



Editorial by:

Permanent Secretary of MPGIS and National Project Director for PGSP

The decision by the Premiers in October last year to bring forward the date of the Premiers Conference to June this year gave additional pressure to the Ministry to accomplish its responsibilities by giving support to the Province in its preparations for the Conference. This is being done against the back drop of other major activities planned in the Ministry Annual Work Plan and Budget for 2013.

standing aim of the Provincial Governments to ensure ward profiles are carried out in each ward has eventually been accomplished. Consultants have now been deployed in the Provinces to coordinate the ward profiling exercises. So far the data collection for the provinces of Guadalcanal, Isabel and Choiseul are completed whilst Makira is underway. Initial consultations in the Province of Temotu have also commenced.

Preparations for the Conference are being finalised for the Conference to commence on the 17th of this month. The Pre-Premiers Meeting held in April this year enabled the Provincial Premiers to finalise the programme developed and presented by the Western Provincial Government. The theme of 7th Premiers' Conference, "resourcing provinces to develop vibrant local economies" has been further conceptualised by the host Province to enable resource persons to understand the subject matter for discussions.

The Provincial elections in the Provinces of Western and Choiseul is also on course. The registration process which should take about 90 days has begun in Choiseul and Western Provinces this month with the election dates due in the second week of September 2013. The September elections in these two Provinces shall lead to the election of 42 Members of the Provincial Assemblies and new Executives for Western Province 26 MPAs whilst 16 MPAs for Choiseul respectively. After the elections are completed, the Ministry shall conduct induction courses for the newly elected Members of the Provincial Assemblies of Choiseul and Western Provinces. *Continued on page 2*

I am happy to indicate that the long

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The long standing modernisation and standardisation of Provincial Standing Orders have been completed with the support of Centre for Democratic Institutions, Canberra. A workshop to finalise the Standing Orders took place in the month of February 2013 and since then some of the Provinces have adopted the new Standing Orders.

The annual review of Provincial Annual Work Plans and Budgets took place at the end of January this year to give time to the Provincial Governments to adjust their budgets and work plans based on comments received from the Ministry of Finance team. As a result of the effective review of Provincial Budgets, the Ministry has observed improved quality in the budgets being presented to the Minister to assent. It seems Provinces have found the discussions and feedback systems as very useful.

The extension of PGSP for another one year has enabled the Provincial Governments to continue to benefit from the support being given by the project through the Ministry. Key activities such as Functional Assignment studies were carried out and the report on the first phase of consultation has now been submitted by the consultant. This report shall be reviewed and internalised by the Ministry and the Provincial Governments with the objective of starting a dialogue with the key line Ministries.

The design of phase II of PGSP that commenced in November 2012 is still on course. The concept note was finalised in March this year and the detailed project document is being developed. The document, when completed shall be used to mobilise resources for the next phase of the project. The Ministry is still hopeful that funding might be available for the next phase of the project to ensure continuity of key activities that started in phase 1.

Amongst key activities to be undertaken in the second half of the year are:

1. The PCDF Annual Performance Assessment is commencing in the month of August this year. Advertisements have been made and desk review completed.
2. There would be intensive training on International Public Sector Accounting Standard for Provincial Treasures and their deputies in the month of August this year for one week.
3. The long awaited revenue mobilisation strategy could this year be accomplished as a result of the studies to be carried out by an international consultant in September this year. The exercise shall result in the development of strategies that may enhance the revenue earning capabilities of Provincial Governments.
4. The Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of the project shall be fine-tuned to enable it to be implemented effectively. This would commence in October by an international consultant. The Ministry M&E Officers shall be undergoing capacity building with the support of the international specialist.

With these achievement so far, I am confident that the Ministry and PGSP are on course to achieve the approved work programmes for 2013.

On this note, I would like to thank Provincial Governments for their continuous commitment to the development process of their individual Provinces and the support given to Ministry policy initiatives. I must also express thanks and appreciation to the donor partners: Solomon Islands Government, RAMSI, EU, UNDP and UNCDF, for their continuous support for the project. *end*



From the Ministry of Provincial Governments and Institutional Strengthening (MPGIS)



SHOWCASING WESTERN PROVINCE AS PROVINCIAL PREMIERS ARRIVE IN GIZO FOR THE 7TH PREMIERS CONFERENCE

By Momodou Lamin Sawaneh
Chief Technical Advisor (interim) PGSP/MPGIS

The Provincial Premier of Western Province is having a busy time as he puts finishing touches to preparations for the much anticipated 7th Premiers conference which is due on June 17th. Organising a conference of this magnitude is not an easy task even when all anticipated resources are available much more where the conference budget seems to be under-resourced. As a seasoned politician and an experienced former civil servant, Premier Lilo is leaving no stones unturned to ensure that the Gizo conference remains the best conference ever. This might sound be a difficult a task to accomplish especially knowing that the remaining provinces like Guadalcanal and Malaita who are yet to host the conference shall be fully prepared to ensure theirs are the best. Nonetheless, having studied the preparations made so far by the Western Provincial Government coupled with the support and coordination being given to the province by the Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening, I have no iota of doubt that the heads of provincial governments who are heading to Gizo shall return to their bases feeling that something great has been achieved.

Like other colleague Premiers, Premier Lilo loves to see a more dynamic and pragmatic approach to development issues at all times. He has this year departed from the conventional type of conference which the Premiers had been

used to for the past six years by ensuring that the technical people chart the agenda for the 7th Premiers' conference. The agenda indicates that for this year's conference, there would be no presentation from individual premiers but instead a comprehensive conceptual framework has been developed that explains in more detail the theme of the conference for resource persons to discuss and come up with a report that would be discussed by provincial premiers on the following day. This is quite a unique inclusion as it represents a radical shift from the conventional Premiers conference programming.

"For all these years, the resources persons have been presenting to premiers but for this conference, I want something different so that we can achieve something at the end of day". Said Premier Lilo.

Without reading the concept note developed by Western Province, one would have imagined that the Gizo programme is a complicated one, but after a closer look at the content so far, the province must be given a credit for coming up with a theme that has so far attracted a lot of interest, and something that we can all write a lot about. It also seems to give more time and space to the Provincial Secretaries and Permanent Secretaries (both Accounting Officers) to discuss key issues surrounding the conference theme and recommend strategies of how to implement them. This may turn

out to be much more helpful when it comes to drafting the conference resolutions.

The theme "**resourcing provinces to develop vibrant local economies**" for the 7th conference has been carefully developed by Western Province and supported by all the Premiers during the pre-premiers meeting in the month of April this year. By using this theme for the 7th Premiers conference the Premiers feel that the strength of the issue of resourcing provincial governments could attract the attention of all stakeholders in the development arena and particularly more the National Government who is responsible for resourcing the provincial governments.

Western Province has clearly outlined the links between the provision of resources and the development of vibrant local economies in the rural Solomon. It may all sound a bit difficult to achieve but for the Provincial Premiers and the Mayor of Honiara City, nothing is impossible as long as it is not apparently beyond the human capacity to internalise. Efforts have been made to ensure the conference theme goes beyond mere conceptual framework to something that can lead to a discussion of serious issues on strategies for resourcing provincial governments to kick-start local economic development. In this vein the line ministries and other key stakeholders in the provincial government system are expected to make significant contributions. Provincial premiers firmly believe *Continued on page 4*



From the Ministry of Provincial Governments and Institutional Strengthening (MPGIS)



Continued from page 3 that with 85% of the Solomon Islanders living in the rural areas without the basic amenities of life, resourcing provinces and provincial government is in no doubt a concern of everyone.

Newly completed four classroom block in Gizo Primary and Secondary School – block 1



12/06/2013

Presented By Momodou Sawaneh, CTA
(Interim) PGSP of MPGIS

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have made a significant improvement in poverty eradication and provide the necessary infrastructures to promote the private-led local economic development. The Millennium Development Goals have even more ambitious target of 2015. The key objectives of the National Development Strategy objectives have been well elaborated but despite that the provincial

Newly completed four classroom block in Gizo Primary and Secondary Schools – block 2



10/06/2013

Presented By Momodou Sawaneh, CTA
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of those lofty objectives designed in the NDS for the provincial governments?

With no definite answer immediately found within the current strategies, the provincial authorities feel that the Gizo venue, which shall be attended by very high profile government officer, is an ideal location to debate the issue of resourcing provin-

"We have done a lot to demonstrate that provincial governments have the capacity to do even more. I think this should be recognised", said Premier Lilo.

The assumption of the National Development Strategy objective 1 and 5 is that by 2020, the Solomon Islands would

cial government in order to develop strategies of how this should be done. In this conference, key players in the provinces such as the Ministry of Education and Human Resources indeed have a centre stage. Recent records indicate that there has so far been no agency agreement between any provincial government and the line ministry of education but interestingly **over 42% (over \$30 million)** of provincial capital developments funds that uses PCDF mechanism of PGSP is being spent on education sector. The same applies to the Ministry of health where almost 15% of PCDF grants to support the health sector.

