations, drafting and validation processes.

Special acknowledgement is also extended to UNFPA and DFAT, for starting the policy process and setting the pathway through which the objectives of the review process of the policy was fully realized. Their ongoing partnership with the ABG DCD is expected to further contribute towards the implementation of this policy.



**Figure 1. Youths participating at the Bougainville Voice X-plosion Program - 2023**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Youth Development in Bougainville continues to be a major priority for the government and its development partners. Especially since youth now represent 60% of the total population of Bougainville. Successful socio-economic development in Bougainville will require the active involvement and participation of youths in all development programs at all levels in Bougainville.

Youth work cannot remain the sole obligation of the Department for Community Development. Youths must be supported and empowered through collaborative efforts across all levels, including the Public and Private Sectors, the Civil Society, NGOs, INGOs, donors and development partners. This will strengthen and empower them to contribute meaningfully to the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all youth development programs in Bougainville. This will require several paradigm and policy shifts. These policy or paradigm shifts are informed by experiences and lessons that have been identified by the youths of Bougainville over the years in relation to how youth development programs are designed, distributed and implemented through existing youth networks, and the extent to which these programs are benefiting them in Bougainville.

Youths have felt that the previous policy developed and implemented between 2012 and 2017 had little impact in driving youth development priorities in Bougainville. Youths had limited spaces in taking ownership of the policy and how it had involved them in designing, directing and implementing Youth Development plans and programs in Bougainville.

In fact, the preceding policy recognized and responded to major issues and challenges that were faced by youths of Bougainville during and after the Bougainville Crisis (1989 – 2001). Thus, its major focus areas on Reconciliation, Rehabilitation, Restoration and Reconstruction, with respect to the changes influenced by global and regional environment (Autonomous Bougainville Youth Policy, 2012 – 2017: 1) has provided the pathway and laid the foundation of the review process of this policy.

The paradigm shifts this policy embraces and advances are based on the challenges and issues expressed by the youths in implementing the preceding policy and the processes that underpin its development and review. These paradigms shifts are as follows:

- i. **The first paradigm** shift is from youth being considered an “*issue*” or a “*problem*” that government and development partners are obliged to try and find the time and financial resources to cater for; to that of youth being an “*untapped resource*” that if successfully tapped into and empowered, will contribute tremendously to Bougainville’s socio-economic goals and aspirations.
- ii. **The second paradigm shift is from this youth policy being a “*governance policy*”, to it being a “*Development policy*.”** “There are some governance objectives and activities like the establishment of a central coordination framework to centrally coordinate youth work in Bougainville. However, the bulk of this policy is developmental in nature.
- iii. **The third shift follows this vein; where it is proposed that Youth be considered a “*Cross-cutting opportunity*” rather than a “*cross-cutting issue*.”** “This shift highlights



that youth development is a shared responsibility and while central coordination may sit with Community Development, all government agencies, development partners and NGOs must articulate how they will contribute to youth development from the parameters of their respective mandates.

- iv. **The fourth shift is for youth themselves to be equal partners in youth development programs.** This will be achieved through a strong and functioning Bougainville Youth Federation and District Youth Associations. This policy sets the tone by targeting the youth at the outset. This policy is written for youth in addition to government and other development partners.
- v. **The fifth paradigm shift is a shift in the minds of the youth though this shift is also required in the minds of all stakeholders.** This is a shift in ownership for the situation they are in and ownership for the development and implementation of solutions. To date the popular language used by youth when addressing government and/or development partners regarding the issues, challenges or problems they currently face is demonstrated by a statement like:

*“Displa em olgeta problems, issues na challenges mipla wok lo lukim na facim tude insaid lo ol komuniti blo mipla. Yupla nau (looking at and sometimes pointing to government officers and development partners) nid lo painim wei lo stretim olgeta displa samting.”*

Translation:

” These are all the problems; issues and challenges we are facing in our communities today. You (while looking at and sometimes pointing to government officers and development partners) need to find a way to solve these problems.”

In addition to these paradigm shifts, this policy embraces, two simple conceptual frameworks to help guide all youth development work across all sectors in Bougainville. These frameworks enable programs to be designed that increase youth participation and involvement in taking ownership of the desired priorities and outcomes of this policy.

This policy has established its legal mandate and clearly listed its guiding principles and values. It has listed the legal rights, obligations, and responsibilities of all Bougainvilleans as stipulated in the Constitution of Bougainville. It has also established its foundation on Bougainvillean Identities that gives a sense of belonging and respect for our cultural heritage.

It acknowledges that the progress of youths in Bougainville requires; clear direction; strong and confident leadership; deliberate and assertive decision making by the Department for Community Development (DCD) as the lead government agency responsible for youth development work in Bougainville. Most actions identified in the Key Result Areas fall under the mandate and leadership of DCD. Most will require collaboration between DCD, Development Partners, key stakeholders, and youth themselves.

## **1. VISION AND MISSION**

### **1.1.Vision Statement**

This vision statement is an amalgamation of statements, comments and opinions expressed by youth during the youth policy review consultation workshops throughout Bougainville in November 2019.

*“As youth, our vision is that; youth in Bougainville participate as equal, respected, competent, professional and economic partners in all youth governance and development programs in Bougainville including political and administrative processes at all levels across all sectors.”*

*And that;*

*“Youth as individuals are healthy, of sound mind and attitude, with a strong sense of identity and deep respect for their families, communities and traditional customs. That youth as individuals possess a clear sense of direction in life guided by a strong moral, ethical and spiritual compass.*

### **1.2.Mission Statement**

The Mission of the Bougainville Youth Development Policy is: *“to create an environment that will ensure that young men and women in Bougainville grow up to be empowered, educated, self-reliant, and prosper in contributing towards nation building objectives with a sense of belonging and worth, and are enabled to participate fully in the social, cultural and economic development of Bougainville.”*



*Figure 2. Youth Knowledge Exchange Program – Field Trip (Buin District)*





## **2. INTRODUCTION**

### **2.1. Policy Process**

Bougainville formulated its first Youth Policy in 1983 – then North Solomon Province. This policy provided the direction and guidance for youth development work in the province with focus on mobilization, participation and productiveness of young people (Bougainville Youth Policy, 2012 – 2017; 1). However, the prioritized processes of continuing and maintaining this policy process were widely disrupted and eventually halted by the ten (10) – year Civil War that costed the life of more than twenty thousand (20, 000) Bougainvilleans.

About five (5) years after the signing of the Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA) in 2001, and the formation of the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) in 2005, the need for a policy direction to direct, resituate and recognize the position and aspirations of our youths was prioritized by the ABG and key stakeholders, including the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). This led to the development and formulation of the first ABG Youth Policy in 2010 and 2012. Nevertheless, the policy process begun in 2006 and 2007 with region wide Youth Review Surveys conducted throughout Bougainville. Working papers based on the data obtained from this Survey were produced between 2008 and 2009 which set the basis of the Bougainville Youth Policy of 2012 - 2017. The major key policy areas and the directives of this policy (2012 – 2017) provided the framework for its review process that begun in 2019.

In 2019, an external policy consultant was engaged through collaborations between the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the ABG Department of Community Development (DCD). The review process of the existing policy of 2012 -2017 was undertaken through this consultant with policy review consultations conducted throughout Bougainville. Youth leaders and representatives from the Bougainville Youth Federation (BYF) and District Youth Associations, affiliated youth groups<sup>2</sup> and key stakeholders participated in providing valuable inputs and data through these consultations. A draft policy was drafted towards the end of 2019 and validated with the same stakeholders at the beginning of 2020.

The validated policy, however, lacked an action plan to direct the implementation of its Key Policy areas and strategies. Hence, the policy was shelved for further deliberations with UNFPA. In 2021, in consultation with the UNFPA, the ABG DCD revised the policy content and developed the policy action plan internally. In mid-2022, a draft policy, with an action plan, was submitted to seek the approval of the Department Secretary for a final validation. A final validation workshop was then conducted in August 2022 with the executives and representatives of BYF, DYAs and Affiliated Youth Groups.

Through the validation workshop of the final draft of 2022, youths expressed their concerns over the policy being not specific on issues they raised during the initial review consultation of 2019. Their concerns were documented and used to validate the draft policy with its action plan.

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<sup>2</sup> Youth groups that are affiliated with the BYF.



## **2.2. Need for a Youth Policy**

The completion of the review process of the current Bougainville Youth Development Policy (BYDP) is timely and supports the ABG’s transitional development priorities for full draw down of the remaining 290 powers through effective development of policies and legislations, as stipulated in the Sharp Agreement (May 2021) and the Era Kone Covenant (April 2022).

According to current population records (estimated) youth represent up to 60% of Bougainville’s population. It is critical that this segment of the population has an updated policy to guide its progress, development and contribution to overall development goals as Bougainville prepares for gaining Self-determination in these transitional times between 2022 and 2027.

In order to fulfil the need for an updated youth policy, this policy document has been reviewed, validated and written to be brief, readable and as succinct as possible. It is not intended to be a bulky government policy document. Rather, it is intended to be easy to read and to flow logically from Conceptual Frameworks through to Principles and Values and finally Key Policy Areas. It is also intended to build upon the foundation set by the previous policy while at the same time serving to establish a stronger foundation for future youth policies.

## **2.3. Rationale/ Purpose of the Policy**

The BYP is a framework for youth development in Bougainville. It seeks to ensure that all young people are given equal opportunity to reach their full potential. The BYP addresses the major concerns and issues critical to young men and women and their development. The policy provides guidelines for the development of youth programs and initiatives by government and NGOs, key stakeholders in development, donors and development partners.

Hence, the purpose of this policy is three-fold. Firstly, to articulate the new paradigm of youth and their role in nation building in Bougainville in the context of current development priorities of Bougainville. Secondly, the policy is to function as a guide to legislative reform and program formulation and implementation. Finally, to guide the expectations of the ABG in terms of strengthening partnership and acceptable conduct of all stakeholders through provision of required youth development and empowerment services in the youth development space.

## **2.4. Conceptual Framework**

This policy is guided by two conceptual frameworks. The first conceptual frame work is that of “*Roger Hart’s Ladder of Youth Participation*”. The second is “*The 6 Cs of Positive Youth Development*”. These frameworks when used in concert will contribute to the full realization of the objectives of this policy; youth in nation building.

### **2.4.1. Roger Hart’s Ladder of Youth Participation.**

Roger Hart proposes seven progressive stages of youth participation ranging from “*Manipulation*” and “*Decoration*” at the lower end through to “*Youth Initiated and Directed Leadership*”, and “*Youth Initiated Shared Decisions with Adults*”.

