



THE BOUGAINVILLE OFFSHORE GAMING AUTHORITY ACT 2025

PART I: PRELIMINARY

1. Short Title and Commencement

This Act may be cited as the Bougainville Offshore Gaming Authority Act 2025 and shall come into force on such date as the Autonomous Bougainville Government may appoint by notice in the Gazette.

2. Interpretation

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

"Authority" means the Bougainville Offshore Gaming Authority established by Section 4

"Board" means the Board of Directors of the Authority

"Chairperson" means the Chairperson of the Board appointed under Section 5

"Gaming Commissioner" means the Chief Executive Officer of the Authority

"Licensee" means any person granted a gaming license under this Act

"Offshore Gaming" includes online casinos, remote betting, interactive games of chance, and all forms of internet-based gaming offered to participants located outside the Autonomous Region of Bougainville

"License" means a permit issued by the Authority authorizing the conduct of offshore gaming operations

"Fit and Proper Person" means a person of integrity, honesty, and competence suitable for licensing under this Act

"Financial Statements" means audited financial statements prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles

"Gross Gaming Revenue" or "GMV" means the total amount of wagers less winnings paid out

"Key Personnel" means directors, officers, owners, partners, and any individuals with the ability to control or influence the licensee's operations

3. Objects of the Act

The objects of this Act are to:



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- (a) Establish a regulatory framework for the licensing and supervision of offshore gaming operations;
 - (b) Generate revenue for the fiscal self-reliance and development of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville;
 - (c) Ensure the integrity and security of gaming operations through rigorous licensing, compliance, and enforcement standards;
 - (d) Protect the interests of gaming participants through responsible gaming measures and dispute resolution mechanisms;
 - (e) Combat money laundering, terrorist financing, and other illicit financial activities through Know-Your-Customer (KYC) and Anti-Money Laundering (AML) requirements;
 - (f) Establish and maintain standards consistent with international best practices in gaming regulation and supervision.

PART II: ESTABLISHMENT AND GOVERNANCE OF THE AUTHORITY

4. Establishment of the Authority

- (1) There is hereby established an independent statutory body corporate to be known as the Bougainville Offshore Gaming Authority.
- (2) The Authority has perpetual succession, is capable of suing and being sued in its corporate name, and may acquire, hold, and dispose of property for the purposes of this Act.
- (3) The Authority shall be constituted by a Board of Directors appointed in accordance with Section 5.

5. Board Composition and Appointment

- (1) The Board shall consist of five members as follows:
 - (a) A Chairperson appointed by the President of the Autonomous Bougainville Government;
 - (b) Four other members appointed by the Board, comprising:
 - (i) A member with expertise in financial regulation and compliance;
 - (ii) A member with expertise in gaming technology and cybersecurity;
 - (iii) A member with expertise in law and regulatory affairs;
 - (iv) A member representing law enforcement or public interest.
- (2) All Board members shall be fit and proper persons of high integrity and professional competence.
- (3) The term of office for each Board member shall be four (4) years, renewable for one additional term.



(4) The Chairperson shall preside over Board meetings and represent the Authority in matters of governance and public communication.

6. Functions of the Authority

The Authority shall:

- (a) Issue, renew, suspend, and revoke gaming licenses in accordance with this Act and the regulations;
- (b) Conduct background investigations, audits, and compliance reviews of applicants and licensees;
- (c) Establish and enforce licensing conditions, operational standards, and responsible gaming requirements;
- (d) Collect and manage application fees, license fees, annual renewal fees, and gross gaming revenue taxes;
- (e) Investigate complaints and suspected violations of gaming regulations;
- (f) Maintain a public register of licensed operators and a disciplinary history;
- (g) Cooperate with international regulators, law enforcement agencies, and other gaming authorities;
- (h) Make regulations necessary for the implementation and administration of this Act;
- (i) Prepare and submit annual reports to the Autonomous Bougainville Government on gaming industry performance and regulatory activities.

7. Powers of the Authority

- (1) The Authority has power to:
 - (a) Conduct full background investigations of applicants, licensees, and key personnel, including criminal history, financial status, tax compliance, and prior gaming involvement;
 - (b) Obtain information from government agencies, financial institutions, law enforcement bodies, employers, and third-party service providers;
 - (c) Issue directives requiring licensees to implement or modify internal controls, security measures, and compliance procedures;
 - (d) Impose fines not exceeding \$50000 for violations of this Act or the regulations;
 - (e) Suspend or revoke licenses for material breaches, financial instability, criminal conduct, or other regulatory violations;



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- (f) Designate certain information as confidential, including financial, proprietary, and investigatory records;
 - (g) Conduct unannounced inspections and audits of licensee operations, systems, and records;
 - (h) Block or inhibit unauthorized gaming platforms or operators within Bougainville's jurisdiction;
 - (i) Delegate its functions to the Gaming Commissioner or other appointed officers, subject to oversight and accountability.
- (2) Any person who obstructs or hinders the Authority in the exercise of its powers commits an offense and is liable to a fine not exceeding \$10000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding two (2) years, or both.