From the provincial premiers perspective, this can be described as a demonstration by the provincial governments that they have now acquired the basic capacity to design and implement development projects in areas beyond their devolved functions. Below are some of the newly completed Gizo school education projects.

What are the expectations of the Provincial Premiers and the Mayor of Honiara City Council in the 7th Premiers conference?

Based on the conceptualised framework on the conference theme, the provincial premiers hope that by end of the 7th Premiers conference the following issues shall be clarified:

Clarifications from key line ministries as to what kind of support they would require from the provincial governments in implementing their programmes in the provinces for better service delivery. Since resources follow functions, the strategies of how these areas of support required from the provincial government can be resourced.

Clarification of how the provincial government's human resources and other available capacities can be used to support the implementation of critical projects that are lined up for implementation by the Constituencies across Solomon Islands.

Clarification of how the Ministry of Rural Development shall support and facilitate the involvement of the Members of Parliament into the ward profiling and development of long term strategies of provincial governments that shall incorporate the Constituency plans; a further discussion on how the Constituencies and provincial governments and RDP can design a proper coordination mechanism through integrated planning processes at all levels. *Continued on page 5*



From the Ministry of Provincial Governments and Institutional Strengthening (MPGIS)



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By end of the conference, MDPAC and MoFT shall all have a good understanding that for provincial governments to promote the development of vibrant local economies, they have to be adequately resourced to do so. The five day debate and discussions shall probably enable resource persons to identify the underlying consequences of continuous under-resourcing of provincial governments and thus come up with strategies of how to improve provincial financing.

The provincial authorities' emphasis on the need for resources for investment in infrastructures is a direct result of their five years experience in undertaking small scale investments through the provincial capacity development funds. Lot of employment opportunities have been created by the numerous projects initiated and completed in the communities by the provincial governments, which has led to improved growth and improved rural employment. Lot of rural youths who would have otherwise been in the streets have learned trades and got live skills through the employment opportunities created by local contractors who have so far succeeded in executing PCDF projects (see the interview with the unsung hero of Kira Kira on page 20).

The expectations from the Premiers in Gizo by the whole nation including development partners are quite high but we should not be under any illusion that the Provincial Premiers and the Mayor of Honiara City are well prepared to meet the public expectations. The resource persons are also well briefed by the Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening through the well elaborated concept developed by Western Province.

Western Province in coordination with the MPGIS finalised arrangements for a long and interesting discussions amongst the resource persons for the week beginning June 17th. Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening has finalised all arrangements for the nation to tune into Solomon Island Broadcasting Corporation and One Television for a live broadcast of Gizo discussion commencing on Monday the 17th of June 2013. You might be so far from Gizo Islands but still follow the events through your selected medium.

end

"We should try to avoid parallel system of resourcing provincial governments. Since PCDF mechanism has worked for us, we should focus on strengthening that system instead of creating many more" Premier Lilo.

Newly completed four classroom block in Gizo Primary and Secondary Schools – block 3



12/06/2013

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Newly completed four classroom block in Gizo Primary and Secondary Schools – block 4



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One of the nine completed classrooms in Gizo Primary and Secondary Schools



12/06/2013

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(Interim) PGSP of MPGIS

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From the Ministry of Provincial Governments and Institutional Strengthening (MPGIS)



Annual Performance Assessment Results of 2012 for 2013/14 PCDF Allocation

By: Stanley D. Pirione

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening
And Chairman of PGSP Joint Oversight Committee (Project Board)

The Joint Oversight Committee of the Provincial Governance Strengthening Programme has released the final results of the Annual Performance Assessment conducted in 2012 for access to Provincial Capacity Development Fund 2013/14. The Joint Oversight Committee which is chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening, Mr Stanley D. Pirione, presided over the results of the Assessment on the 20th of December 2012.

In 2012 Annual Performance Assessment, Provincial Governments were assessed on seven (7) Minimum Conditions and eight Performance Measures with 100 indicators. For a Province to qualify for funding from Provincial Capacity Development Fund, it has to meet all seven Minimum Conditions. The

2012 assessment results have been highlighted in table 1 below. The amount of funds that should be allocated to each Province has also been determined as indicated in the table.

**The performance scores are
out of 100 points**

In addition to Malaita Province, Rennell & Bellona Province was going to miss out from this year's funding but the Province successfully appealed against minimum condition 6 (tabling of audit report in the Provincial Assembly). The Joint Oversight Committee heard the appeal from Renbel and approved the qualification of Renbel on the basis of evidences produced before the steering committee. The Provincial Capacity Development Fund Operational Manual has a provision for Provinces that do not meet certain minimum conditions to file

an appeal directly to the Joint Oversight Committee through the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Provincial Government Institutional Strengthening who is the Chairman of the Project Steering Committee. The appeal is heard only when it is filed within a period of two weeks of the date of Joint Oversight Committee announcing the results of the assessment.

For Provinces that do not meet the minimum conditions, the Ministry ensures that support is provided to them in the form of capacity building in order to improve their financial management capabilities. Support is provided to all Provinces though the capacity building initiative funded by Provincial Governance Strengthening Programme designed to improve public expenditure management system and good governance at the Provincial level. In the case of Malaita Province, further assistance shall be provided in order to ensure that the Province is back on track.

Table 1: 2012 PCDF annual performance assessment results

Items	Provinces	Minimum conditions met	Performance score per province	Amount allocated SBD
1	Malaita	3	53	0.00
2	Makira Ulawa	7	62	3,805,540
3	Central	7	66	2,739,989
4	Isabel	7	70	2,784,438
5	Choiseul	7	75	3,268,998
6	Western	7	68	5,492,773
7	Guadalcanal	7	58	5,184,307
8	Temotu	7	69	2,771,118
9	Rennell & Bellona	7	54	1,636,961

The Seven Minimum conditions assessed in 2012 include as follows:

1. Core staffing in place: Provincial Secretary or Deputy Provincial Secretary, Provincial Treasurer or Deputy Provincial Treasurer, Chief Planning Officer or Senior Planning Officer should be in place.
2. Natural Justice: The termination of seconded officers is carried out by following the principles of natural justice as laid out in the Labour Act, public service

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From the Ministry of Provincial Governments and Institutional Strengthening (MPGIS)



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regulations and the relevant sections of the General Orders of the Solomon Island Government.

3. Management of Provincial Capacity Development Fund accounts: That Provincial Capacity Development Fund accounts are not used for any purposes other than Provincial Capacity Development Fund purposes.

4. Financial reporting: The Provincial Government financial statements are submitted to the Office of Auditor General on or before 31st December.

5. Bank Reconciliation: That the bank reconciliations of the province are up to date at least one month before the assessment team arrives.

6. Audit reports: That the most recent audit reports are tabled before the provincial assembly and a strategy is developed of audit queries shall be dealt with by the province.

7. Co-funding: That the province pays its own contribution into Provincial Capacity Development Fund account during the course of the year. This has to be evidenced in the bank statement of the province.

of the results shows that, on average, despite their low population.

Provinces have been improving their

performance. Average score has increased from 40 in 2009 to 64 in 2012. This year, 20% of fixed service grant has been allocated to Provincial Govern-

Table 2: Trend analysis of PG performance in Performance Measures from 2009 - 2012

Provinces	2009	2010	2011	2012
Guadalcanal	34	60	61	58
Temotu	34	43	61	69
Western	44	62	58	68
Makira Ulawa	44	61	65	62
Isabel	38	71	80	70
Central	37	57	61	66
Malaita	49	59	54	53
Rennell & Bellona	34	43	45	54
Choiseul	49	78	80	75
Total for average comp.	363	534	565	575
Average	40	59	63	64

assessment. Even though performance measures have been enhanced as a result of the revision that took place in 2012, the average score has improved.

About 50% of Provincial Capacity Development Funds have this year been allocated to Provinces based on performance. The remaining 50% is allocated based on basic allocation formula. Provinces that obtained higher scores in performance measures such as Choiseul and Isabel have gained more resources

ments based on their scores in the performance measures assessment for Provincial Capacity Development Fund. Provinces that did well in the Provincial Capacity Development Fund performance measures increased their allocations in the fixed service grant. The use of performance measures in allocating a portion of fixed service grant to Provinces is an indication of the impact of the Provincial Capacity Development Fund mechanism of promoting sound fiscal reforms. *Continued on page 8*

Performance measures (see table 2 below)

In terms of performance measures, the Provincial Government of Choiseul has been consistently leading the Nine Provinces since the performance assessment commenced in 2009, as indicated in table 2 below. The overall trend analysis



From the Ministry of Provincial Governments and Institutional Strengthening (MPGIS)



Table 3: The revised performance measures that were assessed in 2012

Items	Performance Measures	Indicators
1	Existence of quality of development plan and annual budget	18
2	Achievement of budgeted estimated targets and project implementation (budget performance)	9
3	Revenue collections performance and contribution to own development (sustainability)	8
4	HR management capacity and performance	6
5	Financial management	28
6	Transparency and Governance	15
7	Operation of the assembly and executive and links to administration	10
8	Operation of assembly and executive and links to administration	6
	Total	100

MPGIS/PGSP News Letter

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Provincial Capacity Development Fund is a performance based grant which has been set up by the Solomon Island Government to provide Provinces with investment for small scale infrastructure projects whilst at the same time promoting public expenditure management systems and public financial management systems at the Provincial level. When the Provincial Capacity Development Fund started in 2008, SIG and donors (EU, RAMSI, UNDP and UNCDF) contributed equally to the capital development fund accessed by Provinces that meet the minimum criteria. For the first four years, the donors and SIG were each contributing about SBD5.4million but since 2011, the National Government up-scaled its contribution to SBD30 million per annum.