This framework enables youth and development partners to assess progress of youth participation beginning with manipulation through to independence and then interdependence with adults.



Based on this framework the long-term vision for youth in Bougainville will be at rung 7 and 8. At this rung, some programs and projects can be 100% youth-initiated and youth-led. Programs, projects and activities will require collaboration from youth and adults functioning as equal partners. This occurs at rung 8.

This framework also enables an assessment of the current situation. Based on conversations with youth and other stakeholders, youth in Bougainville appear to be on all of the first five rungs. Comments made in the youth policy review consultations like “*Ol save kurungutim mipla*

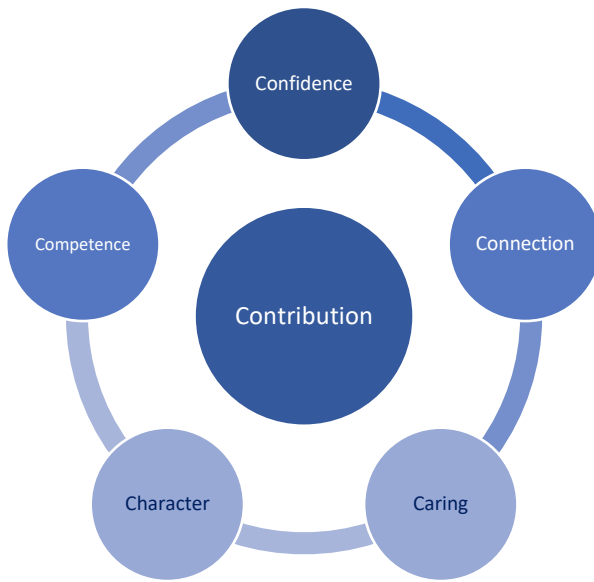
*tasol*” (They just step all over us) and “*Ol save usim mipla olsem paswed blo givim access igo lo komities blong mipla*” (They use us like a password to gain access for their programs and activities in our communities) reinforce this notion.

This current situation is based on the fact that different programs and activities require different levels of involvement and input of youth. This and the absence of clarity that a framework like Harts model provides means programs may be designed by different implementing partners without a shared goal in mind. This situation differs between the regions. While not ideal, the current situation is understandable, as the absence of a framework like Hart’s Ladder, meant clear goals for participation were not adequately articulated in youth development programs or activities, nor were clear targets set. The use of Hart’s ladder of youth participation enables clear targets to be set and ongoing assessments to be made.

#### 2.4.2. The 6 Cs of Positive Youth Development.

**The second conceptual framework follows the 6 Cs of Positive Youth Development.** Positive youth development seeks to frame youth development by describing the positive and desired characteristics rather than describing the undesirable characteristics as is often the case. When the first 5 Cs are in place, the 6th C of “Contribution” is said to be possible.

The 6Cs framework enables youth development programs to be targeted and balanced in order for the youth to eventually produce more of the 6th C, contribution.



This policy ensures that all youth development activities must clearly articulate how they contribute to one of the first 5 Cs and how these in turn contribute to the achievement of the 6<sup>th</sup> C. Compliance with this requirement will enable youth in Bougainville to progress up Hart's ladder of youth participation beginning at the 4<sup>th</sup> rung and will eliminate the first three rungs from existence.

## 2.5. Objectives of this Youth Development Policy.

This policy seeks to be a development policy rather than just a governance policy. This policy will therefore be called the Bougainville Youth Development Policy 2022 – 2028. This policy also seeks to lay the foundation for youth to eventually be active players and full partners in nation building. This policy seeks to achieve nine (9) objectives that will inform its implementation processes. These objectives are to:

**2.5.1. Establish and operationalize a Central Research and Database System.** An established and functional research and central database system will enable effective planning and design of appropriate Youth Development programs based on specific needs of the Youths in Bougainville. This will provide for the collection of realistic/ evidence-based data reflecting the needs of Youths and the life conditions they experience and live in. The research and central database system will be managed by the BYF, under the ABG DCD, through an established body, the Bougainville Youth Development Secretariat (BYDS). The BYDC, in consultation with the BYF and the ABG DCD, will ensure that all youth development data, obtained through research and stored or processed, under their mandates are accessible by all key stakeholders, donors and development partners involved in youth development work in Bougainville. To realize this, this policy calls for the BYF to work in close consultation with the ABG DCD to develop research plans, including methodologies and tools, including the creation of an electronic database system, that will provide for effective storage and dissemination of all youth development information across all sectors.

**2.5.2. Establish and Formalize a Central Coordination Mechanism.** A formalized and strengthened central coordination approach will enable greater control, coordination, verification, and alignment of programs. This will call for the establishment of the Bougainville Youth Development Coordination Committee (BYCC), which will function directly under the ABG DCD, BYF and the BYDS. The BYCC will be comprised of chairpersons of all DYAs and affiliated youth groups. The ABG DCD, as the mandated

government agency, responsible for youth development in Bougainville, will oversee the functions of all youth establishments and programs through its mandated representative body, the BYF. The BYF will operate directly under the ABG DCD – fully capacitated – with a new administrative structure that will strengthen the efforts of coordinating required youth development programs or activities that are designed and implemented in partnership with government organizations, NGOs/ INGOs key development partners and other stakeholders throughout Bougainville.

This policy directs the BYF to play a vital role in ensuring that all youth development and empowerment programs must be vetted under the ABG DCD and facilitated through the BYF structure down to the DYAs and other affiliated youth groups. This means that any youth development programs designed, facilitated or implemented with any DYAs, without prior consultations with the ABG DCD and/ or the BYF, will be seen and interpreted as a breach of trust and confidence of the youth, as directed under this policy.

Monitoring and evaluation processes of all youth programs designed and implemented will be further strengthened through this strengthened coordination of all youth programs at all levels.

- 2.5.3. Formalize and Strengthen Youth Representation.** Youth representation needs to be strengthened at all levels of government and society through mainstreaming youth advocacy programs across all sectors in Bougainville. The given population figure of youth in Bougainville justifies the need for strengthened collaborative efforts for ensuring greater representation, voice and visibility. To achieve this, youth leaders at all levels but more specifically youth leaders in the BYF and DYAs, need to be appropriately qualified, experienced, competent and endowed with a respectful, positive and healthy attitude.
- 2.5.4. Position Youth as a Resource.** This objective of the policy calls for the provision of essential youth capacity building or skills training programs to ensure youths are equipped with needed skills and knowledge to be recognized and positioned as significant resources for achieving development and nation building priorities. This objective has to be achieved in the minds of all stakeholders in the youth development space. In government organizations, in donors, development partners, INGOs, NGOs, CBOs, in the communities at large and among the youth themselves in general; but more specifically in the youth leaders of the Bougainville Youth Federation and District Youth Associations.
- 2.5.5. Build A Strong Youth Foundation.** The fifth objective is to build a foundation for full participation of youth in nation building. This includes political representation, participation in decision making, and participation in design, planning and implementation of youth development programs. This policy recognizes that a strong foundation is needed to achieve the long-term goals expressed by youth. It also recognizes that the pursuit of these long-term goals is a journey that will not be achieved within a short period of time, and the chances of success are increased if a strong foundation is established. Successful implementation of this policy will contribute to building a strong foundation for youth development in Bougainville.



- 2.5.6. Formalize Government and Stakeholder support towards establishment of youth facilities.** Majority of the youth population live in rural areas without better access to most needed and appropriate facilities. Establishment of youth facilities in Bougainville is a major priority that needs to be achieved in all development planning processes that focus on reliable and accessible infrastructure development. Youths need proper facilities and resources to be empowered and proactive in contributing towards the overall development of Bougainville. This includes building accessible resource centers, sports facilities and viable SME services for youths to utilize their skills and knowledge at the district level.
- 2.5.7. Mainstream Youth Development Activities.** While placed under the Department for Community Development, Youth development is the responsibility of all government and all development partners. Up till now, youth development programs have been seen as a sole responsibility of the ABG DCD. This objective of the policy calls for the need to foster effective mainstreaming of major youth programs into all policies, strategic plans, programs and activities of all government or sectoral departments, and agencies, NGOs and stakeholders in Bougainville to foster a whole of approach towards the implementation of this policy.
- 2.5.8. Recognize and appreciate Youths for their services and contribution.** Until recent years, youth have been struggling to have their position recognized as advocates of change and development through various youth development programs implemented under different organizations in Bougainville. The ABG DCD, as the mandated government agency responsible for youth development work in Bougainville, will identify and develop appropriate measures that will provide for the recognition and appreciation of the services and contributions of youths towards development in Bougainville. This calls for Youth members and leaders of the BYF, DYAs and affiliated groups to be fully compensated for their involvement in development programs or projects and terms of service in leadership including; provisions of scheduled allowance rates at K50.00 per day for involvement or engagement in development programs and projects, monetary payments and accreditation for terms of service in leadership (including youth leaders who may pass on during their term in office), provision of scholarship (employment and formal education/ skills training) opportunities and other livelihood benefits youths may be able to pursue further life sustenance goals (for instance; involvement in SME and business opportunities).
- 2.5.9. Encourage and Empower Youths to Foster and Uphold Bougainvillean Values and Identities.** This policy is also conscious of the diverse cultural and value systems of Bougainville that govern the outlook of young Bougainvilleans from birth through to adulthood. This includes the Bougainvillean approaches towards nurturing young people in the communities as respectful citizens and custodians of their cultural, values, belief systems and norms. The policy, therefore, targets the youth of Bougainville to utilize it as a guide to be encouraged and supported to embrace and promote Bougainvillean identities through major national and international events such as Sports and Arts and Culture.

## **2.6. Definition of Youth in Bougainville.**

This policy recognizes that the period between childhood and adulthood varies from individual to individual and is affected by the norms of a society or community and the period during which such policies are formulated. It recognizes that not all young people are the same – some are at

school, others are at work and still others may be unemployed while some may be parents. It appreciates the fact that some young people are challenged with a variety of disabilities. It recognizes too that age limits will not incorporate all the characteristics that define a young person.

The last youth policy defined youth as being between the ages of (fifteen) 15 to (thirty-five (35). This was due to the effect the Bougainville crisis had on the livelihood and development of young people. This definition was justified at the time of its writing.

Some progress has been made as peace and a greater degree of normalcy has returned to everyday lives of the citizens of Bougainville, especially in terms of the delivery of government services. In light of this, it is appropriate to adjust the definition of youth. This Youth Development Policy defines youth as young people between the ages of 18 through to 30.