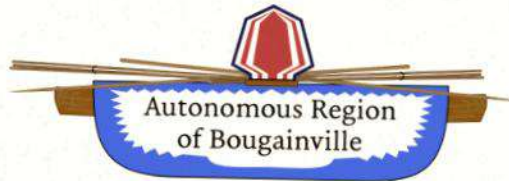
PART III: LICENSING OF OFFSHORE GAMING OPERATORS

8. Licensing Requirements

- (1) No person shall conduct offshore gaming operations without a valid license issued by the Authority under this Act.
- (2) A license authorizes the licensee to conduct specified offshore gaming activities during the license term, subject to compliance with all conditions attached to the license and all requirements of this Act.
- (3) The Authority shall specify in each license:
 - (a) The name and registered address of the licensee;
 - (b) The type and scope of gaming activities permitted;
 - (c) The license reference number and issuance date;
 - (d) The expiry date of the license;
 - (e) Any conditions, limitations, or special requirements; and
 - (f) A statement that the license may be suspended or revoked for breach of regulatory requirements.

9. Eligibility Criteria for Applicants

- (1) To qualify for an offshore gaming license, an applicant must:
 - (a) Be a legally registered company in good standing in its jurisdiction of incorporation;
 - (b) Demonstrate adequate financial resources and stability to commence and maintain gaming operations;



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- (c) Provide comprehensive disclosure of all key personnel, beneficial owners, and entities with control over the applicant;
 - (d) Submit to a full background investigation, including criminal history, financial records, tax compliance, and prior gaming involvement;
 - (e) Demonstrate that all key personnel are fit and proper persons free from disqualifying convictions or regulatory violations;
 - (f) Disclose any history of gaming license suspensions, revocations, or denials in any jurisdiction;
 - (g) Maintain compliance history free from unresolved civil judgments, bankruptcy proceedings, or regulatory actions that would undermine public confidence;
 - (h) Submit a comprehensive Responsible Gaming Plan, including voluntary self-exclusion procedures, problem gambling identification, and player protection measures;
 - (i) Demonstrate technical and operational capacity to implement robust internal controls, data security, and fraud prevention measures;
 - (j) Not be an individual or entity with a disqualifying offense, including convictions for fraud, money laundering, drug trafficking, terrorism, or gambling-related crimes that threaten gaming integrity.
- (2) The Authority may request additional information or documentation as needed to establish the applicant's competency, integrity, and suitability for licensure.

10. Application Procedures

- (1) An applicant seeking an offshore gaming license shall:
 - (a) Obtain the official application form from the Authority's website or office;
 - (b) Complete the form in full with accurate and up-to-date information;
 - (c) Compile and submit all required supporting documentation (as specified in the regulations);
 - (d) Remit the non-refundable application fee of USD \$1,500 at the time of submission;
 - (e) Authorize the Authority to conduct background investigations of the applicant and all key personnel.
- (2) Applications shall not proceed to substantive review until all deficiencies are resolved and fees are received.



(3) Upon completion of the application review and background investigations, the Authority shall approve or deny the application within thirty (30) days, or notify the applicant that additional information is required.

(4) Upon approval, the applicant shall pay the license fee of USD \$10,000 prior to issuance of the gaming license.

(5) If the application is denied, the applicant shall be informed of the reasons and shall have a right of appeal as provided in Section 17.

11. License Duration and Renewal

(1) An initial gaming license shall be issued for a period of three (3) years from the date of issuance.

(2) A licensee seeking renewal shall apply to the Authority not less than ninety (90) days before the license expiry date, accompanied by:

(a) Updated financial statements and tax returns;

(b) Disclosure of any material changes to business operations, ownership, or key personnel;

(c) Annual compliance report;

(d) Payment of annual renewal fees.

(3) Renewal fees shall be:

(a) USD \$10,000 per annum if the licensee's Gross Gaming Revenue is less than USD \$5,000,000;

(b) USD \$15,000 per annum if the licensee's Gross Gaming Revenue exceeds USD \$5,000,000;

(c) USD \$25,000 for a three-year renewal if GMV is less than USD \$5,000,000;

(d) USD \$35,000 for a three-year renewal if GMV exceeds USD \$5,000,000.

(4) The Authority shall notify the licensee of approval or denial of the renewal application at least thirty (30) days before license expiry.

12. Gross Gaming Revenue Tax

(1) There is no tax. Operators will Pay Taxes in their own Incorporated Jurisdiction.

PART IV: COMPLIANCE AND OPERATIONAL STANDARDS



13. Operational Integrity and Internal Controls

- (1) Each licensee shall implement and maintain robust internal control systems that provide reasonable assurance against material errors, fraud, and misrepresentation in financial reporting and gaming operations.
- (2) Internal controls shall be certified annually by senior management and subject to independent audit.
- (3) Licensees shall submit annual operational assessments and technology integrity reviews to the Authority, demonstrating the effectiveness of gaming systems, data security, and risk management protocols.
- (4) The Authority may require corrective actions if internal controls are found to be inadequate.