The Ministry hires four independent consultants annually (one planning expert, two accountants and one auditor) to carry out the assessment over a period of two months. The final reports of the assessors are first discussed by the Provincial Fiscal Grant Coordination committee (a committee that discusses fiscal issues of Provincial Governance Strengthening

Programme) and then later finalised by the Joint Oversight Committee (Project Steering Committee) based on Provincial Fiscal Grant Coordination Committee recommendations (a fiscal committee that assists the project Board).

Provincial Governance Strengthening Programme is a SIG and donor funded programme that has been designed to strengthen capacities of Provincial Governments in Solomon Islands for effective service delivery. The first phase of the programme has been focusing on strengthening the public expenditure management capacity of the Provincial Government by providing them with incentives in the form of Provincial Capacity Development Fund to finance small scale investments at the Provincial level. The programme commenced in 2008 and it shall end by end of December 2013. Since 2008, assessments have been carried out annually to determine the eligibility of provinces to the fund.

Announcing 2013 annual performance assessment

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From the Ministry of Provincial Governments and Institutional Strengthening (MPGIS)



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At this juncture, I wish to announce that the start of the annual performance assessment of Provincial Capacity Development Fund is supposed to commence in the first week of August 2013. The advertisement to recruit the consultants for assessment has already been released by the MPGIS in consultation with United Development Programme in Honiara.

Breaking away from the tradition, three independent consultants shall be recruited by PGSP as follows:

1 Accountant

1 Planning Specialist

1 External Auditor

The assessment process shall take about two months with the final results of all scores discussed by Joint Oversight Committee by end of November 2013. Those Provinces that qualify shall indeed share a sum of SBD35m or SBD30m in 2014/15 fiscal years to invest in infrastructure projects.

In 2013 annual performance assessment, there would be an emphasis on the auditing aspect of the utilisation of PCDF over the years. Now that phase I is ending this year, there would be an independent audit of PCDF procurements

system and the utilisation of PCDF from the PCDF accounts. The results of this audit shall give a kind of confidence to the SIG and donor communities of how funds are being used and whether Provincial Governments, after five years of operating PCDF have indeed learned to abide by the basic internal control procedures and SIG procurement principles. The first of this kind of audit was conducted in Malaita Province in 2012 and reports have been available to the members of Joint Oversight Committee for review. The independent audit report of 2013 shall also be provided to the Joint Oversight Committee for their review. *end*

PGSP NATIONAL PROJECT COORDINATOR (NANCY LEGUA) MEETS THE PRESS

1. Brief background on PGSP

- The PGSP is an institutional strengthening program aiming to develop the capacity of the Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening (MPGIS) and the nine Provincial Governments in order to fulfill their mandates in service delivery.
- PGSP is implemented by the Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening (MPGIS), with UNCDF and UNDP providing support for the implementation of the program as participating UN agencies.
- UNDP has been delegated the role and responsibility as the Administrative Agent of the Joint Program.

2. Key project activities are organized against four major components which will aim to:

- Clarify and gradually expand the responsibility of Provincial Governments (PGs) or local-level infrastructure & services delivery and local economic development management;
- Increase the flow of public funds to Provincial Governments to align their resources with their mandated responsibilities and to build capacity through incentives

tives to improved performance;

- Build the capacity of Provincial Governments (both Assemblies and Administrations) for pro-poor policy making and implementation, focusing initially on improving the institutions of public expenditure management and in support;
- Have an effective M & E system in place, consisting of Base Line indicators and M & E framework;

3. Goals and outcomes

- The overarching goal of the PGSP is poverty reduction and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the Solomon Islands.
- The intermediate outcome for the program is improved provincial governance for development, more specifically, an expanded, more effective and more efficient role of Provincial Governments in the promotion and management of local development and service delivery.

4. Since established, what have the project embarked on and where

- The project has been *Continued on page 10*



From the Ministry of Provincial Governments and Institutional Strengthening (MPGIS)



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focused on public expenditure management system to strengthen the capacities of the provincial governments in the management of public resources.

- The accounting systems have been streamlined and financial reports are being produced.
- The audit reports are being tabled before the provincial assemblies for deliberations.
- Budgets are now linked to the annual work plans.
- It has established a performance based grant for small scale investment in local infrastructures through PCDF grants, which has worked very well so far.
- Through these grants, provinces have completed almost 520 (SBD71 million) solid projects in all sectors of the provinces particularly in health and education sectors.
- Provincial government members of the assemblies have been capacitated through series of training conducted for them at the provincial level to enable them to appreciate their roles as elected leaders.
- The provincial public accounts committees have been established in all provinces to scrutinize the provincial plans and budgets before they are submitted to the assemblies.

5. Challenges and obstacles faced in addressing the aims and objectives

- Retaining officers for a long period of time in the provinces has been a big challenge for the provincial governments due to lack of staff housing. This is being resolved gradually through PCDF.
- This has affected the pace of development in some provinces as some officers are being overstretched.
- Capacity building takes time but gradually progress is being made.
- Coordination with the line ministries has been a bit difficult but efforts are being made to integrate them into the planning processes.
- Resources at the disposal of the provincial governments are not adequate to meet their expenditure

Former Prime Minister Manaseh Sogavare stated in his speech to the United Nations General Assembly in September 2006, that *'My delegation is heartened by a joint UNDP and UNCDF proposed project to strengthen Solomon Islands' provincial government system as well as investing in provincial infrastructure and communications. This proposal strengthens all principles of democracy and brings the state closer to its people. My government stands ready to assist in any way it can in bringing to full realization of such a worthy proposal. Solomon Islands calls on all partners to contribute, to better the lives of a people that for a long have been neglected.'*

needs.

- This is a big obstacle that the provincial governments have been living with as they try to provide services to the best of their ability.

6. PCDF. Provincial Capacity Development Fund is a performance based grant designed by the SIG to:

- Promote and stimulate provincial PFM/PEM systems, procedures and practices by enhancing the provincial incentives to improve performance and provision of funds to make the local planning and budgeting process meaningful, efficient and participatory;
- Provide funds for small scale investments in needed infrastructure and service delivery.
- Improve the provincial capacity in PFM/PEM and good governance and accountability areas through combined funding for investments, significant capacity building support and stronger incentives.

7. What are the processes involved in allocating PCDF?

- Provinces shall undergo through annual performance assessment in order to qualify for PCDF funding
- Funds are allocated based on a pre-determined formula for provinces who are able to meet the basic minimum conditions.

- If the province does not meet minimum conditions, then it does not qualify to access PCDF funds

- Funds allocated to the province are appropriated by the provincial assemblies as per annual work plans

8. On what basis does a community or people get funding from PCDF

- There are three year rolling plans where three year projects are identified
- The province identify projects for communities through the members of the provincial assemblies
- The costing of those projects are done and submitted to the provincial assemblies for approval

9. What plans are in place yet for PCDF

- The increase in PCDF by the government in 2011 was a direct result of its recognition of the effectiveness of the mechanism. *Continued on page 11*



From the Ministry of Provincial Governments and Institutional Strengthening (MPGIS)



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- The provinces would like to see more funds put into the system.
- Capacities built through PCDF incentives.
- More infrastructures developed through the PCDF mechanisms.

10. What the Ministry is hoping to see out of PCDF

- The ministry would like to see PCDF developed as an excellent performance based mechanism that other project may emulate. It has so far worked for the provinces but that does not mean that it is now sustainable.
- We still need to work hard to ensure sustainability of the system. The system is working well but not yet robust enough to roll on by itself.