The reason for lifting the lower limit of 15 to 18 is because young people below the age of 18 should still be in the formal education system and their needs should be catered for under the Education, Health and Child Protection policies and legislations respectively. Setting the youth age from 18 onwards encourages other government departments to develop respective policies to cater for children to the age of 18 in their mandated areas of responsibility.

For now, the age of 30 is appropriate as an upper limit as those who are between 25 and 30 would have been toddlers as the Bougainville crisis was ending. The first decade of their lives would have been with little or no government services reaching their villages. Hence, it is appropriate that they be covered in the age cohort of this youth development policy.

### **Segregation of Youth.**

The definition for youth in this policy is wide, ranging from 18 to 30 years. This creates the need for a segregation of youth to enable more targeted program design and implementation including provision of opportunities relating to further education, employment and reliable livelihoods. This policy proposed youths to be further segregated into two categories.

- Category 1: 18 – 23; and
- Category 2: 24 – 30.

Other definitions that contributed to establishing the definition of youth for this policy are:

- Child
- Juvenile
- Puberty
- Adolescent
- Adult

## **3. TARGET AUDIENCE OF THIS POLICY**

This policy is intended for utilization by the youth themselves by reading, sharing and discussing its objectives and priority areas. This is to ensure that the youth are empowered as equal partners in their own development and in nation building in Bougainville as a whole.

While the major objectives of this policy are to provide equal opportunities and spaces for all young men and women in Bougainville, there are special circumstances, which make it essential to provide special consideration for those who experience and live under these circumstances to benefit from the general provisions of this policy. These include the following:

### **3.1. Rural Youth**

Most Bougainvillean youths live in rural areas where access to basic services, in the context of current development trends in Bougainville, has been an issue to address. Rural young people often migrate to urban centers in search of better living standards and life opportunities – including education and employment. However, their expectations for pursuing these opportunities are, at most times, unforthcoming. It is important for other related policies or programs of the ABG to give special considerations to such needs of these rural youth and provide more opportunities for them to pursue their life goals. This will include

### **3.2. Out of school youth**

The BYDP recognizes the need for the Bougainville Education System – including policies/ plans and legal frameworks – to respond to the needs of those 13-18 years old who are out of school. It recognizes that many of these students are out of school because of circumstances beyond their control—loss of parents, illnesses, lack of financial and other support as well as teen pregnancy, inadequate school fees, school places and poor academic performance.

### **3.3. Unemployed Youth**

Very often young men and women are unemployed because they lack the skills, qualification and experience. This often leads to anti-social behavior. As a matter of priority, special programme must be directed at young people to incorporate them into the productive sectors of the ABG such as the economic sector. These programmes must not be welfare oriented but should focus on areas of personal, community and national development.

### **3.4. Youths with Disabilities**

The BYDP recognizes that while some provisions are made for young people who are physically and emotionally challenged to access public buildings, public transportation, work places, and basic services, enough is yet to be delivered. There are young people in communities or rural areas who have special talents and skills that can be utilized or improved to empower them to contribute meaningfully to the overall development of Bougainville. The policy targets and acknowledges the need to give due consideration to the needs of that group and to make adequate provisions in all sectoral development plans and policies.

### **3.5. Youth in Churches**

Youth in Churches have to be empowered equally so they can be able to promote and foster spiritual development or enhancement programs or activities in Bougainville and outside. This policy is intended to be used by youths in Churches as a directive for accessing required services that can enable them to be equal partners in supporting Bougainville's development goals at the local, national and international levels.

### **3.6. Family Units and Communities**

In the context of Bougainville’s aspiration for progressing towards self-determination, the policy targets people in the communities which majority of the youth live in. This includes the clans and family units youth are found to be closely associated with in their daily lives. This policy recognizes the daily contributions of communities and families towards the development of youth in Bougainville. The policy ensures that people in the communities are involved in its implementation by having access to this policy and its priorities so that coordination and management of community development programs focused on are strengthened and improved in communities throughout Bougainville.

## **4. LEGAL/ PLANNING FRAMEWORK**

Consultations for the policy review were conducted just before the Bougainville referendum. Drafting of the policy document commenced after the referendum and progressed through the current transitional period through which constitutional/ legislative and strategic reforms have been progressed. Considering this, it is prudent to base this policy on a Bougainvillean legal and planning frameworks. This means that the Constitution of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (AROB) will provide the foundation for this policy.

### **4.1. Constitution of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville**

This policy is consistent with the following directive principles and objectives of The Constitution of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (2004).

#### ***Section 22. General, Social and Economic Objectives.***

The Constitution, under this section, recognizes the rights and opportunities of Bougainvilleans to education, health services, clean and safe drinking water, work, decent shelter, adequate clothing and food security. It also directs the Bougainville Government to fulfill the fundamental rights of all in Bougainville to social justice and economic development.

#### ***Section 24. Development.***

The Constitution, under this section recognizes the need to encourage private initiative and self-reliance in order to facilitate development. Section 24 then instructs all levels of government in Bougainville to *“take all necessary steps to involve all people in Bougainville in the identification of their real development needs and the formulation and implementation of development plans and programs which affect them.”*

Sub section 3 -instructs the Bougainville government to:

*“(a) adopt an integrated and coordinated planning approach to development; and (b)take necessary measures to bring about appropriate balanced development of the different areas of Bougainville; and (c) take special measures in favor of the development of the least developed areas.”*

Sub section 3(b) legitimizes the formulation of this Youth development policy when it instructs the Bougainville Government to: *“adopt policies to stimulate appropriate development.”*



***Section 29: Children and youth as the future of Bougainville.***

The Bougainville government is instructed by section 29 to recognize Youth and children. This section further instructs the government to formulate policies that will; “*ensure the integration of children and youth more fully into their communities and to groom them for their future role in Bougainville society.*”

In light of this, it is prudent to note that; the Constitution of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville clearly recognizes the need for youth development and instructs the Bougainville Government to meet this need. The development of a Youth Policy is an action that responds directly to this need and constitutional instruction.

**4.2. Other Laws, Policies Plans and Policies**

While this policy is designed to be duly empowered and lawfully consistent to the constitutional provisions listed above, it is also consistent to the laws, plans and policies, listed below:

**i. Bougainville’s President’s six (6) – point Strategy**

The Bougainville Youth Development Policy is also consistent with point 4 of the 6-point Strategy of the President of Bougainville.

Point 4 of the President’s 6-point strategy emphasizes on Mobilization of the Private Sector and Civil Society, under which Youths comprise a bigger percentage. The review of this policy is directly aligned to the required outcomes of this key focus area of this strategy and sets a roadmap towards the realization of prioritized programs and activities which youths are seen as a significant foundation.

**ii. Bougainville Integrated Strategic Development Plan (BISDP) – 2023-2027**

The BYDP is consistent with Pillar 1 and 2 of the BISDP.

Pillar 1 of the BISDP provides for collaborative efforts for promotion and safeguarding of the Bougainville Way. This includes Bougainvillean Cultures, Identity and tangible and intangible heritages and values and traditions. The ongoing efforts of safeguarding and promoting the Bougainville Way lies on the young generation. Youths will be fully involved in the processes of upholding, safeguarding and promoting our Cultures, Identity and tangible and intangible heritages and values and traditions against rapid globalization. In order to realize this, this policy will have linkages to the key policy areas of the Bougainville Arts and Culture Policy.

Pillar 2 prioritizes Human Development as way forward for achieving Bougainville’s determined, socio-cultural, economic and political development goals. Specific emphasis is made on Youths of Bougainville to be economically productive and socially responsible citizens who can contribute meaningfully to national building.

**iii. Bougainville Vision 2052**

The BISDP or the Bougainville Medium Term Development Plan is a significant implementation mechanism for the Bougainville Long Term Vision. This Policy aligns itself with the

implementation timeframe of the BISDP and serves to provide key policy directions focused on Youth Development as stipulated in the BISDP.

**iv. National Youth Development Authority (NYDA) Act (2014).**

The NYDA act provides an overarching legal mandate for directing all youth development work in PNG. It stipulates clearly specified legal processes that call for the Establishment of Provincial and District Youth Councils with mandated functions that provide for effective and efficient administration, regulation and coordination of youth programs and activities within provincial administrations.

This Policy is directly consistent with the provisions of the NYDA Act, particularly Part III (sections 32 to 42), Part IV (sections 43 to 51) and Part V (sections 52 to 63).

**v. The Constitution of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea**

Section 290 of Part XIV of the Constitution of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea (PNG) provides the functions and powers available to the Bougainville Government in and in relation to Bougainville.

One major objective of the ABG, pertaining to its Independence Readiness objectives, is the fully drawdown and absorption of these powers (*referred to as the 290 powers in the Constitution of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea*). This policy is directly consistent to the power on *home affairs including youth and social welfare (w)* and promotes and enhances the priorities of Community Development in advocating the interests of Youths in Bougainville relating to the eminent efforts of propelling Bougainville towards its determined future.

## **5. RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND OBLIGATIONS**

The Bougainville Youth Development Policy recognizes that enshrined in the constitution of Bougainville, young people as well as all citizens have fundamental rights that must be respected. The Bougainville Youth Policy is committed to preserving these rights.

### **5.1. Rights**

**Section 180: Qualifications on the qualified rights.**

Section 180 of The Constitution of Bougainville lists the qualified rights afforded to all citizens of Bougainville. This Policy intends to uphold and maintain close alignment with the constitution. In light of this, the rights articulated in the constitution are the rights upheld in this policy.

These qualified rights are:

- (a) freedom from forced labor;
- (b) freedom from arbitrary search and entry;
- (c) freedom of conscience, thought and religion;
- (d) freedom of expression;
- (e) freedom of assembly and association;
- (f) freedom of employment;
- (g) right to privacy;
- (h) right to vote and stand for public office;

- (i) right to freedom of information;
- (j) right to freedom of movement;
- (k) protection from unjust deprivation of property.

In addition to the qualified rights articulated in the constitution, the youth, through the policy review consultations have expressed their desire for the following rights to be captured in this policy. While not necessarily legal rights these are more than an expression of what the youths felt were justified entitlements.

