

Foreword by:

Permanent Secretary of MPGIS and National Project Director for PGSP

Provincial Governance Strengthening Programme Phase II design has been launched

Dear Readers,
Welcome to this edition of our Ministry news letter.

The Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening in coordination with the Ministry of Development Planning and Aid Coordination, on behalf of the Government of Solomon Islands, launches the design of phase II of PGSP. Phase II of PGSP may not be an automatic rollover of phase I. What shall come out of phase II may depend very much on the outcome of the consultation processes that the designers of the programme are currently conducting.

The terms of reference for the design team indicates that the next phase may focus more on effective service delivery at the provincial level, something that correlates very well with the theme of this year's Premiers conference held in Kira kira. Phase II should be able to strengthen the provincial government systems in a way that they would

not only deliver services in their mandated areas but also have the capabilities to support the service delivery functions of the line ministries operating at the provincial level. Strengthening provincial governments institutions in order to support the implementation of National Development Strategies and the Millennium Development Goals are also areas indicated in the terms of reference of the design mission.



On the 26th of October 2012, the Provincial Premiers passed a resolution in Kira kira conference which endorses PGSP as a programme that is strengthening provincial government institutions. The resolution urged the National Government to be further committed to the PGSP Programme and also make efforts to ensure it is goes into phase II. I felt that this was indeed a remarkable moment for the Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening as it indicates how relevant the PGSP is to the provincial governments. *continued on page 2*

In this issue:

Editorial by PS for MPGIS & National Director for PGSP	Pg 1
New Makira Provincial Assembly Chamber	Pg 3
MPGIS and UNICEF forges Partnership	Pg 5
Introduction to the Provincial Government Act 1997	Pg 7
Highlights of 6th Premiers Conference	Pg 8
Restructuring Provincial Planning and Budgeting Processes in Central Province	Pg 10
Taro's new Lock up Shops	Pg 11
Transforming Paradigms in Guadalcanal Governance	Pg 12
Generating Development Agenda via Participatory Processes	Pg 13
Kira Kira Hospital gets a Face Lift	Pg 14
PCDF Impact on Local Economic Development in Makira	Pg 16
Provincial Public Accounts Committee - the Malaita Experience	Pg 19
Temotu MPAs receive training from ANU's State Society & Governance in Melanesia Program	Pg 21
Staff Employee Profile	Pg 23



Continued from page 1

The unanimous endorsement of the resolution further demonstrates that even though the project has only completed four years out of the anticipated five years, the provincial governments have realised tangible benefits in phase I that they can be proud of.

The design team that arrived in the country on the 26th of November 2012 had its first meeting with the Hon. Minister for the Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening, Hon. Silas Tausinga, and his Permanent Secretary, Mr Stanley Pirione. During this meeting the Hon. Minister and the Permanent Secretary highlighted some of the achievements and shortcomings of the programme and indicated areas that the Ministry feels could be important areas for consideration for PGSP phase II.

"Without PGSP, some provincial governments would have sunk", said the Premier of Choiseul Provincial Government in one of his remarks in Kira kira conference in October this year.

In its first week of consultation, the design team met with the provincial Premiers of Choiseul Province, Malaita Province, Isabel Province, and Temotu Province in one meeting. The design team later travelled to Tulagi over the week-end and met with the provincial Premier with his provincial executive including all heads of divisions of that province. Prior to meeting the Hon. Premiers, a consultation meeting was held with the Permanent Secretaries of the Ministries of Development Planning and Aid Coordination, Ministry of Women, Youths, Children and Family Affairs, Ministry of Education, the Director of Ministry of Rural Development and seven Provincial Secretaries. Other stakeholders are being consulted to obtain their views on how they think the next phase should address.

In order to ensure that there is no gap between PGSP phase I and phase II, the Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening with the support of the Ministry of Development Planning and Aid Coordination, launched an application for a no cost extension of the project by one year

in order to ensure key project activities are continued whilst the next phase is being designed and marketed for funding. The application which has been designed in consultation with development partners is yet to be formally approved but there are high hopes that it would be agreed. This would enable the MPGIS to continue with the project from January 2013 to December 2013 whilst waiting for funding to be secured for phase II.

Four international consultants from UNDP and UNCDF have been provided to the Ministry to carry out the consultation process for the next phase design. The Ministry hopes that the concept outlining key components of the programme might be ready by end of December 2012 and that the final project document delivered before end of March 2013. There might be a stakeholders meeting to discuss the concept note in the month of January 2013.