11. After phase 1, what are the lessons learnt

- That it has not been easy to sustain such a long term programme.
- Performance based grant has improved the provincial governance system a lot but it is yet to be appreciated by some of the provinces for the fact that they have not been used to it.
- We still have to do more in terms of public relations to show case what provinces have achieved so far under this programme.
- A lot has been done but the publicity of what provinces are doing should be increased to create awareness of the effectiveness of the system we have in place.
- It has also been learned that more efforts and resources are required for sustainable capacity building.

end

GREETINGS FROM THE ICT DESK OF MPGIS

*Francis Munamua
ICT Officer for PGSP/MPGIS*

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) improves the way users share information and knowledge to support and conduct business activities. As such, the Ministry has invested much on ICT to assist in ensuring information are accurate, timely and readily available for decision making.

SERVERS

The recent procurement of two servers by the Ministry would greatly enhance the impact of ICT for the Ministry to better coordinate its business activities not only with its partners but also the public at large.

There would be substantial cost reduction in relation to internet usage as emails between staffs in the ministry

would not require internet connection. At present all emails sent and or received require internet connection even for in-house emails or emails sent within the Ministry office.

It will also host official email accounts for seconded officers posted in the provinces for official correspondences with other stakeholders. Currently most correspondences by Ministry's seconded officers are made with their personal email addresses rendering the communications unofficial or personal as far as communication protocol is concerned.

The servers will provide backup for the data and would provide basis for the Ministry's Disaster Recovery Plan to cater for business *Continued on page 12*



From the Ministry of Provincial Governments and Institutional Strengthening (MPGIS)



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continuity in the event of a natural or man-made disaster. It will enhance the management of network resources, improves the accessibility and security of files to all authorized users at any time.

WEBSITE

As part of the Ministry's effort to showcase its successes, a website was recently launched at the beginning of 2013. The website was designed using Joomla and the address is <http://www.mpgis.gov.sb>. The website would enable the ministry to showcase to a much wider audience; save on printing of newsletters, accessibility will only be limited to internet connectivity.

Provincial Governments will be able to publish for no additional cost information such as their annual budgets, ordinances, tender documents for potential bidders. Provincial Governments are required to provide to the public a number of documents and the website would provide such an avenue.

Managing of the website by Ministry officers and Provincial Government officials will enable timely update

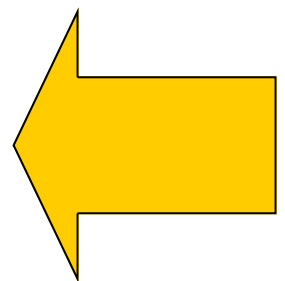
of news and information to keep the website fresh and informative.

ONSITE VISITS

Given the geographical location of the provincial headquarters, the Ministry has arranged bi-annual trips for the ICT Assistant to monitor onsite and resolve ICT issues that may arise from time to time. During such visits a number of trainings have taken place such as basic computer usage, basic ms office 2007 particularly on ms office Word, ms office Excel and ms office Power-Point.

WAY FORWARD

To protect the substantial investment in these ICT equipments, guidelines will be put in place with vital trainings to capacitate officers on how to utilize the full potential of the current ICT equipments available in the Ministry and the 9 Provincial Governments. This way the investment will be realized and sustained for long term benefit. *end*



Ellen Joy Aired and Pricilla Oliver, staff of Guadalcanal Provincial Government crossing the Bokokimbo River to Kamua village, East Guadalcanal for ward profiling. Photo by Greg Awa



From the Ministry of Provincial Governments and Institutional Strengthening (MPGIS)



MPGIS LAUNCHES WARD PROFILING AND STRATEGIC PLANNING IN ALL PROVINCES

*By: Momodou Lamin Sawaneh,
Chief Technical Advisor for PGSP*

The Ministry of Provincial and Institutional Strengthening formally launches Ward Profiling and Strategic Planning formulation for nine Provincial Governments in Solomon Islands in the first week of April 2013. The six month long exercise which shall lead to the production of Ward Profiles for each of the 170 Wards and Strategic Plans for each Province is being funded by Provincial Governance Strengthening Programme (through UNDP/EU), Ministry of Development Planning and Aid Co-ordination and the Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening.

This exercise is in response to Buala Premiers Conference Communique of 24th day of October 2010. On this day, Hon. Premiers adopted resolution 14 of Buala Communique for the Provincial Government Strengthening Programme to assist the Provinces through the Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening to compile a comprehensive Ward profile in each of the 170 Wards in the nine Provinces of Solomon Islands. Resolution 14 of Buala Communique reads:

"Ward Development Profiles are important mechanisms for the participatory planning process in Provincial Governments. These will help the Provincial Governments identify potential priority developments aspirations in the rural areas/wards as it would be seen to be strengthening the capacities and improving the livelihoods of Solomon Islands' rural populace. The Premiers acknowledge that UNDP's Provincial Governance Strengthening Project has already started work on Ward Development Profiles, therefore request Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening to ensure that this work continues".

The implementation of this important resolution was stalled as a result of the decision by MPGIS to wait for the completion and official launching of the National Development Strategy of SIG. The Ministry with the support of PGSP supported the consultation processes in Provinces for the formu-

lation of National Development Strategy in 2011. The launching of NDS in 2011 has now paved the way for the implementation of Buala Resolution 14 as prescribed by Provincial Premiers.

It should be noted that formulation of long term strategies of Provincial Governments is the starting point of public expenditure management cycle of PGSP as designed by the Solomon Island Government in 2007. The implementation of this part of the PEM had to wait for the launching of NDS by SIG.

Objectives of the assignment

1. The exercise shall lead to the production a five year rolling strategic plans for the nine Provincial Governments of Solomon Islands that is based on the development needs of the Provincial Governments but linked to the priorities set out in the National Development Strategy objectives of the National Government.
2. Produce a comprehensive ward profile for each of the wards in each of the Provinces in order to compile the most updated and realistic database of socio-economic activities in each ward that could be used as inputs to inform the overall strategic planning process of the Provincial Governments. The ward profiles would later be updated on annual basis by the Provincial Authorities.

The Ward Profiling would include climate change vulnerability analysis questionnaires with the objective of compiling a database that would hold record of the types of assistance that local communities think they need with climate change adaptation. It may identify types of action and priority locations.

The long term outcome of the strategic planning exercise is localisation of National Development Strategy at Provincial and community levels. All the objectives of National Development Strategy that need the support of Provincial Governments *Continued on page 14*



From the Ministry of Provincial Governments and Institutional Strengthening (MPGIS)



Continued from page 13

particularly objective 8 shall be addressed in this five year rolling strategic plans.

This important activity shall be implemented by the Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening by hiring two local consultants for a period of 100 days each to tour all the Wards in the nine Provinces for consultations and data collection to enable them to compile a comprehensive profile for each Ward that would inform Provincial development strategies. The two consultants who have already signed their contracts with UNDP have had an initial briefing meeting with the Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening.

In a separate agreement with Ministry of Development Planning and Aid Coordination, one additional Consultant would be funded through European Union to assist the two Consultants to undertake the exercise. The MDPAC funded consultant, who may be available by May, shall be responsible for Malaita, Central and Rennell & Bellona Provinces. Hon. Premiers of these Provinces shall be duly informed when the consultant is on board. The other two local consultants shall be responsible for Isabel, Temotu and Guadalcanal as one group, Western Province, Choiseul and Makira Ulawa in another group.

During the exercise in the field, the strategic planning consultants will:

- Review the Provincial profiles that had been compiled by the SIG-UNDP Solomon Island Development Administration and Participatory Programme (SIDAPP) in 1998, a former project of MPGIS.
- Make the necessary consultations with each Provincial Government and ward representations with the view of obtaining the required data for the compilation of a profile for each ward.
- Review the data collected by the Rural Development Program in each ward and synthesizes the information collated by that organisation to see if the data could be made use of.
- Review any information that might have been gathered by each province in order to use them in the compilation of the ward profile and provincial profile.

- Make reference to the reports produced by the Provincial Governments such as the Provincial Annual Work Plan and Budgets to determine the resource utilisation and mobilisation of each Provincial Government.
- Hold consultations with the Provincial Authorities to formulate five year development strategic plans of the Provincial Governments based on the economic data collected and collated on each Provincial Government.
- Hold intensive consultations with the Ministry of Development Planning and Aid Coordination to appreciate the National Development Strategies and how it needs to be linked to the Provincial Government development strategies on a long term.
- Hold discussions with the Line Ministries at Provincial level such as Health, Education, Rural Development and Environment for a coordinated approach towards integrated planning processes at the Provincial level.
- Consult with the key Provincial actors such as international and local NGOs plus UN Agencies operating in the Provinces.
- Consult with the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster and Meteorology.

The main output expected from this exercise is a Ward Profile for each ward and a five year comprehensive Strategic Plan based on National Development Strategy objectives aligned to Provincial development aspirations. The Five Year Strategic Plan shall be a rolling plan that would be reviewed annually by the Provincial Governments in order to keep it up to date.

The Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening has agreed with Provincial Governments to contribute immensely to the exercise. Activities at the Provincial and community level shall be coordinated and led by the Provincial Governments. Provincial Government shall be mobilising both human and financial resources to ensure adequate logistic to the consultants. *end*



From the Ministry of Provincial Governments and Institutional Strengthening (MPGIS)

THE UNSUNG HERO OF KIRA KIRA

By: Momodou Lamin Sawaneh
Chief Technical Advisor (Interim), PGSP



Personal Profile

Name: Jimmy Tywo
Island of Origin: Makira
Marital Status: Married
Occupation: Builder
Nationality: Solomon Islander
Age: 39

the fine finishing touches of his work were applauded by every single Premier and every participant at the conference.

I felt that the readers of the MPGIS/PGSP Newsletter should have a fair idea of who was behind the Kira Kira Conference and hear the story from the man himself. This story also portrays the efforts of PGSP in

capacitating the local entrepreneurs like Jimmy who would always be there with the capacity to deliver even when the project is finished. He is one hero that we have not been singing about but if Kira Kira should have many people like him the Province may look completely different in few years time. We cannot over-emphasize the number of jobs that Jimmy created through his contracts and the skills he transferred to young apprentice he has been employing and for on the job training. As you may read from his life story, over 100 young people in Makira went through him and all of them are now making good use of the life skills they learned. It is no wonder that the Provincial Secretary of Makira Ulawa Provincial Government valued his contributions and continuously expressed how proud they are of Jimmy.

If PGSP has made any impact in improving community and individual livelihoods, it would be seen from the live story of Jimmy who through PCDF has not only transformed himself into an invaluable asset to his community but is also contributing significantly to the improvement of quality of lives of other hundreds of youths in providing them with life skills. When you see some of the PCDF structures, you tender to wonder where the builders come from. You should not be surprised anymore after reading Jimmy's story. *end*

Without any hesitation, I call Jimmy Tywo the *UNsung HERO* of Kira Kira being the man behind the successful 6th Premiers Conference that took place at Kira Kira in October 2013. I met Jimmy for the first time in the month of May 2012 at the Provincial chamber where he was busy putting all efforts together to ensure the venue for the conference was ready for the big day. The Kira kKra unsung hero had no iota of doubt that the chamber was going to be ready before the conference even though the conference date was not yet announced. He knew the capacity of his construction firm and the effectiveness of his work force.

Speaking to Jimmy in May, his only concern then was lack of materials needed for the construction work. Until May 2012, the Province was only relying on the funds from PCDF plus Province's own contributions to the chamber. But shortly after the CCC visit, the Ministry sent in SBD603,000 as part of the SIG contribution towards the completion of the venue. This boosted the moral of Jimmy and his team to mobilise the remaining materials required for the work.

Paying 100% attention to the timeline of the conference, Jimmy spared no time but to work to finish, which he remarkably did. The architectural design and



From the Ministry of Provincial Governments and Institutional Strengthening (MPGIS)



MPGIS DETERMINED TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION

By Baddeley Dickson Nukumuna
Communication Officer PGSP

The MPGIS recognises that communication is in principle a resource that is available in abundance at all levels within the Ministry and the Provincial Governments. Effectively structured, facilitated and implemented with clarity, it could certainly be the basis for successful management, development and capacity building for Provincial Governments and the Central Ministry.

The MPGIS with the support of PGSP continues to find ways to further improve communication with the Provinces and the public at large. A number of strategic communication infrastructure and tools have been identified to enhance the communication improvement in order to showcase the work of the Provincial Governments and its strengthening program.

The Ministry of Provincial Governments and Institutional Strengthening with the support of its PGSP project, in their determination to strengthen communications links within Provincial Governments and with remote locations, have been publishing their quarterly news letter since 2011. Through this partnership, they had assisted 5 Provinces with two way satellite ground stations popularly known as 'Very-Small-Aperture-Terminal or VSAT equipment that do not have access to Telekom broadband facilities for faster internet connectivity. The setting up of the VSAT equipment in the Provinces has eased the communication difficulties. The Provincial Governments Administrations can now communicate to anywhere in the world via satellite internet access (emails) and Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP or digital voice).

The VSATs have certainly created a platform in the Provinces for a communications and information technology development and modernisation. This is a competitive advantage for the Provinces as it reduces cost of administering Provincial Governments. The availability of VSATs in the Provinces have certainly encouraged all Provincial Offices to obtain a laptop or desk tops in order to have access to internet for emails and other social media such as face books and twitters.

As part of the overall communications strategy, the Ministry has set up and launched a website that will host a wealth of informa-

tion from the Ministry and the Provinces for public access. Cruz Communications, a local company, has been engaged to create the website and is currently uploading data for trial run under the scrutiny and approval of a Website Communication Committee based at the Ministry. Now that the website has been officially launched by the Ministry, everyone can go into the website and get information that suits their purpose.

The Ministry is also airing fifteen minutes weekly radio programmes through the only AM national broadcasting service, the Solomon Islands Broadcasting Cooperation which relays in medium wave and short wave metre bands. Also a fifteen minutes TV documentary program featuring, the showcasing of PCDF projects implemented by the Provincial Governments through PGSP which is based at MPGIS is being relayed on One

Television via Satsol Company. PCDF projects sites in 3 Provinces; Western, Makira and Central were visited and documented by a media team comprising of PGSP Communication Officer, Chief Administration Officer of the Ministry, TV and radio officers.

"Arrival of this VSAT is most welcomed. I feel like my government is now on top of the world. Truly this equipment will significantly enhance and improve our communication both at national and international level". Stanley Manetiva, Premier Central Province

By way of maintaining the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of the communications, the PGSP's Communication Officer and IT Officer monitor and upkeep the website and smooth running of the media programs in consultation with the Ministry and Provincial Governments. A training program to pass on Communications knowledge and skills such as uploading of information into website and capturing key points and key activity outputs for documentation is envisaged in August for the Communications focal persons that will be identified, and are based in the Ministry and Provincial Governments. The overall purpose of providing the training was to capacitate the staff, MPGIS and Provincial Governments so as to sustain their own communications whenever the PGSP exits.

It is hoped that these efforts which form part of the Ministry's Communications Strategy shall further improve communications links with the Provincial Governments and at the same time informs the Central Government and other stakeholders in the Provincial Governments of the kind of services that the Provincial Governments are delivering. *end*



From the Ministry of Provincial Governments and Institutional Strengthening (MPGIS)



HOW PROVINCIAL ORDINANCES ARE PASSED AND MADE INTO LAWS

By Melanie Philips

NZ Volunteer Service Abroad, Legal Advisor to MPGIS

One of the main functions of the Provincial Assembly is to pass Provincial Laws - these are called 'Ordinances'. Provincial Ordinances do everything from allow the Provincial Government to collect revenue, to regulating alcohol sales, to creating Provincial Authorities.

What kind of things can a Provincial Government make laws about?

The Provincial Government can make laws about anything that is within its "legislative competence". This includes all those things listed in Schedule 3 to the Provincial Government Act 1997. There are also other Acts of Parliament that give power to Provincial Government to make certain laws - for example, the Fisheries Act 1998 gives Provincial Government the powers to make laws about development of Provincial fisheries and the creation of marine reserves, among other things.

How does the Provincial Government make laws?

The first step to making a law is to understand: what do you want the law to do? In other words, why do you want to make this particular law? Many Provinces are told that they "should have a law about ..." but they often either don't really understand why they need that law, or they don't have the capacity to prepare, draft, and enforce the law.

Having a clear understanding about what the legal needs of the Province are will help the Provincial Government plan and prioritise its work load. Once the Provincial Government identifies an area that it would like to make a law about, it should first seek some preliminary legal advice from either the Attorney General's Chambers or the MPGIS Legal Adviser. This will help the Provincial Government understand what is within their power to make laws about.

Once the Provincial Government has a good idea about what it wants to be included in the Ordinance, it can either carry out community consultation or send drafting instructions to

the Attorney General's Chambers or the MPGIS Legal Adviser. The lawyer drafting the Ordinance will often come back to the Provincial Government with questions about the content and detail of the Ordinance, to make sure that the information is correct and what the Provincial Government needs and wants.

Once the Provincial Government receives the draft Ordinance (also known as a 'Bill'), they will generally carry out community consultation and discuss feedback, noting any changes required to ensure the Ordinance responds to the issues faced, and achieves its purpose. Depending on the number of changes required, it may need to be consulted on again.

After the draft Ordinance has been finalised, it is then vetted by the Minister of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening who will confirm that the Ordinance is something that the Provincial Government can make a law about, and that it does not conflict with any National Government policy.

Once the Minister approves the making of the law, it is tabled in the Provincial Assembly for debate. Depending on the Standing Orders of the Provincial Assembly, the procedure in the Assembly will vary but it will often involve referring the draft Ordinance to a select committee to look at whether any changes are required.