These are the:

- (a) right to representation;
- (b) right to make a meaningful contribution in all aspects of youth development.
- (c) right to quality youth development programs;
- (d) right to live in peace and security;
- (e) right to justice;
- (f) right to quality, accessible and affordable education;
- (g) right to quality, accessible and affordable health services;
- (h) right to learn and practice traditional culture;

## **5.2. Obligations**

### **Section 7: Obligations and Responsibilities.**

Section 7 of The Constitution of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville articulates the Obligations of a Bougainvillean. It states that:

A Bougainvillean has an obligation:

- (a) to be loyal to Bougainville and to protect its well-being; and
- (b) to uphold all Christian and similar moral and spiritual principles; and
- (c) to promote reconciliation and healing throughout Bougainville; and
- (d) to respect, to act in the spirit of, to uphold and to defend this Constitution; and
- (e) to engage in gainful work for the good of himself, his family and the common good; and
- (f) to contribute to the well-being of the community where that Bougainvillean lives; and
- (g) to promote responsible parenthood; and
- (h) to live in harmony with others; and
- (i) to promote democracy and the rule of law; and
- (j) to protect and manage the land and *to protect the environment and his culture; and*
- (k) *as a child, to obey his parents.*

### **Obligations of Bougainville Youth**

In addition to these obligations, during the youth policy review consultation, youth expressed the desire for these responsibilities to be articulated in this Youth Development Policy

A Bougainvillean youth has a responsibility to:

- (a) promote and practice good governance; and
- (b) promote and practice transparency; and
- (c) stand up for what is right and what is just; and
- (d) ensure the voice of the marginalized is heard;

- (e) contribute to the design, planning implementation, monitoring and evaluation of youth development programs and activities; and
- (f) be a good role model of acceptable, expected and respectful behaviour, and conduct; and
- (g) to be a good role model of positive attitude and healthy mindset

### **Obligations of Community and Family**

Communities and families are the fundamental social units in the society that the life of a youth begins and develops. This policy calls for the community and family units to:

- (a) Promote responsible parenthood;
- (b) Provide basic and material needs of the youth;
- (c) Provide useful guidance and counseling to the youth;
- (d) Train and socialize the youth into different skills;
- (e) Provide financial support to youth projects;
- (f) Offer room for youth participation at all levels.
- (g) Promote responsible attitudes towards upholding and safeguarding Cultural Values and Identities.

### **Obligations of Bougainville Government.**

The Bougainville Government also has obligations to develop and implement policies that would enable its agencies to ensure the legal rights, as expressed in the constitution, and moral rights as expressed by society, are upheld.

## **6. PRINCIPLES AND VALUES**

The Legal and conceptual frameworks combined with the rights, obligations and responsibilities give rise to certain principles and values that will serve to guide and form boundaries around all youth development activities and the conduct of youth and their leaders in Bougainville. The principles and values from the previous youth policy are still relevant and have contributed to the development of these principles and values.

- 6.1.** Effective and improved Central coordination. Youth development programs and activities are all coordinated centrally through a central coordination committee comprising of the BYF, DYAs and the ABG DCD.
- 6.2.** Good Governance & Transparency. All decision making and procedures comply with all agreed rules and regulations, through a central coordination committee, that encourages and promotes good governance and transparency in all youth development work.
- 6.3.** Targeted Evidence based Programs. *Targeted:* All programs have a clearly defined target segment and have clearly articulated their contribution to the 6Cs and where they fit on Hart's ladder based on BYF and DYAs data. This promotes equal benefits sharing of all youth development programs or projects implemented within Bougainville.
- 6.4.** Balance between Evidence-based, Innovative and Appropriate programs. *Evidence based:* Programs and activities have a proven record of success in similar circumstances and situations as that found on Bougainville or a pilot program on Bougainville has proven

success. *Innovative and Appropriate*: Programs seek to be innovative in their design and seek to be appropriate for Bougainville. Calculated risk taking to enable the breaking of the status quo needs to be encouraged.

- 6.5. *Sustainable Programs and Activities*. Youth development projects and program's or activities have the aptitude to continue indefinitely with the support of the ABG DCD after the intended implementation time frames. This requires long-term planning and short-term actions based on realistic plans and budgets. All programs and activities have a theory of change that is shared and understood by youth and their leaders.
- 6.6. *Youth Participation*: The BYDP recognizes that if our young people are to become leaders of tomorrow then they must be allowed to participate at all levels – including political participation and decision making – of Bougainville society and at an early age. “*We are all leaders in our own right and we lead in the way we conduct ourselves in public as well as in private*”. Leadership at all levels expresses this idea and shares the responsibility and ownership for progress and development. Accepting this notion of leadership and role modeling accepted and expected behavior and attitude is required for successful nation building at all levels.
- 6.7. *Partnerships and collaboration at all levels*. Multilateral partnerships are formed at all levels with varying but increasing degrees of responsibility as youth progress towards rung 7 & 8 of Harts ladder.
- 6.8. *Open, Honest, respectful and frequent communication at all levels*. Communication is maintained at all times in an open, honest, respectful and frequent manner.
- 6.9. *Self-Reliant youth organizations*. A conscious and deliberate effort will be made by all stakeholders to ensure the BYF, DYAs and any other youth associations or organizations are self-reliant in that they are able to generate income to meet all of their own respective operational and development budgets.
- 6.10. *Service oriented and mutually beneficial contribution*. This proposes a shift in the minds of youth from that of “*what can be done for us, and how can we benefit?*” to one of “*How can we help to create a mutually beneficially enterprise where we are all contributing to a future we will be benefitting from?*”
- 6.11. *Ownership*. Ownership means that youth accept the fact that, by design or default, for better or for worse, they themselves are contributing to their future based on what they do.
- 6.12. *Youth Driven*: Albeit the fact that problems affecting young men and women in Bougainville should be the concerns of the entire society, this policy appreciates programmes directed at young people which are youth centered and driven by youths themselves.



- 6.13.** *Cultural Diversity:* The BYDP recognizes that Bougainville Society has a wide and diverse culture and that all programmes and policies aimed at empowering our youths must be designed to meet that reality.
- 6.14.** *Gender Sensitivity:* The BYDP promotes equal opportunities for all young people – men and women – and supports a gender inclusive approach in every sector of the Bougainville.
- 6.15.** *Inclusiveness.* This policy recognizes and promotes inclusiveness in its implementation timeframe. All youth development programs implemented must promote inclusiveness – relating to the rights of youths living with disabilities, marginalized or minority youth groups.
- 6.16.** *Empowering Environment:* The BYDP is built on the belief that sustainable development in Bougainville requires an empowering environment that fosters the creativity, participation and loyalty of young men and women. Youth empowerment is essential to sustain Bougainville’s current and future development plans and strategies.

## **6. KEY POLICY AREAS**

The Bougainville Youth Policy has 9 corresponding key priority areas. These areas reflect the intention and aspirations of our youths:

- 1. Effective and reliable Research and Database System**
- 2. Centralized Coordination of All Youth Programs.**
- 3. Self-reliance and Independence of the BYF and DYAs.**
- 4. Appropriate and Continuous Whole-Person Learning and Development.**
- 5. Appropriate representation, participation and collaboration. (Nothing about us without us.)**
- 6. Adequate administration, meeting and accommodation facilities**
- 7. Bougainville Youth, A Cross Cutting Opportunity.**
- 8. Recognition and Appreciation for Service.**
- 9. Youth and Identity**

**Outcome 1:** Effective and reliable Research and Database System

**Objective 1:** To establish and operationalize a central research and database system for effective and efficient collection, management and dissemination of youth development data and programs.

### ***Policy Strategies***

To achieve this outcome, this policy determines to ensure that:

- Research on key Youth Development needs and issues is conducted throughout Bougainville through the BYF and DYAs mid-yearly, in partnership with the ABG Department of Community Government.
- Information on all youth development work – including programs and projects implemented – are collected, documented and managed through an electronic database system under the BYF and the ABG DCD.

- The ABG DCD, in partnership with key stakeholders, including government organizations, NGOs, development partners and donors, conducts capacity building workshops on research, data compilation, analysis and management for BYF and DYAs executives.

**Outcome 2:** Centralized Coordination of All Youth Programs

**Objective 2:** To establish and formalize a Central Coordination Mechanism for effective coordination of all youth programs in Bougainville.

***Policy Strategies***

To achieve this outcome, this policy determines to ensure that:

- All youth development programs and activities are to be vetted and coordinated by the ABG’s DCD as the lead government agency in collaboration with the Bougainville Youth Federation AND District Youth Authorities.
- The ABG DCD, in consultation with key stakeholders and development partners develops a coordination structure to ensure effective and measurable coordination of all youth programs.
- All youth programs implemented in partnership with development partners or other key stakeholders are equitable, equal and sustainable and aligned with the policy.
- The ABG DCD and BYF develop a quality assurance framework to ensure quality assurance compliance is maintained for all programs and activities implemented under the youth policy.
- Programs and activities that support the policy are all communicated widely and consistently with a mechanism to communicate and received feedbacks included in all program designs.
- All programs and activities demonstrate balanced focus on addressing the needs of all youth irrespective of gender or religion and including marginalized individuals in our communities including People Living with Disabilities and other minorities
- Reporting, including monitoring and evaluation of all youth programs implemented are strengthened and improved

**Outcome 3:** Self-reliance and Independence of the BYF and DYAs.

**Objective 3:** Strengthening efforts to formalize and strengthen Youth Representation at all levels

***Policy Strategies***

To achieve this outcome, this policy determines to ensure that:

- BYF and DYAs are resourced, capacitated and formally organized to proactively voice and respond to the concerns of the youth in Bougainville
- A Strong Governance, Administration and Accountability mechanism of BYF and DYAs is developed and implemented that promote self-reliance and independence of Youths in Bougainville.
- Governance, Strategic and Operational Policies and Procedures are developed to ensure that the BYF and DYA are all considered to be an ongoing concern.

- Programs are developed to ensure that the BYF and DYAs are economically self-reliant and able to meet operational expenses including a stipend to their executives and staff.
- The BYF and the DYAs youth in general, can facilitate small community development projects and support locale Micro SME start-ups themselves in the long run.
- Youth leaders, particularly those holding office in the Bougainville Youth Federation and District Youth Authorities, are appropriately capacitated and are qualified, experienced, and competent and endowed with a positive, healthy attitude and leadership skills to effectively represent their youths at all levels.