On behalf of my Minister and the staff of the Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening, I would like to thank the donor partners for funding the design of the next phase of PGSP (RAMSI, EU, UNDP and UNCDF). I also wish to take this opportunity to thank the Provincial Premiers, Permanent Secretaries, Provincial Secretaries and other stakeholders who have allocated their time so far to meet with the team to give their inputs. I wish the design team a great success in the task ahead.

Stanley D. Pirione
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening



MEMORANDUM

FROM: THE BOSS

TO: ALL EMPLOYEES

SUBJECT: **SICK LEAVE POLICY * SICKNESS**

No excuse... We will no longer accept your doctor's statement as proof. We believe that if you are able to go to the doctor, you are able to come to work.

source: http://www.jokebuddha.com/joke/NEW_SICK_LEAVE_POLICY_2#ixzz1p9RneTw8



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



ALL SMILES IN KIRA KIRA AS PREMIER LILO HANDS OVER THE KEY TO THE FIRST PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY FOR 34 YEARS

*By Momodou Lamin Sawaneh
Chief Technical Advisor (interim), PGSP*

Accepting the key to the first ever provincial assembly building of the provincial government for Makira Ulawa Province for 34 years was indeed a momentous occasion. It was a moment that went down as a historic day in the history of Makira Ulawa.



▲ (L-R) Speaker of MUP Assembly Hon. Jerry Haga receive keys from Head of Premiers Conference Delegation Hon. George S. Lilo after they were being handed over by the contractor Mr. Jimmy Timothy Tywo

The head of the 6th Premiers Conference delegation, Honourable George S. Lilo, Premier of Western Province, on Monday 22nd October 2012, formally handed over the key to the provincial assembly chamber to the Speaker of Makira Ulawa Provincial Assembly, Honourable Jerry Haga. Premier Lilo headed the delegation on behalf of Hon. Silas Tausinga, Minister for Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening who could not attend the official ceremony of the handing over of the assembly chambers on Monday.

In handing over the Chamber to the Speaker of the Assembly, Premier Lilo indicated that the completion of the assembly chamber was indeed historic and further described it as a turning point in the history of the provincial government of Makira Ulawa. "The assembly which is one of the most important political insti-

tutions of the provincial government now has a permanent place to deliberate on important legislations that matter a lot to the people of this province", he said.

Both the Provincial Speaker and the Provincial Secretary thanked all those who contributed in the construction of the chamber and particularly the local

assembly chamber commenced in the month of June 2011 with initial funding from Provincial Capacity Development Fund (PCDF) and the own resources from the provincial government of Makira Ulawa. The provincial government stepped up its funding and also mobilised additional resources through

the Premiers conference budget of the Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening only after successfully bidding for the 6th conference in Taro in October 2011.

The construction of the chamber cost about SBD1.3m. 47% of this was funded by the Ministry of Provincial Government Institutional Strengthening



▲ (L-R) External and internal of newly built Makira Ulawa Provincial Government Chamber

contractor, Jimmy Timothy Tywo, whose construction company, TJT Ltd, did an excellent work on the chamber. The company worked both day and night to ensure the construction work was completed before the conference.

The construction work on the provincial

through the Premiers conference budget, 30% was funded by PGSP through PCDF and 23% from the provincial government own source revenues.

Continued on page 4



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



Continued from page 3

As indicated in the various speeches during the official handing over ceremony, the provincial government of Makira Ulawa described the assembly as a remarkable achievement. It is an

tractor during the construction. The youths did not only earn income from their work but also enhanced their skills and experiences in various aspects of infrastructure work through on the job training. This has been described by the

and call on them to provide services when necessary.

In addition to funding the construction work on the chamber, the Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening provided furniture sets for the chamber for use by the 20 member provincial assembly with two air conditioners for the offices of the Clerk and the Speaker. A microphone set costing about SBD176, 000 (USD24,100) has also been ordered by the Ministry for delivery to the assembly. The microphones are equipped with a digital recording system that can record assembly proceedings on a hard disk or remote media that can be transferred to lap tops for editing and production of hansard by the assembly clerk. This is considered important as it would enhance the ability of the Clerk to produce minutes of assembly proceedings on time. Currently the minute taking of the provincial assembly proceedings of Makira Ulawa is being contracted to a third party.