If the Provincial Assembly passes the Ordinance, it is then signed by the Clerk of the Provincial Assembly to confirm the date of assent, and then sent to the MPGIS for formal assent by the Minister. After the Minister has assented to the Ordinance, the MPGIS will send a copy to the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet for publication in the Gazette. As soon as the MPGIS received confirmation that the Ordinance has been gazetted it will send a copy to the Provincial Government for their records and so that they can begin implementing the law. *end*



from

Makira Ulawa Province



PGSP PROGRAMS UNDER PCDF REACHING TO SCHOOLS IN REMOTE RURAL AREAS OF MAKIRA ULAWA PROVINCE

By Daniel Wagatora

PGSP Provincial Advisor to Makira Ulawa Provincial Government

The Makira Ulawa Province education board looks after a total ninety-three (93) Secondary and Primary Schools altogether. The management of these schools is a very difficult task as they are scattered all over the Province making it difficult for the Education Authorities in the Province to attend to all issues relating to schools particularly those from remote areas. Until the coming of PCDF, one of the common challenges faced by the Province was the lack of access to education in the province as a result of lack of adequate classrooms in the school. This has been limiting the ability of the schools to increase school rolls in remote areas.

"Education is a right of every child and anyone who assist children to have better education is contributing significantly to the future of this great nation", said the Premier Weape.

the weather coast of Makira.

The Nima Primary School is a boarding school which caters for students in ward 17 and 18. It has an intake of more than 90 students of which 45% of the students are girls. Students from ages six years to 13 years leave their homes and families to board at Nima Primary School. Such a set up in the primary sector is rare in today's situation in the Province, as most primary school students are day scholars.

The school was started in 2001 and the first students of Nima Primary school are now completing their fifth form in some of the provincial and national secondary schools around the country.

Classrooms and dormitories for students were built by surrounding communities from Iaru to Napuamarawa in the hinterland and Bagarei as far as

"An extra dormitory for both boys and girls would undoubtedly lead to an increase in the school roll and thus create opportunities for girls education in the province. I would therefore appeal to donors to look into this particular request from the school", said Ms Annette Siola.

Mage on the coast. The dormitory which was built by PCDF is the first permanent building that is ever built at the school. The classroom and dormitories used to be built of local materials which frequently

Continued on page 16

This enormous problem is now being tackled by the Province through increased spending on education sector from PCDF allocation. Of the 30 projects being implemented by the province in 2012/13, eight of them are all education based projects.

On the 28th of September a delegation from the Provincial Government led by the Makira Ulawa Provincial Premier, Mr Thomas Weape, and the Minister for Education, Mr. Fred Wasua, opened a girl's dormitory at Nima Primary school and on 29th September and handed over a classroom extension at Makorukoru Primary School. Both facilities were built under PCDF funding and located in the remote rural area, on



▲ The Premier and Minister of Education with staff and female students in front of the PCDF newly build girls dormitory. photo: M. Haganitoto



from Makira Ulawa Province



Continued from page 15 deteriorate and require frequent patching in order to keep the school going. This systemic problem was speeded up by the fact that the school is situated in a high rainfall area in the weather coast of Makira, which

school is welcome by the local community as it is the first permanent building that was ever built at the school.

"It is heart breaking to see the children sleeping in leaked buildings trying to shelter in heavy rains and battling flooded waters to travel to school to learn. The conditions under which children of the area try to learn are deplorable and the building of such a dormitory especially for girls is a wish comes true", said the headmistress of the school Ms Annette Siola.



▲ *The Makira Ulawa Provincial Premier Mr. Thomas Weape cutting ribbon to mark the opening of Makorukoru classroom extension. photo: Mr. M. Haganitoto*

has an average rain of over 2000mm/year. This puts a lot of pressure on the community to ensure that buildings are continually maintained for the school to stand the weather condition.

Thus the building of a permanent dormitory for girls at the

tions due to safety. The completion of new dormitory marks a milestone in the history of the school and especially for the girls in the area, as they have something to look forward to and a safe shelter. Considering the number of girls that intend to register with the school indicates that more dormitories of its kind may be required in the future. The head Mis-

tress therefore appealed to the donor communities and the provincial government to increase its funding to the school by providing extra dormitories in order to increase access to education.

In officially opening the school and handing it over, The Premier, Thomas Weape, thanked PCDF donors and SIG who through their funding have enabled the Provincial Governments to render their support to these remote rural communities. The Premier emphasised that through the support of SIG and donors such as UNDP, UNCDF, EU and RAMSI *Continued on page 22*



▲ *Boys of Nima Primary school in front of their dormitory. photo: M. Haganitoto*



from Makira Ulawa Province



The "Unsung Hero" of Makira Ulawa describing his life below in his own words



My life Story

By Jimmy Tywo

I never thought of being a builder although I was always curious to try and create craft innovations from my imaginations. As a child I was always fond of being artistic and grew to develop a habit to create something out from my imagination from any wood, sea shells, bamboo or palm leaves that my hands could find. My father was the first to realize my artistic creativity and would admire my art works with a gesture of appreciation that would either be patting on my shoulder or echoing the sentiment "son you've done great or well done". I did not realize that it was the start of my many experiences that would culminate into the person who I am today.

Now that you know about my brief childhood interest, let me now unwind my personal biography of how I progressed to where I am now. My father travelled around a lot in his posting and our family also had to move every time the government changed his posting. I could remember our initial residence was in Auki, Malaita province and then we moved to Honiara and eventually to Kirakira. At that time I attended the Frederick Melford Campbell School which was a community school created by communities from in and around Kirakira for their children.

Within my first three years of Primary school, I always had time for my interest and I would never let a day go by without a single creativity from any piece of item that came into my possession. From there I moved again with my family to the substation of Kirakira in Namuga and had to complete my grades five and six in a primary school there which at that time was called Napu.

In 1982 I completed my primary education and the following year I went to Pawa Secondary school, unfortunately I could not complete even a month there as I had malaria which forced me to withdraw and go back to my parents. When I recovered, my father arranged a placement in Honiara High School in Guadalcanal so I had to travel to Honiara for my secondary education.

The first months was okay however things did not go as planned as my guardian in Honiara had to go overseas to complete his education. Due to problems with accommodation, I had to abandon my studies and return back home and spent the next twelve years in the village harnessing and putting to test my creativeness in building leaf houses, assisting communities in their building constructions and distinctively developed a mindset attached to construction of big buildings as it became my ultimate goal and objective in life. I dreamed a lot about it and then I realized that I needed to get recognition for my skills so that I would not have problems when applying for projects or contracts in the future, thus I applied to Solomon Islands College of Higher Education (SICHE) in 1993 taking evening classes in pre basic Carpentry.

After a 6 months stint with the institution, my lecturer, Mr. Andrew Dakadia was impressed with my grades and encouraged me to further my learning by asking me to sit for another prebasic carpentry entry at the international trade testing center of Commerce in Honiara. This marked the beginning of my carrier as I earnestly worked my way through the basic category, intermediate and the final level in carpentry. At that time I also had the opportunity to work as an attaché to various construction companies in Honiara as part of the requirements of the program. Later in 1996, after my three years of internship, I graduated humbly from the international trade testing center in Honiara with a certificate in Carpentry and stepped out confidently into the open world fending for opportunities and challenges awaiting my plight.

A week after my graduation I applied to Fletcher Kwaimani Construction for formal employment. As a new graduate my supervisors would allocate responsibilities for us to carry out in fulfilling our objective for the day however, I found it quite boring as most of the time we did the same thing. Our tasks were more routine based and it does not offer an avenue that will help us to excel with our skills. Hence after a six month stretch *Continued on page 21*



from Makira Ulawa Province



Continued from page 20. with the Fletcher Kwaimani Construction Company, and due to my curiosity and eagerness to learn new knowledge, I opted out and looked for smaller construction companies that would give me the chance to put to test my skills in every departments that carpentry and construction has to offer.

I succeeded in getting a job with a small private construction firm that availed me the opportunity to be involved in various tasks and responsibilities. Gradually through years of working with privates firms and companies in construction, I assertively built my confidence in building construction and decided to form my own company in 1997. I never thought that it would be a platform for other young graduates but to date almost thirty boys were trained and recommended for graduation by the small construction firm that I set up.

With the knowledge and confidence I gained coupled with the support that I have from my family, I started off my own company with seven boys doing private construction works for individuals, churches, schools, vocational training centers and many more. I was challenged in so many ways but since I believed strongly that although challenges may seem to weaken my progress, I felt that every set back is a set up for a comeback hence I perceived positively that I could be a valuable asset should I consistently and positively pave my path forward into achieving my dreams in construction.

How PCDF strengthen my company and helped me in realizing my dreams

In 2009, my dream of contracting projects sprout into life and I was given a contract under the Makira Ulawa provincial government to construct cement stalls at the Kirakira Market for market vendors. It was a small project which I finished in no time to eagerly seek for another project. In early 2010, the Makira Ulawa Provincial Government again gave me another project to construct the residential building of the provincial secretary. It was a three-month project but our construction firm was able to complete the building only in a month.