**Outcome 4:** Appropriate and Continuous Whole-Person Learning and Development.

**Objective 4:** Ensuring that youth be recognized and utilized as a resource for nation building

***Policy Strategies***

To achieve this outcome, this policy determines to ensure that:

- The ABG DCD, in partnership with BYF, mobilizes resources and facilitates educational and basic life skills training on mindfulness and emotional intelligence for youths at all levels to foster self-control of emotions and actions for attitude and behavioral change.
- The ABG DCD, in partnership with the ABG Department of Commerce Trade and Economic Development (DCTED) and ABG Department of Primary Industries (DPI), mobilizes resources and facilitates training workshops on livelihood and small business administration for youths at all levels to empower them economically through the management of Small Enterprises (SME).
- The ABG DCD, in partnership with the ABG Department of Health develops plans and facilitates educational information sharing workshops on sexual and reproductive health to enable youth to understand Planned Parenthood and avoid contracting Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs).
- The ABG DCD, in partnership with the ABG Department of Education and formal education institutions in Bougainville, develops plans, seeks sponsorship and facilitates external scholarship opportunities for Youths in Bougainville.
- Training workshops on Conflict Resolution and Personal Development skills are conducted for youths to enable them to resolve disputes between groups before they escalate into conflicts and enable the resolution of existing or past conflicts.
- Skills development workshops on public speaking are conducted for youth leaders at all levels to ensure they have expected levels of confidence to articulate ideas and arguments and to contribute to fair, open and informed nation building initiatives.
- Skills development workshops on Problem Solving and Decision Making are conducted for youths to enable a structured and standardized framework for problem solving and decision making.
- Skills development workshops on use of appropriate technology are conducted for youths to enable small scale technology projects in Carpentry, agriculture and small-scale engineering like min-hydro and solar electricity generation.

- Skills development workshops on Cultural Products and Resources Management, Promotion and safeguarding are conducted for youths to ensure traditional culture is respected, maintained and promotes tourism development in Bougainville.
- Sports Administration, Coaching and Event Management workshops for youth sports development are conducted to ensure youth are able to organize and administer sports competitions locally and regionally that promote youth networks and relationships.

**Outcome 5:** Appropriate representation, participation and collaboration.

**Objective 5:** Building a strong foundation for youths to participate, be represented and supported

***Policy Strategies***

To achieve the outcome, the policy determines to ensure that:

- Youth are appropriately represented at all levels of government.
- The general youth population participates in government through their representatives.
- Youth are represented in every discussion about them or where they are impacted by the implementation of a policy, strategy, program or activity.
- The slogan ***“Nothing about us, without us”*** is translated into practical youth programs to ensure equal participation and representation of youths at all levels.
- Appropriate representation of youths is maintained and actualized at all levels of government both political and administrative.
- The BYF and DYAs are continuously empowered through resourcing and capacitating them to ensure that they advocate for a youth representative in the House of Representatives in the longer-term aspirations of the youth.
- Youth participation in decision making, participation in design, planning and implementation of youth development programs are strengthened and supported at all levels.
- Long term goals and objectives are set to inform the progress and development of youth in Bougainville into the future

**Outcome 6:** Adequate administration, meeting and accommodation facilities

**Objective 6:** Increase government and stakeholder support towards infrastructure development for youth to be able to contribute to development goals.

***Policy Strategies***

To achieve this outcome, the policy determines to ensure that:

- Adequate infrastructure is allocated to support youth development activities in each district throughout Bougainville.
- Each community government has a Youth resource center with meeting as well as accommodation facilities that is used for all youth development workshops and training.
- BYF and DYA executives benefit financially from all these youth facilities established in individual constituencies and districts.
- The government of Bougainville, in collaboration with all development partners, and the BYF, develops and implements a plan to allocate resources to develop and sustain these facilities by the end of the term of this policy.

- Youth rehabilitation centers are established, resourced and maintained in all constituencies to cater for Youths who are stigmatized or victims of other social issues.

**Outcome 7:** Bougainville Youth, A Cross Cutting Opportunity.

**Objective 7:** Ensuring that youth Development Activities are mainstreamed across all sectors for maximized collaboration and outcomes at all levels.

***Policy Strategies***

To achieve this outcome, this policy determines to ensure that:

- Youth development programs are mainstreamed into all policies, strategic plans, programs and activities of all government departments and agencies in Bougainville to foster a whole of government approach towards the implementation of this policy
- Youth focal points are established in all mainline departments, key development partners and other stakeholders to ensure effective communication and collaborative efforts towards driving youth development at sectorial levels.
- Youth in Bougainville are aware of the government systems and processes, per sectorial plans and processes, and contribute widely to ABG's independence objectives.

**Outcome 8:** Recognition and Appreciation for Service.

**Objective 8:** Ensuring that youth are recognized and appreciated for their contribution and service in contributing to development objectives in Bougainville

***Policy Strategies***

To achieve this outcome, this policy determines to ensure that:

- Appropriate and acceptable ways to recognize and appreciate the service of executives and staff of the BYF and DYAs, whether in cash or kind, are developed and implemented.
- The ABG DCD liaises with executives of BYF and DYAs and confirms all officer bearers to be permanent members who can develop creative and innovative solutions to create incomes that can benefit them as well.
- The ABG DCD, designs and facilitates a volunteer package with provisions that recognizes the service of Youths who are engaged in any programs implemented in Bougainville or abroad.
- The ABG DCD conducts assessments on the principles of volunteerism and the realities of financial needs experienced by youth leaders and staff of the BYF and DYAs and develops plans to attract programs to:
  - Enhance employment, self-employment, entrepreneurship and international opportunities
  - Offer internships, scholarships, on the job training, participation at local and international conferences and short courses and access to online training and education.
- The ABG DCD, develops concepts and submissions to development partners and ABG to seek funding/ sponsorship for having this outcome realized
- The ABG DCD, in consultation with the ABG Department of Personnel Management and Administrative Services (DPMAS), formalizes a contractual employment engagement for youth development officers to coordinate youth development work in all district administrations.

**Outcome 9: Youth Spirituality and Identity**

**Objective 9: Encourage and Empower Youths to Foster and Uphold Bougainvillean Values and Identities.**

***Policy Strategies***

To achieve this outcome, this policy determines to ensure that:

- Youths in Bougainville are empowered and supported through the BYF and DYAs to embrace and uphold their Cultural values and identities through major national and international events such as Sports and Arts and Culture shows.
- Youths in Bougainville are empowered and supported through the BYF and DYAs to embrace and uphold their Christian values through regional Youth Religious programs.
- The ABG DCD, in collaboration with the Bougainville Arts Culture & Tourism Authority (BACTA), develop plans, mobilizes resources and facilitates 3 x regional youth Arts Culture and Music Festivals in Bougainville.
- Bougainvillea Youths are empowered through Cultural exchange programs facilitated by the ABG DCD and the ABG Department for Independence Mission Implementation.
- The ABG DCD, BYF and DYAs, in partnership with the ABG Department of Community Government, secure funds and mobilize resources and facilitate Cultural knowledge sharing programs for youths in Bougainville.
- The ABG DCD, BYF and DYAs, in partnership with the Bougainville Arts Culture & Tourism Authority (BACTA), develop appropriate plans with realistic budgets for the hosting of a Bougainville Youth Recognition Day, annually on the date of the launching of this policy.

## **7. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH**

The implementation of this Policy will require a whole of government and stakeholder approach. This will entail all agencies and organizations involved in youth development work at both regional and District level. This will provide a fundamental basis for integration and engages efforts of INGOs, NGOs, CSOs, and other groups committed to youth development and empowerment in Bougainville.

The policy, where necessary, will also utilize existing structures for its implementation, and will emphasize the need for inclusiveness, equality and wider youth representation and participation in its implementation mechanisms.

Therefore, the mechanism or approach this policy advocates is as follows:

- i. Ensuring meaningful and compulsory participation – Wider youth engagement through BYF**

In order to actualize the paradigm shifts this policy uses to reposition youths in Bougainville, DCD and stakeholders will support BYF to establish and expand its scope of work so that it represents the diversity of the population of youth in Bougainville.



Government and stakeholders will broaden their engagement with Youth throughout Bougainville through their representative bodies, the BYF and DYAs to advocate full compulsory participation of youths in planning, decision making, designing and implementation of policy directives and processes. This policy ensures that all youths participate in all programs without discrimination and deprivation. The participation of youths will ensure ABG and development partners, including communities in Bougainville have broad insights and understanding of their situation, identify and address the issues they face and together work to implement actions that fully engage youths at all levels to participate in Bougainville's development processes.

**ii. Ensuring all Youth Development programs share common goals and priorities**

In line with the conceptual frameworks, this policy calls for the government and partners to consult over the design of youth development plans to make sure that all programs share the same goals and priorities to ensure that youths benefiting from these programs will see similar outcomes. The government will ensure that all programs or activities, by NGOs and other groups, targeting youth development are to be assessed by the ABG DCD to ensure that youths benefit equally and not on the interest of the implementing agencies or organizations. The government through DCD will ensure that, no youth programs or activities are to be implemented without its knowledge.

The ABG DCD, as the lead government agency and the BYF as the umbrella organization, will partner with development partners to design and facilitate youth engagement programs with the same goals and priorities targeting remote areas for advocating increased involvement of youths in remote areas. Youths will have the opportunity to participate in and voice their concerns on future programs targeting youths.

**iii. Ensuring Mainstreaming of Youth Development programs in public and private sectors through effective partnerships**

There is still need for extensive youth development mainstreaming among the public and private sectors to direct productive and outcome-based planning, program design and implementation. Most youths are currently living lost without having access to information, services and programs relating to current cross-sectorial development trends. This policy identifies youth as a cross-cutting opportunity and not a cross-cutting issue that must be accepted and driven across all sectors. To have this realized, this Policy provides direction towards strengthening the Public and Private Sectors. In particular, the DCD, in partnership with the BYF, will advocate, encourage and support whole of government public and private sector efforts including development partners to work towards integrating youth development programs into their plans and policies relating to skills training, employment, self-management, leadership, education, health, economic empowerment among others.

The Private Sector (including NGOs, CSOs, businesses) mainstreaming program will be in part based on information sharing and youths in community engagement programs implemented through BYF and DYAs with support from DCD. The program promotes whole of participation by youth and communities and creates support towards policies for engaging more youths into the private sector workforce and assisting private sector organizations to design youth development programs and services e.g. basic life skills training, financial literacy trainings and business opportunities.

The Public Sector mainstreaming program will advocate for strengthened collaboration among mainline departments of the ABG. It will also create long term goals and opportunities for youth participation within the public sector through having plans and policies aligned to youth development goals including infrastructure/ facilities development, opportunities for employment, political participation, decision making and education and training. To achieve this, the DCD, with support from the National Youth Development Authority (NYDA) will partner with the Australian High Commission (AHC) Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), will target the Bougainville Youth Initiative (BYI) to implement the public sector youth development mainstreaming program in Bougainville.