▲ The Premiers Conference in the new Makira Ulawa Provincial Chamber in Kira Kira

infrastructure that shall continue to serve the assembly for so many years to come.

The head of the Premiers delegation confirmed that the funding of the chamber by the MPGIS, PGSP and the MUPG did not only provide a magnificent asset for the province but it had also built the capacities of its young people through job creation. About 47 young people were engaged by the con-

Provincial Premier as important in the sense that it creates a pool of skillful young people. In the future, the province can rely on that pool of skilful youths

"Providing live skills of this nature to young people is one of the objectives of infrastructure projects that are being funded through Provincial Capacity Development Fund", said Hon. Thomas Weape, during his presentation at Kira

A standby generator of 15 KVA was delivered by the Ministry for use in the provincial assembly. In his closing remarks of the 6th Premiers conference, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening, Mr. Stanley D. Pirione, described the generator as very essential in the sense that it would ensure that there is continuous flow of electricity to the chamber and that assembly proceedings are not affected by erratic and intermittent power cuts by SIEA. This was applauded as important gift of the conference to the people of Makira Ulawa.

end



"There's no higher purpose than service to others" - Peaceful Warrior.



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



Partnership with UNICEF

By: Nancy Legua
Under Secretary, MPGIS

MPGIS/PGSP News Letter

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The dialogue between the Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening/Provincial Governance Strengthening Programme (PGSP) and UNICEF to work in partnership commenced in 2011 when UNICEF participated in the formulation of Country Programme Action Plans (CPAP) for PGSP.

This was followed by a visit to the Ministry (in the early part of this year) by the Monitoring Specialist (Asenaca Vakacegu) of UNICEF who is based in Suva. Asenaca held initial discussions with the Ministry on her agency's intention to hold provincial consultations with at least two provinces in order to train them on how to incorporate issues affecting children (in education and health sectors) in their work plans for 2013 and three year development plans. Malaita and Central provinces were the two provinces identified for UNICEF workshop on planning. This was done in consultation with MPGIS during which the timing for the workshop was agreed for the months of July and September for the two respective Provinces. The timing for the planning workshop was designed in such a way that issues identified in each workshop are incorporated into each province's 3 year development plans and the annual work plans of 2013.

The consultation which was funded by UNICEF assisted Education and Health divisions to formulate plans for children for incorporation into the provincial government 3 year development plans and annual work plans of 2013. For Central Province, there is no immediate plan for UNICEF to fund action plans de-

signed for children in 2013 but efforts had been made to identify those key issues affecting children which had previously never been identified and incorporated into provincial government planning processes.

In addition to identification of key issues affecting children, the facilitator for the workshop, Asenaca Vakacegu assisted both provinces to map out implementation strategies for children divisions. In the case of Central Province, the workshop coincides with the completion of the policy statement for the province. The output of UNICEF workshop on children in education and health was easily incorporated into the policy statement of Central Province. This has made Central Province the first province to have a well defined vision and mission statement for children divisions with a clear-cut implementation strategy for achieving the long term vision of children division.

A similar exercise took place in Malaita in July 2012 which was also funded by UNICEF and coordinated by PGSP and the women division of the provincial government. In the case of Malaita, some funds have been ear-marked to fund children related activities in education and health in 2013 by UNICEF though the scale of UNICEF funding is yet to be disclosed. The UNICEF programme at Central Province was attended by head of divisions in the province including the Police and Solomon Island Maritime Safety Administration.

Continued on page 6



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



Continued from page 5

The facilitator took a practical approach by using the planning guideline developed by the ministry for 2012/13. She used lot of group exercises in order to ensure that participants were very much involved at every level of discussion.

Two officers from the Ministry of Women, Youths, Children and Family Affairs attended the two day of UNICEF workshop but then stayed over for extra two days to participate in the formulation of policy statement for children on behalf of their Ministry. Their participation in the workshop assisted the one-man children and youth divisional head to come up with practical issues affecting children for incorporation into 2013 annual work plan and the policy statement of the province 2012-16.

The outcome report of the workshop would certainly assist the province to map out the amount of the provincial government PCDF that could be allocated for projects that would promote child development. There would be fur-

ther consultation with the Ministry of provincial level.

Women, Youths, Children and Family Affairs to see how the province could be financially assisted in funding child related activities in their budget in 2013.

