

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 21 December 2004 from the Secretary-General  
addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I write in reference to the letter dated 14 December 2004 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration of Papua New Guinea, the Rt. Hon. Sir Rabbie Namaliu, addressed to me regarding the peace process in Bougainville and the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Bougainville (UNOMB). A copy of the letter is attached (see annex).\*

I commend the Government of Papua New Guinea and the Bougainville parties for overcoming their differences and adopting the Bougainville Constitution, thereby opening the way for elections for an autonomous Bougainville government. Preparations for the holding of elections have already begun, the details of which are contained in the Foreign Minister's letter. A schedule for elections has also been drawn up by the Papua New Guinea Electoral Commission in consultation with the Bougainville Administration. It is thus evident that the Government of Papua New Guinea and the Bougainvillian parties remain firmly committed to implementing the Peace Agreement without further delay.

With regard to the Weapons Disposal Plan, one of the main components of the Agreement, the Government of Papua New Guinea and the Bougainville provincial administration, with the facilitation of UNOMB, continue their efforts to encourage the former combatants to destroy the 6 per cent of the contained weapons that remain. It is expected that this will lead to the removal of this final hurdle to launching the electoral process.

As the Council members are aware, UNOMB holds the chairmanship of the Peace Process Consultative Committee (PPCC) and monitors and reports to the Consultative Committee on the security situation, a role that is especially crucial in the period leading up to the elections. The renewed activities of Francis Ona across Bougainville make it imperative that UNOMB continue to facilitate a dialogue between his supporters and the Bougainville leaders until the voting is completed. With the establishment of an autonomous Bougainville government (ABG), the functions of the PPCC will be assumed by the autonomous Bougainville government, and UNOMB's responsibilities will have been fully implemented. The autonomous Bougainville government will also deal directly with the "no-go-zone" issue.

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\* The annex is circulated in the language of submission only.

The transparent and thorough electoral preparations undertaken by the Government of Papua New Guinea are positive developments and deserve our support. Every effort should be made to sustain the progress achieved thus far to enable the parties to reach a successful conclusion of the peace process in June next year.

In the light of the above, I would be grateful for the Council's support in responding positively to the Papua New Guinea Government's request for UNOMB's continued presence in Bougainville and recommend that the mandate of the Observer Mission be extended for a period of six months, until 30 June 2005, so that it can complete its tasks which the Council has endorsed.

*(Signed)* Kofi A. **Annan**

**Annex**

**Letter dated 14 December 2004 from the Minister for Foreign  
Affairs and Immigration of Papua New Guinea addressed to  
the Secretary-General**

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