**iv. Ensuring a whole of Government and Stakeholder/ Partnership Approach.**

Considering this policy’s paradigm shifts, the creation of a coordinating structure to incorporate youth development goals into the actions of all levels of government and to bring various government institutions together to implement this policy, is the formal mechanism that can help us to achieve the whole of government approach. This will include all levels of government at the national level, regional level, district level and the community government level. In addition to the level of government, other actors will include communities, youth organizations and the private sector. The BYF will ensure partnership and networking in maintaining and upholding government support towards changing the situation youths are in today’s strengthened and improved.

In order to realize an effective whole of government approach, this Policy identifies the following organizations and stakeholders to work collaboratively:

- The ABG DCD
- All ABG Departments and government Institutions (including TVET Schools and others)
- Local Authorities (Chiefs/ Elders/ Councilors)
- Private sector (including businesses)
- Communities (including parents, families of youths)
- Youth Organizations (BYF and affiliates)
- National Youth Development Authority (NYDA)
- Regional Youth Organizations

## **8. IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNCTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**

The ABG DCD, as the responsible government agency for youth Development in Bougainville, will take the lead in overseeing the coordination of this policy. The policy structure consists of youth sector development priorities being organized under the seven objectives of the policy.

Hence, the objectives of this policy call for the ABG DCD to collaborate with the BYF to coordinate the design and implementation of all youth programs in Bougainville. This will be achieved through ensuring that each objective of this policy is assigned to a lead coordinating agency mandated through this policy. This will further call for the establishment of the Bougainville Youth Secretariat (BYS) which all assigned lead coordinating agencies will have a seat.

The BYS, co-chaired by ABG DCD and BYF, will coordinate plans and actions with stakeholders in key policy priority areas. Both ABG DCD and BYF are tasked to coordinate with a variety of

relevant implementing agencies at national, regional and community levels and to request from these implementing agencies plans and reports related to the key policy priority action areas for collation and presentation at BYS meetings and conferences. The reports describe how the BYD outcomes, objectives and activities are progressing or achieved with the set timeframes stipulated in its action plan.

This represents a more efficient structure with BYS having to focus on two reports rather than trying to oversee many different outcomes from multiple individuals. In this way, BYS's role will be to oversee and monitor sector performance whilst coordination is vested downwards in a much more efficient manner to the two lead coordinating agencies of ABG DCD and BYF.

At the strategic level, the BYS is able to also take structured action on other critical aspects of sector performance such as:

- Advocate for extensive awareness programs on youth development issues and their contributions towards the overall development of Bougainville.
- Proactively engage with technical services to ensure appropriate facilities are built.
- Analyzing plans from various stakeholders and identifying common issues and opportunities to collaborate on.
- Proactively engage across ABG whole of government and development partners including private sector to monitor and support accountability including reporting on general youth development work and the implementation of this policy.
- Assessing the Human Resources requirements – including capacity building/ skills training needs and other management needs of the whole sector and lobbying for both funds and technical assistance to help progress these priorities.
- Pursue major constitutional, political and administrative reform actions, like Bougainville Youth Development and empowerment legislation and policy implementation needs
- Integration of all youth programs into all sectoral development plans and policies through ensuring effective mainstreaming programs.

To be effective, the coordination structure relies on strong BYS leadership supported with budget and a coordinating focal point based within the ABG DCD's Community Development Services. It also requires adequate resourcing, including budget support to BYF to fulfil its BYS coordination, monitoring and reporting responsibilities.

## **9. MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

The Bougainville Youth Development Policy requires monitoring and critical review of its performance and success. This is to ensure that it remains responsive to the needs, interests and capacity of the youth and to the direction of the broader development objectives of the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

The BYF will play an important role in supporting the monitoring of the implementation of this policy through its DYA affiliates. Appropriate indicators will be developed within the implementation plan to guide the overall implementation of the policy. This will include annual mid-year monitoring and evaluation of the key policy areas of the policy that will be implemented

directly under the auspices of the ABG DCD. Review of the Policy will be done after five years with a mid-term review to assess the impact of the policy directives.

## **10. ACTION PLAN**

The Key Policy Areas in section 6 above form the basis of an action plan for the first 12 months of this policy. Each Key Policy Area has become a Key Result Area of the action plan. Several actions have been nominated to enable progress towards the achievement of this Key Result Area. Key Performance Indicators have been established with due dates to enable monitoring of progress.

This implementation plan requires several strategic design decisions to be made. Once the strategic design decisions have been made, a supplementary plan with supplementary targets can be developed and included in an addendum to this policy.

The ABG DCD will ensure that a series of meetings and awareness is facilitated to introduce the stakeholders to the Youth policy. This is to ensure compliance and standardization of design and implementation of youth development programs in their respective sectors. The stakeholders who attend will be ABG departments like Health, Education and Law and Justice, local NGOs, CSOs, Churches, as well as development partners and donors.

This policy and this plan are to be shared widely with all stakeholders and development partners. This implementation plan assumes that ABG approval for this policy is gained in June 2024 and implementation commences on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2024.



## Bougainville Youth Policy Action Plan (2024-2028)

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Key Focus Area 1: Effective and reliable Research and Database System</b>				
	<b>Objective: To establish and operationalize a central research and database system for effective and efficient collection, management and dissemination of youth development data and programs.</b>				
<b>ID</b>	<b>STRATEGY</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>OUTCOMES</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES</b>	<b>Time frame</b>
<b>1.1.</b>	Research on key Youth Development needs and issues is conducted throughout Bougainville through the BYF and DYAs quarterly, in partnership with the ABG Department of Community Government.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborate with the ABG Department of Community Government (executive managers and ward recorders) and conduct quarterly Youth engagement and consultation programs to identify key needs and issues of Youths in Bougainville</li> <li>Develop appropriate research tools and methodologies for effective and accurate data collection.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data on Youth needs and issues are captured, and compiled accurately.</li> </ul>	ABG DCD/ ABG CGs/ BYF/ DYAs	Ongoing
<b>1.2.</b>	Information on all youth development work – including programs and projects implemented – are collected, documented, managed and widely shared through an electronic database system under the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collate and analyze and enter all collected and compiled data</li> <li>Collaborate with the ABG Information Systems and Communication Technology (ISCT) section for the establishment of the Bougainville Youth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth Database system on youth issues, needs and opportunities is established, utilized/marketed/advertised and communicated to all stake holders</li> </ul>	ABG DCD/ ABG CGs/ ABG ISCT/ BYF/ DYAs	Mid-Yearly (2024, 2025 and 2026).



	BYF and the ABG DCD.	development database system			
1.3.	The ABG DCD, in partnership with key stakeholders, including government organizations, NGOs, development partners and donors, conducts capacity building workshops on research, data compilation, analysis and management for BYF and DYAs executives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate skills development programs on Research, data analysis, and compilation in partnership with key stakeholders, including government organizations, NGOs, development partners and donors,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A percentage of Youth executives are endowed with the skills and knowledge of conducting research, data analysis and collation</li> </ul>	ABG DCD/ ABG ISCT/ ABG CG/ Development Partners/ NGOs/ INGOs/ BYF/ DYAs	Mid-yearly (2024, 2025 and 2026)
2.0	<b>Key Focus Area 2: Centralized Coordination of All Youth Programs</b>				
	<b>Objective: To establish and formalize a Central Coordination Mechanism for effective coordination of all youth programs in Bougainville.</b>				
ID	STRATEGY	ACTIONS	OUTCOMES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES	TIMEFRAME
2.1.	All youth development programs and activities are to be vetted and coordinated by the ABG DCD as the lead government agency in collaboration with and support from the BYF as the main	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish the Bougainville Youth Development Coordination Committee (BYDCC) under the ABG DCD Community Development Services through strengthened and improved working partnership between ABG DCD and BYF.</li> </ul>	<p>BYDCC is established, resourced and fully operational with all committee requirements met, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appointment of its members.</li> <li>Development of a Terms of Reference</li> <li>Development of a Coordination structure or framework</li> </ul>	ABG DCD, BYF, ABG, Development Partners, NGOs	Ongoing

	youth representative body	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Facilitate to establish and fund the Youth Development Secretariat for Bougainville.</li> <li>● Develop a program or activity tracking mechanism to ensure all Youth Development programs or activities are directed through the ABG DCD</li> <li>● Ensure BYF is included or consulted on all policy development and implementation processes.</li> <li>● Develop and facilitate a functional M&amp;E tool to ensure all youth programs are monitored and evaluated and recommendations provided through activity plans.</li> </ul>	<p>The Bougainville Youth Development Secretariat is established, resourced, and funded and is fully operational</p> <p>Program/ activity tracking mechanism developed and functionalized</p> <p>M&amp;E tool developed and facilitated</p>	<p>ABG DCD/ BYF/ ABG DPMAS, Development Partners/ NGOs/ INGOs</p> <p>ABG DCD/ BYF/ DYAs/ Affiliated Youth Groups</p> <p>BYF, ABG DCD</p> <p>ABG DCD/ BYF/ DYAs/ Affiliated Youth Groups</p>	<p>October, 2025</p> <p>March, 2024</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>March, 2024</p>
<b>2.2.</b>	All youth programs implemented in partnership with Development Partners and key stakeholders are	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Coordinate and facilitate quarterly stakeholder coordination meetings to ensure the design and implementation of youth development programs</li> </ul>	All youth development programs are designed, properly coordinated, and implemented in alignment to these policy directions	DCD, BYF, ABG, Development Partners, NGOs	Ongoing

	sustainable and aligned to this policy.	<p>are equitable, sustainable, and aligned to this policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and facilitate central coordination framework.</li> <li>• Develop plans and facilitate impact assessment of all youth programs/ projects or activities that are implemented.</li> <li>• Facilitate and establish Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) regarding the development and implementation of a central coordinating framework for all youth development activities.</li> <li>• Ensure that all youth programs and activities that support them are communicated broadly and consistently with a mechanism to communicate and receive feedback included in all program designs.</li> </ul>	<p>Central coordination framework developed and functioning</p> <p>Impact of all Youth Development programs are identified, and reports provided with recommendations for future actions.</p> <p>MOA Developed</p> <p>Information on the design and implementation of all Youth Development programs are disseminated widely and inclusively in Bougainville.</p>		<p>May, 2024</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>May, 2025</p> <p>Ongoing (Yearly)</p>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that all programs and activities demonstrate balanced focus on addressing the needs of all youth irrespective of gender or religion including marginalized individuals or groups (Persons with Disabilities).</li> <li>• Develop and facilitate plans and programs that generate economic benefits or education benefits that can sustain the programs after the cycle of implementation.</li> </ul>	<p>Inclusiveness is maintained in implementing Youth Development programs or activities or projects at all levels.</p> <p>Post-program sustainability is maintained</p>		Ongoing (Yearly)
2.3.	Strengthen and improve Quality Control and Quality Assurance Compliance for all Youth Development work, programs, projects, or activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure any compliance requirements are identified and program administrators are notified to take appropriate action</li> <li>• Liaise with Community Governments through the BYF networks to ensure quality assurance compliance framework is developed and facilitated to maintain quality control and assurance</li> </ul>	<p>Implementing partners can demonstrate the ability to indicate that their programs are sustainable</p> <p>Equal, equitable and accessible design and implementation of programs throughout Bougainville.</p>	DCD, Community Governments, BYF, ABG, Development Partners, NGOs	2024 - 2028