The consultation process in Malaita and Central were the first major provincial

Representing the Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening and the Provincial Governance Strengthening Programme were the Under Secretary (Nancy Legua), MPGIS, the interim Chief Technical Advisor of PGSP (Momodou Lamin Sawaneh) and the Financial Controller of MPGIS (Gabriel Agutuozeppo). The ministry team assisted the UNICEF workshop and then stayed over to complete the policy statement of Central Province which was formally handed over to the Deputy Provincial Premier on the 18th of September 2012.

Further coordination between the Provincial Governance Strengthening Programme and UNICEF through the Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening, shall continue as provincial governments develop more interest in mainstreaming children affairs in the provincial government planning and budgeting system. *end*

"This is the first time I coordinated a workshop in Solomon where officers stayed until the end of the session and even beyond the normal closing time. I am indeed impressed with the performance of the divisional heads and their commitment", said Asenaca ...

level activities that UNICEF coordinated with MPGIS and PGSP. The success of Malaita and Central Province consultations has strengthened the relationships in the best interest of the provincial governments. Coming through the ministry instead of connecting directly to the provinces is something that MPGIS has been advocating. What has been initiated by UNICEF could probably be replicated by other mainstream donors to ensure closer coordination and better utilisation of resources through a comprehensive planning process at the



"I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character"

Martin Luther King, Jr.

"We spend the first twelve months of our children's lives teaching them to walk and talk and the next twelve telling them to sit down and shut up"

Phyllis Diller

"If you want children to keep their feet on the ground put some responsibilities on their shoulders"

Abigail Van Buren



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



Introduction to the Provincial Government Act 1997

By Melanie Phillips
Legal Advisor

Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening

The Provincial Government Act (“the PGA”) is an Act of the National Parliament. It came into force in 1997 and creates the Provincial Governments that exist in each of the 9 Provinces of the Solomon Islands. Each province has its own Government except for Honiara City which is not a province under the PGA and it has its own legislation.

What does the PGA do?

The PGA does two main things:

- creates the Provincial Government; and
- gives the Provincial Government duties and responsibilities to perform. These duties and responsibilities are called “provincial services”.

The PGA is the legal authority for almost everything that the Provincial Government does

What is the Provincial Government?

The Provincial Government is made up of 3 things: The Provincial Assembly, The Provincial Executive and The Premier

The **Provincial Assembly** is made up of members elected from each of the electoral wards in the province. Each electoral ward is allowed one representative in the Assembly and elections are held every 4 years to decide who will represent the ward in the Assembly. If a member resigns or is unable to finish her or his 4-year term for any reason, then a by-election is held to find a replacement. The replacement’s term on the Assembly is only until the next normal elections are held. No by-election is allowed if there is less than 3 months until the next normal elections.

At the first meeting of the Provincial Assembly after normal elections, the Provincial Assembly must elect a

Premier. The Premier is the head of the Provincial Government and has various powers, one of which is the ability to make recommendations to the Minister of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening regarding appointments to the **Provincial Executive**.

The Provincial Executive is responsible for performing provincial services. Because there are large number of different provincial services, the Premier will often appoint different members of the Provincial Executive to look after different services. For example, one member may be responsible for finance, another responsible for fisheries and marine matters, and yet another for the environment.

The Provincial Executive is also responsible for making sure provincial money is spent properly; and making laws (which are called “Ordinances”) and policies for the province.

The Provincial Assembly plays an important role making sure that the Provincial Executive is doing its job. This is because all laws must be passed by the Provincial Assembly before they are signed by the Minister for the Ministry of Provincial Governments and Institutional Strengthening then published in the *Gazette*.

What are Provincial Services?

Provincial services are the things that the Provincial Government is responsible for doing. Some examples of provincial services are rubbish collection, housing, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and protection of the environment. A complete list of all the provincial services is set out in Schedule 5 of the PGA.

Is there anything to do with the law and the PGA that you would like to see in future newsletters? If so, please email Melanie Phillips, Legal Adviser, MPGIS, on melaniegphillips@gmail.com. end



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



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 6TH PREMIERS CONFERENCE

By: Nancy Legua

Under Secretary, Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening
National Project Coordinator, PGSP

The 6th Premiers Conference ended in colourful style in Kira Kira on 26th October 2012 after one week of intensive discussions of high level policy issues affecting service delivery by the nine Provincial Premiers and the Mayor of the Honiara City Council. This year's conference was based on the theme, **"together we strive for sustainable, cost effective and efficient service delivery"**.