14. Security and Data Protection

- (1) Licensees shall establish and maintain comprehensive security measures to protect:
 - (a) Gaming systems, servers, and related technology infrastructure from unauthorized access and cyber threats;
 - (b) Player financial information and personal data in compliance with applicable data protection laws;
 - (c) Gaming platforms against fraud, money laundering, and illicit activity.
- (2) Regular technology integrity and security assessments shall be submitted to the Authority in accordance with the regulations.
- (3) Any security breach or cyber incident shall be reported to the Authority within forty-eight (48) hours of discovery.

15. Responsible Gaming and Player Protection

- (1) Each licensee shall develop, implement, and maintain a comprehensive Responsible Gaming Plan that includes:
 - (a) Voluntary self-exclusion procedures allowing players to restrict their own access;
 - (b) Procedures for identifying and assisting problem gamblers;
 - (c) Maintenance of self-exclusion lists and coordination with other licensees;
 - (d) Player deposit limits and loss limits;
 - (e) Age verification and anti-underage access measures;
 - (f) Clear information about odds, payouts, and the nature of games offered;



(g) Access to independent gambling counseling and treatment resources.

(2) Licensees shall submit annual reports on responsible gaming activities and player protection measures to the Authority.

(3) The Authority may require enhanced responsible gaming measures if deemed necessary to protect public health and welfare.

16. Ongoing Compliance and Reporting

(1) Licensees shall:

(a) Submit periodic financial statements and tax returns as required by the Authority;

(b) Promptly report material changes to business operations, ownership, key personnel, or technical systems;

(c) Cooperate fully with audits, inspections, and investigations conducted by the Authority;

(d) Maintain records of all gaming transactions, player accounts, and compliance activities for at least seven (7) years;

(e) Establish and maintain a customer complaints and dispute resolution procedure;

(f) Submit monthly gaming revenue statements within fifteen (15) days of month-end.

(2) Failure to comply with any reporting or compliance requirement is grounds for enforcement action, including suspension or revocation of the license.

PART V: SUSPENSION, REVOCATION, AND ENFORCEMENT

17. Suspension and Revocation of Licenses

(1) The Authority may suspend a license for a period not exceeding ninety (90) days if the licensee:

(a) Fails to pay fees, taxes, or any other amounts due to the Authority;

(b) Violates operational standards, internal control requirements, or responsible gaming obligations;

(c) Is subject to a criminal investigation related to the gaming operations;

(d) Materially breaches any condition of the license.

(2) The Authority may revoke a license if the licensee:

(a) Commits a material breach of this Act or the regulations that is not remedied within sixty (60) days of written notice;



- (b) Engages in fraud, money laundering, terrorist financing, or other illicit financial activity;
 - (c) Fails to maintain fit and proper status or key personnel cease to meet suitability standards;
 - (d) Becomes insolvent, bankrupt, or ceases to be a going concern;
 - (e) Refuses to cooperate with Authority investigations or audits;
 - (f) Poses a threat to the integrity of gaming operations or public confidence in the gaming industry.
- (3) Before suspending or revoking a license, the Authority shall provide the licensee with written notice specifying the grounds for action and shall afford the licensee an opportunity to respond or cure the breach within a reasonable timeframe.

PART VI: GENERAL PROVISIONS

18. Confidentiality and Data Protection

- (1) Information submitted during the application and licensing process, including financial statements, proprietary information, and investigatory records, shall be treated as confidential.
- (2) The Authority may not disclose such information except:
 - (a) As required by law or court order;
 - (b) To other gaming regulators, law enforcement agencies, or financial intelligence units;
 - (c) In regulatory proceedings or disciplinary actions;
 - (d) With the written consent of the licensee or applicant.
- (3) The Authority shall comply with applicable data protection and privacy legislation in the collection, storage, and use of personal information.

19. Regulations

- (1) The Authority may make regulations necessary or convenient for the implementation of this Act, including:
 - (a) Detailed licensing procedures and documentation requirements;
 - (b) Technical and operational standards for gaming systems;
 - (c) Responsible gaming measures and player protection requirements;
 - (d) AML/KYC procedures and suspicious activity reporting;
 - (e) Audit and compliance procedures;
 - (f) Fee structures and payment methods;
 - (g) Dispute resolution procedures;
 - (h) Any other matters necessary for the administration of this Act.



(2) Regulations shall be published in the Gazette and shall come into force on the date specified therein.

20. Annual Report

The Authority shall, within three (3) months of the end of each financial year, prepare and submit to the Autonomous Bougainville Government an annual report containing:

- (a) A summary of licensing activities and decisions;
- (b) Compliance and enforcement statistics;
- (c) Revenue collected and expenditures incurred;
- (d) Industry developments and regulatory concerns;
- (e) Recommendations for legislative or regulatory improvements;
- (f) The audited financial statements of the Authority.

21. Amendment

This Act may be amended by the Parliament of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville by legislative instrument.

22. Repeal and Savings

(1) Any prior legislation governing offshore gaming in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville is hereby repealed.

(2) Licenses or approvals granted under prior legislation may continue to be recognized by the Authority, subject to conversion to compliance with this Act within a period specified by the Authority.

END OF ACT

Hon. Ezekiel Masatt, MHOR

Minister for Independence Mission Implementation Justice & Attorney General