		across all programs and activities.			
2.4.	All Youth Programs are implemented equitably and equally throughout Bougainville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Liaise with Community Governments through BYF and DYAs and facilitate needs analysis consultations throughout Bougainville to ensure programs/ projects are designed and implemented according to the needs of the youths.</li> </ul>	The needs of youths are identified, and programs designed and implemented accordingly.	BYA, DYAs, DCD, CG	Ongoing
3.0.	<b>Key Focus Areas 3: Self-Reliance and Independence of the BYF and DYAs</b>				
	<b>Goal: Strong Governance Administration and Accountability of BYF and DYAs</b>				
ID	STRATEGY	ACTION	OUTCOMES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES	Timeframe
3.1.	BYF and DYAs are resourced, capacitated, and formally organized to proactively voice and respond to the concerns and needs of the Youths in Bougainville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborate with relevant/ key agencies and facilitate skills development trainings (based on Training Needs Analysis) on:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organizational Management</li> <li>Strategic Planning and Budgeting</li> <li>Financial Literacy</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	BYF and DYAs are economically self-reliant and able to meet operational expenses including a stipend to their executives and staff	BYF, DYAs, ABG DCD, ABG, Development Partners	2024 (Ongoing)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure BYF is invited and has a seat on key ABG regional and Sectoral Governance Mechanisms at all levels.</li> </ul>			
3.2.	Develop Governance, Strategic and Operational Policies and Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborate with the ABG Department of Justice and Correctional Services and facilitate to develop the Bougainville Youth Act.</li> <li>• Collaborate with BYF and develop operational Manuals for the three (3) x Integrated Youth Resource Centers (IYRCs).</li> <li>• Ensure that a strong culture of good governance and sound administration is developed for the BYF and DYAs.</li> <li>• Ensure Operational or safeguarding policies and procedures Manual for the BYF and DYAs are developed and operational.</li> </ul>	<p>Youth Development Act developed and passed at the BEC</p> <p>Operational Manuals develop for the 3 IYRCs</p>	<p>BYF, DCD, DJCS,</p> <p>BYF, DCD, partners</p> <p>BYF, DCD, partners</p> <p>BYF, DCD, partners</p>	<p>2024 – 2025</p> <p>2025</p> <p>2025</p> <p>2025</p>



<b>3.3</b>	Restructure BYF to ensure it is established and recognized as a Statutory Body with full legal mandates that will empower and drive youth development priorities in Bougainville.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaise with the ABG Department of Law and Justice and identify enabling legal frameworks that will provide for the establishment of the Bougainville Youth Authority (BYA).</li> <li>• Develop a legislation in collaboration with the ABG Department of Law and Justice and National Youth Development Authority (NYDA) as way forward for the establishment of the BYA</li> </ul>	<p>Enabling legislation developed for the establishment of the BYA</p> <p>Legislation formulated and enacted as an Act</p> <p>BYA established</p>	BYF, DCD, Dept Law Justice	2024-2025
<b>3.4</b>	Promote Sustainable Self Reliance and Independence Initiatives for BYF/DYAs and other affiliated youth networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborate with the ABG Department Economic Development Commerce Trade and Industry (DECTI) and Department of Primary Industries (DPI) to ensure BYF and DYAs are self-sustaining organizations through the establishment of a Youth Business Arm.</li> </ul>	Youth Association and Youth Groups Business arm registered with IPA and fully operational.	DCD, ABG DEDTI, ABG DPI, Development partners, and stakeholders.	Ongoing (Yearly)

4.0 Key Focus Area 3: Appropriate and Continuous Whole-Person Learning and Development					
Objective: Ensuring that youth be recognized and utilized as a resource for nation building					
ID	STRATEGY	ACTION	OUTCOMES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES	
4.1.	Mobilize resources, equipment and facilitate personal viability trainings for Youths in Bougainville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partner with BYF, mobilize resources and conduct educational and basic life skills training on mindfulness and emotional intelligence for youths at all levels</li> </ul>	To foster self-control of emotions and actions for attitude and behavioral change.	DCD, ABG DEDTI, ABG DoH, ABG DoE, ABG DPI, Development partners, and stakeholders	Ongoing (Yearly)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partner with the ABG Department Economic Development Commerce Trade and Industry and ABG Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and facilitate training workshops on livelihood and small business administration for youths at all levels</li> </ul>	To empower Youths economically through the management of Small Enterprises (SME).	DCD, ABG DEDTI, ABG DoH, ABG DoE, ABG DPI, Development partners, and stakeholders	Ongoing (Yearly)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop plans and partner with the ABG Department of Health and facilitate educational workshops on sexual and reproductive health</li> </ul>	Youth are equipped with skills on Planned Parenthood and prevention on Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs).		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partner with the ABG Department of Health and develop plans and</li> </ul>	To enable healthy dietary and life-style choices while also gaining knowledge of		

		facilitate Healthy Living trainings for youths	traditional and home-based medication and remedies.		
<b>4.2.</b>	Mobilize resources, equipment and facilitate skills development trainings for Youths in Bougainville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partner with the ABG Department of Education and formal education institutions in Bougainville, develop plans, seek sponsorship, and facilitate special education programs including opportunities for Flexible Open Distance Education (FODE) and Technical Vocational Education Training (TVET)</li> <li>Liaise with Community Governments and facilitate Training workshops on Conflict Resolution skills for youths</li> <li>Collaborate with relevant agencies and facilitate skills development workshops on public speaking and debating for youth leaders at all levels</li> </ul>	<p>To enable youths for sustainable and self-led program development and implementation.</p> <p>To enable youths to resolve disputes between groups before they escalate into conflicts and enable the resolution of existing or past conflicts.</p> <p>Youths are equipped with the expected levels of confidence to articulate ideas and arguments and to contribute to fair, open, and informed nation building initiatives.</p>	<p>BYF, DOE, DCD and partners</p> <p>ABG, BYF, Partners</p> <p>ABG, Partners</p>	<p>Ongoing (Yearly)</p> <p>Ongoing (Yearly)</p> <p>Ongoing (Yearly)</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborate with relevant agencies and facilitate skills development workshops on Problem Solving and Decision Making for youths.</li> <li>Collaborate with ABG Department of Technical Services and facilitate skills development workshops on Use of Appropriate Technology for youths</li> <li>Collaborate with the Bougainville Arts Culture and Tourism Authority and facilitate skills development workshops on Cultural Products and Resources Management, Promotion and safeguarding for youths</li> <li>Develop plans and facilitate Sports Administration, Coaching and Event Management workshops for youth sports development.</li> </ul>	<p>Youths are aware of structured and standardized frameworks for problem solving and decision making</p> <p>Youths are equipped with the skills on small scale technology projects in Carpentry, agriculture and small-scale engineering like min-hydro and solar electricity generation.</p> <p>Youths are endowed with the knowledge and skills on Culture Heritage Management, Safeguarding and promotion including Tourism Development.</p> <p>To ensure youth can organize and administer sports competitions locally and regionally that promote youth networks and relationships.</p>	<p>ABG, Partners</p> <p>ABG DTS,</p> <p>ABG BACTA</p> <p>ABG DCD, Sport Organizations</p>	<p>Ongoing (Yearly)</p> <p>2024-2028</p> <p>2024-2028</p> <p>2024-2028</p>
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4.3.	Young people are appropriately educated and employable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaise with major Business companies, NGOs, Development Partners and Government Agencies and facilitate employment opportunities for youths (out of school) through establishing graduate development programs.</li> <li>• Collaborate with the ABG Department for Education and create database for youths out of school to ensure education and employment opportunities are provided to benefit all.</li> </ul>	<p>Graduate Development programs are created and actualized</p> <p>Database established and operationalized</p>	ABG DPMAS, DOE, Business houses, Partners	2024-2028
4.4.	Improved rehabilitation and counselling services for Youths in Bougainville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partner with Callan Services, Nazarene Centre for Rehabilitation (NCFR) and existing community-based rehabilitation centers to facilitate Rehabilitation and Counselling Services for traumatized and youths with intellectual disabilities.</li> </ul>	Traumatized, stigmatized youths and/ or youths with intellectual disabilities are rehabilitated and counselled.	Callen Services, NCFR, DOH, Partners	2024-2028

4.5	Create National and International Scholarships and Youth Leadership Exchange Programs for Bougainville Youths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consult with Education Department and create Education Exchange Program for youths nationally &amp; internationally.</li> <li>Mobilize youths through the BYF and DYAs and conduct assessment on educational background, including trainings to identify youths to be considered in scholarship or exchange Programs.</li> </ul>	<p>Youths are more determined to be part of Nation Building Initiatives</p> <p>Youths are encouraged to be more focused on learning and embracing new career pathways</p>	DCD, BYF,DYA, DEV Partners, Community Government	2024-2028
5.0	<b>Key Focus Area 4: Appropriate representation, participation, and collaboration. (Nothing about us without us.)</b>				
	<b>Objective: Building a strong foundation for youths to participate, be represented and supported</b>				
ID	STRATEGY	ACTION	OUTCOMES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES	TIME FRAME
5.1.	Youth are appropriately represented at all levels of government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partner with key ABG Agencies and identify and facilitate mechanisms for involving youth representatives as members of Planning, Reform, Recreational, Religious and Independence Readiness Committees.</li> <li>Dialogue with ABG Law and Justice Sector and develop policy</li> </ul>	Increased Youth representation and support at all levels.	<p>ABG DCD, ABG Dept. of President &amp; BEC, ABG DIMI, ABG CG</p> <p>ABG Law and Justice</p>	<p>Ongoing (Yearly)</p> <p>2024-2025</p>