The Prime Minister, Hon. Gordon

growth centre concept and the constituency development funds are designed to promote economic growth and at the same time ensure that the benefit of economic development reach the ordinary people at the community level.

The greatest highlight of the conference was the focus on rural constituency development funds. The message by the

Premier expressed concerns over the role of MPs as a legislative oversight institution and their new role as project managers. The Premier raised a question as to whether MPs can take on the role of the executive branch of the government in spending whilst at the same time retain their key role as an oversight institution and scrutinizing their own spending.

The Minister for Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening, Hon. Silas V. Tausinga, assured the Provincial Premiers of his ministry's continuous support to the course of service delivery as prescribed in the theme of the conference. He expressed hopes that the government would further clarify the roles of the provincial governments in service delivery so that it is clear who is responsible for what in delivering services at the provincial level.

The conference has been described as a great success for PGSP as Hon. Premiers show their full support for the next phase of the programme. The

Premiers unanimously asked the National Government to seek funding for PGSP II. Each Premier described the project phase II as relevant to the people of Solomon Islands. They appreciate the fact that the project is building the capacity of the provincial governments whilst at the same time *Continued on page 9*



▲ *The Prime Minister and his delegation posed for a photo with Premiers and Mayor of Honiara City Council after the official opening*

Darcy Lilo, formally opened the 6th Premiers conference with a speech in which he encouraged Provincial Premiers to continue their hard work for better service delivery. He assured the Premiers of his governments continued support to improve service delivery as prescribed in the theme of the conference. He indicated that the economic

Premiers on how they see the gradual institutionalization of RCDF and CDFs was characterized in the opening speech of the host Premier, Hon. Thomas Weape (MPA). He advised the government to reconsider the decision of channelling more funds through the constituencies instead of through the provincial government system. The Makira



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

Continued from page 8

providing funding for small scale infrastructures at the provincial level.

Even though some of the provinces still have difficulties in meeting the required minimum conditions, they feel that extensive progress has been made and that the programme's continuity is in the best interest of the provinces.

The first day of the conference started off with the dedication of the chamber and the handing over of the key to the Speaker of Makira/Ulawa Provincial Assembly by the Head of Premiers conference delegation, Hon. George Solingi Lilo, Premier of Western Province.

The host province had its own unique style of preparation for this very important event which was evident by the way the host Premier received his colleague Premiers on their arrival. Premiers were greeted in style with very colourful displays and entertainments on their arrival at the airport.

Throughout the conference duration, participants were entertained by different groups of entertainers from all over the province. Every dinner was accompanied by music and interesting traditional songs symbolising the cultural heritage of the people of Makira Ulawa. The variety of entertainments indicates a diversity of cultures which makes Makira Ulawa unique in terms of richness in culture. Observing the organisational style and varieties of entertainers, one could easily agree that there is unity in diversity in the province which made it easier for such a conference to be organised with relative ease and professionalism.

As traditional to every conference, the host province ensures that each participant goes back with a gift as a token of appreciation. This again symbolises the generosity of the people of Makira Ulawa. Presents for the Provincial Pre-

miers, the Mayor of Honiara City Council and other delegates were shipped to Honiara ahead of participants by the conference local organising committee.

The Provincial Premiers and the Mayor of Honiara City Council agreed on 13 resolutions which formed part of Kira Kira Communique 2012. The communiqué shall be delivered to the Cabinet by Hon. Silas V. Tausinga, Minister for Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening. What was unique about this year's conference was the allocation of time for the



▲ PS for MPGIS Mr. Stanley Pirione handing over the signed copy of Kira Kira Premiers Communique to Premier of Makira Ulawa Province Hon. Thomas Weape

munities live and also to make them feel that they were part and parcel of the 6th Premiers conference.

The Premiers with other delegation visited Pamua and Waimapuru and spent over two hours in each location to discuss with the communities. They were welcomed by the headmasters of each of the schools with songs and cultural dances by students with varieties of entertainments even more colourful than the ones that accorded the Premiers in Kira kira.