The Makira Provincial Government was happy with our progress; hence I tendered and succeeded in a bid for the completion of an executive house for the province. At that time the provincial government also put out a bid to design the

provincial chamber and provincial head office complex. I seized the opportunity and manually designed the architectural proposal for both complexes. As a non-computer literate, most of my designs were manually drawn. However, upon submission; our construction firm was able to attain the contract to build both complexes. The construction of the provincial chamber was quite challenging due to the time frames given to us by the province for the Premiers conference. I had to mobilise my resources to ensure the chamber was delivered on time for the conference. It was a battle against time, but nonetheless we were able to complete the chamber in time as our boys worked tirelessly around the clock to ensure that everything was completed and ready before the premier's conference. It was a success for us as this was the first of its kind in Makira. A lot of our efforts positively glowed in the chamber and we had a reason to be proud when the work was completed. Though we still have one more task to complete and that is the provincial head office. We have a time frame and we are working on ensuring that we complete it on time so that Makira Province can have an office complex that is up to standard and professional in its setting. We also want to set a precedence for others to see that our province is our home too and we must work together to ensure that whatever we do for our province, we do it with our heart.

Introduction to computer software

In May 2012, I caught up with a friend of mine who is an Information Technologist who runs a small business in Kira Kira called Infotech. My friend, Carlos Saliga, introduced me to architectural software's and I instantly grew an interest in upgrading my knowledge in Architectural Designing. He then installed for me AutoCAD 2010 and Revit architecture 2009 in his own laptop for me. By then I did not have one to use and I wasted no time in learning the basics of the software. It was a new experience for me as I did not even know the basics of computer and the architectural software that he has installed for me. I had to learn two new things at the same time but I was determined to do so.

With the knowledge I already had in building, I found it easy to relate to the software. However, it was the Revit software that I spent most of my time with as it was user friendly and quite easy for a beginner like me. It took me three months which included *Continued on page 22*



from Makira Ulawa Province



Continued from page 21.

sleepless nights in order learn the software's basics. However, in July 2012 almost two months after I first learned about the software, my eagerness to understand the software's basic functions grew and that helped me to gain nearly sixty percent of the knowledge and basics that was important for me to learn. One thing that I appreciate much about the architectural software's was that it was able to help me design ideas that could not do manually. It was truly a bonus for me and it helped me a lot to design and put complex ideas and innovations in architecting which is more accurate and more precise than my manual drawings.

In September 2012, my same friend through his contacts in Sydney was able to order a brand new laptop for me which I now use and spend most of my free time with to gradually pace up my knowledge in designing buildings and complexes. This furnished my new found

Continued from page 19

In the official opening of the school during which it was handed over, The Premier, Thomas Weape, thanked PCDF donors and SIG who through their funding such a support was provided to these remote rural communities.

The Premier emphasised that through the continuous support of SIG and donors such as UNDP, UNCDF, EU and RAMSI the Province may be in a position to offer further support to education sector in the future.

In his remarks during the handing over, the provincial Minister for education told the meeting that while it is good to build such facilities it has been realised that sometimes the infrastructures are underutilized. He,

skills in architectural designing and construction especially when using the Revit software.

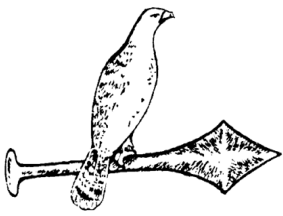
Future dreams

I have a lot of plans for my future but the most important one is to offer opportunity to the young aspiring individuals to learn and improve their skills in industrial skill development specifically in carpentry so that they can be profitable agents for change in their communities. It is my dream and for the mean time over 100 individuals who have passed through my company, I can only wish that all of them have a good future with the skills they have learnt and continue to share them with the people around them. It is not an easy task but one thing for sure is that is it achievable if we recognize our potential and work hard to achieve our goals and dreams. *End*

however, expressed hopes that the Nima girls dormitory will not be underutilized given the fact that girls are already waiting to use the facilities but he urged the school authorities to make better use of the facilities.

Both the Premier and the provincial Education Minister thanked the surrounding communities for contributing significantly to the construction of the dormitory and the support that is being rendered to the school.

A day after the handing over of Nima Primary School, the Premier and his Education Minister handed over another school called Makorukoru Primary School where through PCDF funding the province completed the construction of classrooms which were initiated by RDVA. *end*



from Malaita Province



Strengthening Citizen Participation in Malaita Provincial Government Activities

By Samuel Rogers

UNV/ PGSP Provincial Advisor to Western Provincial Government

The province of Malaita according to the last census report of 2010 has an estimated population of 166,000 with over 60% of this number staying in the rural communities of Malaita. The presence of Provincial Governments authorities at the regional and sub regional levels in the province has been very minimal which has considerably created information gap between the Government and its constituents. The consequence of this situation has been lack of communication with a resultant limited confidence in the service delivery functions which is the primary responsibility of the Provincial Government.

The elected members from the 33 wards have attempted to serve as a weak conduit through which vital and much needed information between the duty bearer mainly at the headquarter town of Auki and the right holder's at the community level flows. The effectiveness of this information flow, through the elected members, is normally weak and skewed towards the direction of their political loyalists. This has not only succeeded in marginalising some categories of people but also has a high risk of creating friction between community members.

The Policy statement of the current Malaita Provincial Government recognizes with priority the decentralization of Government to the provincial regions and increase citizen participation in government activities. This policy initiative and direction will create and strengthen systems and processes that will ensure accountability and the transparent use of public funds by Provincial Government to its constituents.

Now that Auki, the provincial headquarter town, is gradually attaining a city status, the Government is putting into place measures that can decentralize service delivery functions so that the rural urban migration of

the active population is minimized. This will minimize the associated social problems for a growing city like Auki will experience, if not controlled.

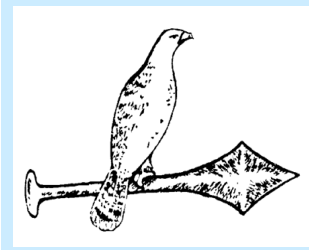
Strong commitments from the provincial Governments, national and International Partners have indicated plans to transform the current sub stations into productive and modern growth centres. This initiative will not only support the political participation of community members in governance but will also strengthen their economic and social capacities to be part of the development process.

In support of this regional initiative as indicated by the Malaita Provincial Government policy statement, regional consultations have been conducted by the Province to support the setting up of regional councils and soliciting information that will lead to the development and effective functioning of these structures in these regions. With the support of the MPGIS/PGSP, two out of the five planned regional consultations had been completed in 2011 and respective regional councils have been established with clearly defined roles and responsibilities.

The composition of these regional councils includes Youth representative, Women's representatives, and Religious leaders and to a greater extent, civil society members and organizations. Extensive civic education in all the five regions of Malaita is planned to enable community members realise their roles and responsibilities as citizens.

These regional structures, comprising mainly of civil society organisations, will receive trainings which can be used to support development actors in the entire province including Provincial Government. They would be in a position to raise

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from Malaita Province



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questions of accountability and transparency on the expenditure of public funds.

The beneficiaries of this initiative will be the entire population of Malaita Province particularly those rural dwellers who are ready to participate in provincial Government activities.

1. Ward development committees and regional planning committees for Provincial Participatory Planning and coordination of integrated rural development at Ward and Regional level have been set. This would enable development plans and budgets to be discussed and community inputs to be incorporated into provincial plans and budgets.
2. Regional Councils, a governance mechanism designed to bring together Regional Provincial Members, traditional chiefs, women leaders, youth leaders and church representatives of each ward to work together in harmony and participate in governance process by contributing to decisions that shape their future has been established.

3. In consultations with funding agencies such as PGSP, RDP, World Vision, Save the Children and Regional Councils, the communities shall identify and set priorities targeting the future development of socio-economic infrastructures, improving service delivery, economic investment income generating, and improving lives and livelihoods.

Support to the establishment of the regional Councils is a way of strengthening the infrastructure that will support citizen participation in provincial Government activities. These structures will augment and support the efforts of the Provincial Accounts Committees, which is the only legislative tool that can be used to enhance oversight of the financial operations of the Provincial Government as per the Provincial Government Act of 1997.

CHALLENGES

It is recognised that inadequate funding from the provincial government of Malaita affects the schedules of conduct of the required consultative workshops.

Too many provincial Government activities most of which are not properly scheduled do affect the flow of consultation processes. *end*

Full of Hot Air (*bouncing politics*)

<http://politicalhumor.about.com/>

A woman in a hot air balloon realized she was lost. She lowered altitude and spotted a man in a boat below. She shouted to him, "Excuse me, can you help me? I promised a friend I would meet him an hour ago, but I don't know where I am."

The man consulted his portable GPS and replied, "You're in a hot air balloon approximately 30 feet above a ground elevation of 2,346 feet above sea level. You are 31 degrees, 14.97 minutes north latitude and 100 degrees, 49.09 minutes west longitude."