		submission to BEC for the establishment of Regional Youth Representative Seats at the Bougainville House of Representatives.			
5.2.	Include youth and their aspirations in all development planning processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborate with development partners and facilitate Annual Youth Mainstreaming with government agencies and stakeholders</li> <li>Collaborate with District Development Authorities through BYF and DYAs and incorporate Youth Development priorities in all District/constituency Development Plans.</li> </ul>	Youth development priorities are mainstreamed across all sectors	ABG, Development Partners, NGOs, CSOs	Ongoing (Yearly)
5.3	Increase support and strengthen youth-led voice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop plans (with budgets), mobilize resources and facilitate youth development forums in the three regions of Bougainville and abroad (nationally and internationally) annually in partnership</li> </ul>	Increased Youth participation, representation and exposure at all levels – regionally, nationally and internationally.	ABG DCD/ BYF/ DYAs/ Dev. Partners/ relevant government agencies.	Ongoing (Yearly)

		with development partners and BYF.			
5.4	A 5-year strategic Plan for BYF is developed to ensure that all Youth Development activities/ work in Bougainville are well managed, organized and coordinated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborate with the ABG CG and ABG Planning Division and facilitate the development of the BYF 5-year strategic plan based on data obtained through research</li> </ul>	Youth development programs are well implemented, coordinated and monitored based on the needs of youths	ABG DCD/ BYF/ DYAs/ ABG CG/ ABG Planning Division.	Ongoing (Yearly)
6.0	<b>Key Focus Area 6: Adequate administration, meeting and accommodation facilities.</b>				
	<b>Objective: Increase government and stakeholder support towards infrastructure development for youth to be able to function to realize youth development goals.</b>				
ID	STRATEGIES	ACTIONS	OUTCOMES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES	
6.1.	Adequate infrastructure allocated to support youth development activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that all three (3) Integrated Regional Youth Centers (IYRCs) are continuously resourced, equipped and maintained, based on the directions of their Operational Manuals.</li> </ul>	Youth Development/ empowerment work/ priorities are improved and strengthened through the provision of adequate, conducive and accessible facilities/ infrastructure.	ABG DCD, BYF, DYAs, Government Agencies, Development Partners, NGOs	Ongoing (Yearly)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborate with the Community Governments to support the establishment of Office spaces for DYAs at individual District Administrative Offices throughout Bougainville.</li> <li>• Liaise with Development Partners and Key Government Agencies and facilitate the establishment of 3 Regional BYF Offices with appropriate sanitation requirements.</li> <li>• Identify donors and develop proposals to seek funding and facilitate the establishment of Youth Resource Centers at the Constituency levels.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>			
6.2.	Improved Youth Rehabilitation and Counselling facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify donors and develop project proposals with plans and budgets and facilitate to secure funding for the establishment of one (1) x Youth rehabilitation and Counselling center.</li> </ul>	Youths have access to improved Youth Rehabilitation and Counselling facilities	ABG DCD, BYF, DYAs, Government Agencies, Development Partners, NGOs	Ongoing (Yearly)

<b>7.0</b>	<b>Key Focus Area 6: Bougainville Youth, A cross Cutting Opportunity</b>				
	<b>Objective: Ensuring that youth Development Activities are mainstreamed across all sectors for maximized collaboration and outcomes at all levels.</b>				
<b>ID</b>	<b>STRATEGIES</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>OUTCOMES</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES</b>	
<b>7.1.</b>	Mainstream Youth development programs into all policies, strategic plans, programs and activities of government departments and agencies in Bougainville to foster a whole of government approach towards the implementation of this policy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborate with all ABG Departments and facilitate Youth mainstreaming workshops to ensure all Departments play an equal role in supporting youth development in Bougainville</li> <li>Collaborate with ABG organizations and establish youth focal points in all government departments, key development partners and other stakeholders.</li> </ul>	Effective communication and collaborative efforts towards driving youth development at sectorial levels	ABG DCD, BYF, Development Partners, ABG Agencies,	Ongoing (Yearly)
<b>7.2.</b>	Induct youths on government systems and processes, per sectorial plans and processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborate with ABG Agencies and develop plans to conduct annual Youth Executives (from BYF and DYAs) Induction on administrative and political structures and systems, per sectorial plans and processes</li> </ul>	Youths are encouraged to contribute widely to ABG's independence objectives.	ABG Agencies, BYF	Ongoing (Yearly)

7.3.	Encourage and support youth to improve law and order services in communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure young people are involved in community law and order awareness and campaign.</li> <li>• Facilitate to engage youth and youth organisations to raise awareness against all forms of violence.</li> <li>• Ensure young people are involved in community policing including neighbourhood watch and support to reserve police.</li> <li>• Ensure young people are promoted to leadership positions in the community government levels.</li> </ul>		ABG Dept of Law & Justice, Dept of CG, BYF	Ongoing (Yearly)
8.0.	<b>Key Focus Area 7: Recognition and Appreciation for Service.</b>				
	<b>Objective: Ensuring that youth are recognized and appreciated for their contribution and service in upholding development objectives in Bougainville</b>				
<b>ID</b>	<b>STRATEGIES</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>OUTCOMES</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES</b>	
8.1.	All Youths representatives of BYF and DYAs are recognized and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and implement appropriate ways to recognize and appreciate the service of executive</li> </ul>	Youth executives are recognized and appreciated for their service and contributions	ABG DCD, Key Government Agencies, Development Partners, NGOs/ CSOs and other stakeholders.	Ongoing (Yearly)

	appreciated for their service	<p>and staff of the BYF and DYAs, whether in cash or kind including awards and promotions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partner with BYF and DYAs develop proposals to seek additional funding for stipends for executives and staff for BYF and DYAs based on ABG Department of Personnel Management and Admin' Services (DPMAS) requirements.</li> <li>• The ABG DCD develops strategies to formalize appointments for executives and staff of BYF and DYAs to be formally recognized and appreciated under mandated auspices.</li> </ul>	<p>towards Bougainville's development.</p> <p>Funding is secured for the provision of stipends and allowances for BYF and DYA executives.</p> <p>Appointments of Youth Executives are formalized and institutionalized under ABG DCD</p> <p>Qualified individuals and affiliated Youth Groups.</p>		
<b>8.2.</b>	Strengthen, improve and recognize youth volunteer Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish and facilitate the Bougainville Youth Volunteer Service to ensure all Youths are included in the implementation of all development initiatives in Bougainville.</li> </ul>	Youth Volunteer Service established and Youth engaged to participate in development programs at the local, national and international levels.	ABG DCD, Key Government Agencies, Development Partners, NGOs/ CSOs and other stakeholders.	Ongoing (Yearly)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ABG DCD develops concepts papers, including policy submissions to support the establishment of the Youth Volunteer service in Bougainville.</li> </ul>	Service recognized and approved by BEC and members of the Bougainville House of Representatives.		
<b>9.0</b>	<b>Key Focus Area 9: Youth and Identity</b>				
	<b>Objective: Encourage and Empower Youths to Foster and Uphold Bougainvillean Values and Identities</b>				
<b>ID</b>	<b>STRATEGY</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>OUTCOME</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES</b>	<b>TIMEFRAME</b>
<b>9.1.</b>	Youths in Bougainville are empowered and supported through the BYF and DYAs to embrace and uphold their Religious and Cultural values and identities through major national and international events such as Religious programs, Sports and Arts and Culture shows.	Collaborate with relevant stakeholder and government agencies and facilitate Bougainville Youths' participation in national and international events	Increased Youth participation and involvement in major international events that uphold Bougainvillean Identities.	BYF, ABG, Stakeholders	Ongoing (Yearly)
<b>9.2.</b>	Youths in Bougainville are empowered and supported through the BYF and DYAs to embrace and uphold their Christian values through regional	Collaborate with the Bougainville Christian Churches Assembly (BCCA) and develop plans to facilitate religious youth programs in Bougainville and outside.	Youths are encouraged to living balanced lifestyles through embracing Christian principles	BYF, BCCA	Ongoing (Yearly)

	Youth Religious programs.				
<b>9.3</b>	The ABG DCD, in collaboration with the Bougainville Arts Culture & Tourism Authority (BACTA), develop plans, mobilizes resources and facilitates 3 x regional youth Arts Culture and Music Festivals in Bougainville.	Collaborate with BACTA, engage youths and facilitate 3 x regional youth Arts Culture and Music Festivals in Bougainville.	Youths are accepted as members of society with creative and innovative mindsets who can uphold peace and unity in communities	ABG DCD, BACTA, BYF, Stakeholders	Ongoing (Yearly)
<b>9.4</b>	Bougainvillean Youths are empowered through Cultural exchange programs facilitated by the ABG DCD and the ABG Department for Independence Mission Implementation (DIMI).	Establish partnership with the National Cultural Commission, through consultations with the DIMI and facilitate Cultural exchange programs between Bougainvillean Youths and Youths from other provinces	Youths are encouraged to accept and acknowledge the dynamic nature of culture without passing moral judgements on other cultures.	ABG DCD, BYF, Stakeholders	Ongoing (Yearly)
<b>9.5</b>	The ABG DCD, BYF and DYAs, in partnership with the ABG Department of Community Government, secure funds and mobilize resources and	Consult with the ABG CG and identify Traditional Knowledge practitioners and facilitate Youth cultural knowledge sharing programs in Bougainville.	Youth are able to acquire, share and safeguard their Cultural values and norms that have been inherited through generations overtime.	ABG DCD, BYF, ABG CG	Ongoing (Yearly)



	facilitate Cultural knowledge sharing programs for youths in Bougainville.				
<b>9.6</b>	The ABG DCD, BYF and DYAs, in partnership with the Bougainville Arts Culture & Tourism Authority (BACTA), develop appropriate plans with realistic budgets for the hosting of a Bougainville Youth Recognition Day, annually on the date of the launching of this policy.	<p>Conduct awareness on the hosting of the Bougainville Youth Recognition Day throughout Bougainville</p> <p>Develop Policy submission to the BEC seeking approval and endorsement on creation and hosting of the Bougainville Youth Recognition Day.</p>	Youths are empowered, recognized and appreciated for their contributions towards the overall development of Bougainville	ABG DCD, BACTA, BYF, DYAs	Ongoing (Yearly)
<b>9.7</b>	Ensure that Bougainvillean Youths are informed and registered in Civil Registry and Identity processes to give them a sense of belonging and worth	BYF and DYAs, in consultation with the ABGD CD, conduct awareness on the importance of Civil and Identity Registry processes, including Marriage	<p>Information on Civil &amp; Identity Registry and Marriage is disseminated widely.</p> <p>A percentage of Youths are registered through formal Civil &amp; Identity Registry processes, including those who are married</p>	ABG DCD, BYF, DYAs	Ongoing (Yearly)