▲ Premiers and guests watch a matching choir performing during the dedication of the new Makira Ulawa Provincial Chamber

delegation to visit other parts of the province of Makira Ulawa apart from the provincial capital to see how com-

In Pamua and Waimapuru, Premiers and the Mayor of Honiara City Council responded generously by pledging cash donations to the school administration. The donation from the Minister for Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening was announced by Mr. Stanley D. Pirione, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry. *Continued on page 10*



from Central Province



RESTRUCTURING PROVINCIAL PLANNING AND BUDGETING PROCESSES

By Metcalfe Puia

Provincial Advisor, Central Province

The Central Islands Provincial Government has just formulated its policy statement to ensure long term development policies are initiated that includes inputs from all divisions within the province. It is the first time that such a comprehensive document has been formulated with the participation of all divisions and provincial executives with the objective to guide effective service delivery by the province.

From the 14th to 23rd December 2011 an initial meeting was conducted to formulate Central Province Policy Statement which was followed by four days meeting in February 2012. The workshops which were attended by all Divisional Heads, the Executive Members, Development Partner Representatives, and facilitated by the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) of PGSP and Project Coordinator/Undersecretary of MPGIS. Participants brain-stormed strategies in order to come up with a statement of policy that would clarify provincial goals and

set quantifiable objectives for effective service delivery on a longer term. We comprehensively assessed the current strengths and weaknesses of each division and further identified the missing elements to effective service delivery through implementation of development plans. Weaknesses that had affected Central Province's ability to deliver through proper planning processes such as the absence of proper baseline data, lack of political will, weak institutions, lack of proper linkages between the province and the sectors and inadequate core staffing had been thoroughly discussed and policy implementation strategies were developed detailing how they would be resolved.

Despite the weaknesses within Central Province that sometimes affect service delivery, efforts have been made to institutionalise planning systems and recognise accountability institutions through changes in standing orders of the provincial assembly. The frame-

works developed by the MPGIS with PGSP technical support has adequately clarified the roles and responsibilities of planning and accountability institutions within the province which would surely have positive impact on provincial planning and budgeting processes.

Provincial Planning and Development Committee (PPDC), Technical Planning and Budgeting Unit (TPBU), Divisional sub committees, Ward Development Committees (WDC) and the Provincial Accounts Committee (PAC) are now being initiated which shall go a long way in ensuring effective coordination and accountability in the provincial governments particularly in Central Province. It is hoped that in its next assembly meeting, the provincial assembly shall adopt the required changes to incorporate the planning institutions in its standing orders to give recognition to these important institutions that they deserve and to ensure they operate effectively.

end



▲ The Hon. Premiers and Lord Mayor of Honiara City welcomed by students of Pamua Secondary School with their beautiful singing

Continued from page 9

The head masters of both schools and the students were amazed by the generosity of their visiting Premiers. They thanked the Premiers for their kind gestures and pledged to use the money on the development of the school.

The conference ended with everyone expressing thanks to the host Premier and his team for the kind hospitality that accorded them. The actual success of the conference shall, however, be gauged by the endorsement conference communiqué and the implementation of its various resolutions as agreed and signed by the Premiers and the Mayor of Honiara City Council. We are yet to see how the intended outcomes of the conference shall be achieved after the communiqué has been endorsed by the Cabinet. end



from Choiseul Province



Market lock up shops for Taro

By Baddeley Dickson Nukumuna
Communication Officer, PGSP

Perhaps if there is a province that is worth emulating by other provinces is Choiseul Province because of its commitment to fulfilling infrastructure development aspirations of its people. I have been to Taro town the capital of Choiseul Province a couple of times. And every time I got there, I could not deny the fact that some infrastructure developments were always taking place either in communication, transportation, roads, or buildings, equipment and so forth.

Some of these developments are self driven by the Province. For example the acquisition of about 350 hectares of land on mainland Choiseul Bay for the expansion of Taro town and a cargo boat the San Marcos,

just to name a couple, are a good example of the collective positive foresight and efforts of the provincial government, its statutory authorities and the people of Choiseul Province which everyone in that province should be proud of.

However, some of the developments are a result of collaboration between the Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening, the donors and the Choiseul Provincial Government. Through the funding support of the Provincial Capacity Development Fund, a good number of development projects are being implemented particularly in the provision of infrastructures.