She rolled her eyes and said, "You must be a Republican."

"I am," replied the man. "How did you know?"

"Well," answered the balloonist, "everything you told me is technically correct, but I have no idea what to make of your information, and I'm still lost. Frankly, you've not been much help to me."

The man smiled and responded, "You must be a Democrat."

"I am," replied the balloonist. "But how did you know?"

"Well," said the man, "You don't know where you are or where you're going. You've risen to where you are due to a large quantity of hot air. You've made a promise that you have no idea how to keep, and now you expect ME to solve your problem. You're in EXACTLY the same position you were in before we met, but somehow, now, it's MY fault."



from Rennell & Bellona Province



VILLAGE DWELLERS PARTICIPATE IN SOCIO-ECONOMICAL DEVELOPMENT & CULTURE PROMOTION

Empowering communities' participation and services delivery

By Christina Mary Nasiu
Provincial Advisor, Rennell & Bellona

Rennell and Bellona Province has been through a difficult period in implementing PCDF capital development projects (slow pace due to lack/poor infrastructure and other technical difficulties).

The 2012/13 fiscal year has been a difficult year for the province in the sense that there was no funding from PCDF to continue the implementation of projects that commenced in 2011/12. The province could not meet the required minimum conditions from the PGSP assessment and therefore it missed completely for the whole fiscal year.

This failure to meet the required minimum conditions was taken positively by Rennell & Bellona Provincial Government who rallied officers to ensure that mistakes are rectified for the province to qualify once again. The failure to earn SBD1.6m PCDF in 2012/13 had a negative impact on projects which remain incomplete.

The province initiated a number of projects (four) targeting local women and youth, thus designed to provide basic infrastructure that support and promote the production of arts and craft by communities who sell these products in the various markets including Honiara. Even though it is not a higher income earning skill, it promotes the local culture (distinct in design and patterns) that people are determined to maintain in Rennell & Bellona.

To further strengthened this traditional

craftworks and institutionalise it as a trade that can enable women and youths to earn a living, the Provincial Government through PCDF funding (2011/2012) is constructing Kanaba handicraft centre a two story building (on progress) located at ward 4, west Rennell.

I spoke to some of the beneficiaries of the PCDF arts & craft centre projects and this is what some of them say:

"So proud that our community owned such large building for our commercial and other development activities. More so, so proud to know that my skills have been recognised and our young people can see the importance of crafts skills". This was said by Jenny of Rennell & Bellona

In conversation with some of the women who are involved in handy craft business, I could see a lot of confidence in them. The announcement this year that Rennell & Bellona Province has in fact qualified for PCDF allocation and that a sum of SBD1.6m will be available to complete all the projects that commenced in the previous years, came as very welcoming news for the province and every community. This means that project which commenced in 2011/12 shall be completed in this fiscal year.

The construction of Kanaba Handicraft Centre could not reach its current status without the support from the Community, Ward Development Committee and ward 4 MPA in shifting of timbers and materials to project site.

The pandanus is an important economic and commodity plant. It is second to the

coconut plant in terms of its daily usage by the rural people. Baskets in all types and shapes and in attractive designs and patterns are woven from pandanus leaves, so too are mats at different sizes, designs and patterns and various other products such as hats, wallet bags, eye glass packages, and book packages just to name a few.

Normally a basket can be sold for a hundred plus dollars and a mat at a thousand plus dollars. It is a good income for women particularly at rural level where most are house wives who are daily engaged with domestic duties such as gardening. Such income has a huge positive impact and is certainly gradually improving the living condition of women and children in our communities.

Approximately 70 households are directly benefiting from the arts & crafts industry that is being boosted by the funding of this centre by PCDF through PGSP. Apart from this Kanaba handy craft centre, work has already started on the following projects funded and initiated under PCDF 2011/2012 and are expected to be completed in this financial year 2013/2014; Tegano Market House on Ward 1, Anganoa Storage Shed on Ward 3 at Lavagu, Lavagu Community and Market Hall, Tigao Market House on Ward 5, Women Pandanus Farming on Ward 7 at East Bellona, Medical Staff House, Women Resource Centre and Education Office, all at Provincial Head Quarter. *end*



from
Temotu



TEMOTU PROVINCE COMPLETES PREMIERS RESIDENCE UPGRADING PROJECT

By Buddy Ronie

The Premier's Residence Upgrading Project was officially opened by the provincial minister for Infrastructure Development, Hon Peter Tolua on 9th June 2013 coinciding with the Temotu Province Second Apointed Day celebrations. This has been of the projects funded under the Provincial Capital Development Fund (PCDF) for the Temotu Provincial Government.

The Minister in his official remarks thanked the Temotu Province Project Implementation Committee for managing the project to its completion. He praised the local contractor Vasa Construction for commitment to their contracted tasks. He also acknowledged the inputs from other technical personnel such as the contracted Architect and supervisors of the project.

The project costed \$300,000 and included costs of hardware materials, labour charges, transportation and freights, installations of plumbing, electrical and procurements of water tanks water pressured pump. The renovation was done in a manner that should minimize maintenance costs through selection of quality materials and high standard finishing work.

The Project Manager who is also the Provincial Secretary, Mr Solomon Palusi expressed the challenges faced by the provincial government in administering the project. The project took seven months to complete after it was tendered out in October 2012.

Most of the Executive Members and other back bencher Members of the Provincial Assembly (MPAs) witnessed the



▲ Hon. Peter Tolua, (MPA) Minister for Infrastructure Development cutting ribbon to officially open the building for occupation

opening function. Members of the public were later invited to view the residence as part of the programme. The building is now one of the best provincial government properties in Lata and this has been made possible with the work of Provincial Governance Strengthening Programme (PGSP) in Temotu Province. *end*



▲ New Premier's residence for Temotu Provincial Government funded by PCDF at a cost of \$300,000. photo Buddley Ronie



from **Western Province**



Strengthening Community Participation in Western Provincial Government activities

*By Samuel Rogers
UNV Provincial Advisor for Western Province*

Western Provincial Government has initiated a Provincial Government participatory approach towards delivering services at the community and Provincial level. As part of its policy initiative, the Province wants to gradually institute an integrated but participatory planning process where all stakeholders participate in the formulation of Provincial Government budgets and its annual work plans as prescribed in the MPGIS's Cabinet approved paper on participatory planning and integrated planning process. Based on the framework, the Province invited all heads of divisions to participate to attend a three-day meeting in communities of Varese, Iriquilla and Toumoa in order to facilitate a setting and strengthening of Community Monitoring Groups.

As part of PCDF operational guidelines communities should form a group that is responsible for monitoring and evaluation the projects being implemented in their communities.

This initiative will allow communities to be seen not only as beneficiaries but as partners in the implementation, monitoring and reporting of projects located within their communities. This would not only make the communities of Iriquilla, Varese and Toumoa take ownership of PCDF projects in their locations but it would also enable them to ensure the assets and facilities created by the projects are utilized by all members of the communities and not limited to few powerful community leaders.

In each of the three communities, a six member community monitoring groups were formed with representations from the existing school management committees,

representation from the women, Youth ,churches, elders and chiefs .

During the meetings, the provincial officers facilitated discussions on project management, monitoring and partnership responsibilities. The participation of the communities in the discussions was very useful and by end of the meetings in these communities it observed that the following outcomes were achieved:

1. Increased knowledge about PGSP/PCDF projects by the community
2. Enhanced participation and ownership of projects by community members
3. Increased communication flow between community and the WPG

As a follow up to this initial meeting, the Province has now formed the Provincial Planning and Development Committees that would be responsible for coordinating overall planning processes in the provinces. This was also an important step in making the communities understand the need for linkages between the Provincial planning processes and the ward planning. *end*

Provincial Governance Strengthening Program of the Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening

The PGSP is an institutional strengthening program aiming to develop the capacity of the Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening (MPGIS) and the nine Provincial Governments in order to effectively deliver services.

The first phase of PGSP focuses on building capacities for public expenditure management (PEM).

The overarching goal of the PGSP is poverty reduction and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the Solomon Islands.

The intermediate outcome for the program is improved provincial governance for development.

Key project activities are organized against four major components:

1. Clarify and gradually expand the responsibility of Provincial Governments (PGs) or local-level infrastructure & services delivery and local economic development management;
2. Increase the flow of public funds to Provincial Governments to align their resources with their mandated responsibilities and to build capacity through incentives to improved performance;
3. Build the capacity of Provincial Governments (both Assemblies and Administrations) for pro-poor policy making and implementation, focusing initially on improving the institutions of public expenditure management;
4. Have an effective M & E system in place, consisting of baseline indicators and M & E framework.

Ministry of Provincial Government & Institutional Strengthening



Mekem strong Provinsol Gavman fo helpem iumi

