

Following the outbreaks in 2006, exclusive zones were established,

Vudal beach, Sang plantation and Tavilo plantations in the province.

agement mode was upheld immediately, otherwise the industry in the

row be logged every four days for two weeks. He said careful imple-

K250 million and K300 million annually," he said.

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Women play major roles in peace process

By ZACHERY PER

THE matrilineal society in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville has placed women to play leading roles in the peace process.

This was revealed at the 9th annual Centre for Democratic Institution (CDI) in Goroka yesterday by Deputy speaker of the Autonomous Bougainville Parliament and women's representative of the North Bougainville, Francisca Semoso.

She said to gain respect from their male counterparts they played major roles in the peace process and conflict resolutions.

Ms Semoso during her presentation on the "roles of women in the Bougainville peace process" said although women are highly respected in Bougainville, they suffered a lot in the conflict.



Ms Francisca Semoso ...women have suffered in the conflict

She said they were denied basic rights to medical treatments, education and other related rights but struggled deter-

minedly for peace.

"I salute the women of Bougainville for taking the front lead in solving problems," Ms Semoso said.

Member for Kogara, Central Bougainville in the ABG House of Representatives Dominic Itta yesterday said that there should be more accountability and the rule of law should prevail over the Island at all times.

Mr Itta said all the money given to them by donor agencies and the Government of PNG should be used for the purpose it was intended for and not outside of the budget.

"We have an obligation to fulfill the dreams and aspirations of the people, with equal distributions of resources that should be filter down to the common people," he said.

Mr Itta said they were taking a

bottom-up planning approach and are addressing issues from the bottom to the top which looks promising.

He said that the women were good managers in their matrilineal society adding that they give fair representation to them.

"We have three women MPs in the Autonomous Bougainville Government House of Representatives. They are Ms Semoso (North Bougainville), Magdalene Toroansi (Central Bougainville) and Laura Amba (South Bougainville).

They are among 37 male MPs," he said.

Mr Itta said the three seats were for the women but any women can contest the 37 other seats during elections.

He said that gender equity was an integral and important part of ABG.

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