While it may be true, in my opinion, to say that some Provinces are yet to fully utilize and realize the positive economic and social potential that PGSP is providing through its PCDF mechanism, some Provinces could not let any chance of benefitting from this project slip away. And in my opinion, Choiseul Province is such one Province that is letting no stone unturned in its quest to capitalize on the Funding provided by the Provincial Capacity Development Fund of PGSP

For those of us who'd been to Taro know that the best time to buy best products at taro market is to go in the earliest part of the day. During one of my early morning trips to Taro Market, I caught up with some of the key people of Choiseul province that early morning and our conversation suddenly rolled on. I was told that the lock-up shops were designed by Mr. Nikolson Podo of Works Division and constructed by TR Construction headed by Mr. Timothy



▲ *Three newly constructed Taro market lock up shops*

through the Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening.

There are numerous projects Choiseul Province has so far completed but the one which caught my attention during my recent visit there was the Taro Market Upgrade. You could be thinking that this is referring to the generic improvement in the mass sale of taro crops or an improvement of the venue for selling the popular taro crops. Actually it is both. If you were to visit Taro anytime, you would see three new beautiful buildings. They are Taro Market Lock up Shops (see the beautiful photos inset).

Requ.

According to the Provincial Secretary, Mr. John Tabepuda, 160 applications have so far been received and are awaiting awards of the lock-up shops. "This is one of the income generating projects for Choiseul Provincial Government under the PCDF Investment" said Basilio Solevudu, the Provincial Advisor. "The arrangement is that tenants will pay monthly rentals and annual business licenses for operating the shops" added Christopher Makoni the Provincial Clerk who himself seemed so excited about the new lock up shops. *Continued on page*

23



from Guadalcanal Province



Transforming Paradigms in Guadalcanal Governance

Ronald Acepcion Amigo
UNV Provincial Advisor for Guadalcanal Province

Guadalcanal Province is always being dubbed as having the greatest potentials for achieving development, conversely however, it always lags behind other provinces in the same area as shown in different studies and statistics conducted.

Realizing this predicament, the provincial officials composed of the elected leaders and administration officials and staff are now trying their best to change the situation by planning well to improve its delivery of services and transforming its attitudes towards working together and harmonizing efforts to achieve the development goals of the province.

The provincial government, with the assistance of the Provincial Governance Strengthening Program of the Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening, endeavoured in formulating a clear organizational structure to guide them in defining chain of command and authority, which was supported by the formulation of Service-Based Operations Manual. The current government launched the Policy Framework Plan to guide the development

directions of the province in the next four years, and supported by the recent conduct of Multi-Sectoral Participatory Strategic Planning that generated the 5-point development agenda where the

capacity to meet the highest standard of public service. All employees were required to fill up personnel profile forms, re-defined their job descriptions based on the actual jobs performed, and a personnel appraisal form was formulated to evaluate employees' performance on a yearly basis. A Project Management Unit was also created to ensure that all projects under PCDF shall be implemented on time and on right procedures.

To move the government closer to the people, the province implemented a quarterly poster newsletter which is circulated all over Guadalcanal, and a complaint and suggestions box was installed at the entrance of the headquarters to generate feedback from them.



province wants to see greater impact by concentrating their efforts and resources on them. A Local Elected Leaders (LEL) training was piloted in the province, and followed by the creation of Public Accounts Committee (PAC) to develop leadership skills and accountability in the province.

Aside from these, there were tremendous efforts in improving its internal

The greatest observable changes, however, can be felt in the harmonization of efforts between Provincial Executive and the Administration and among Members of the Provincial Assembly. It is now more often than before that members of the Provincial Executives meet with Administration Officials to exchange notes and ideas on issues and concerns confronting *continued on page 13*



from Guadalcanal Province



Guadalcanal Province Generates Development Agenda via Participatory Process

By Ronald Acepcion Amigo
Provincial Advisor, Guadalcanal

Guadalcanal Province recorded another milestone when it conducted the very first Multi-Sectoral Participatory Strategic Planning Workshop held on June 8, 2012 in Honiara City. Around 80 stakeholders and key players in the province were invited to this one-day event. These invited participants include the Provincial Executives, Administration Division Heads, Members of Parliament of Guadalcanal, Non-Government Organizations operating in the province, Business, Church, Women, Youth and representatives from donor and funding agencies.

The workshop generated for the province an updated Vision Statement; 5-point Development Agenda, and a rolling plan for the next three years (2013-



▲ A participant stamping her vote to determine top priorities for the province

2016), including an action plan with estimated budget that will be implemented by next year. The 5-point agenda, in the order of priority, includes Improved Local Governance, Promotion of Sustainable Local Economic Development, Strong Link/Partnership between GPG, Stakeholders and Commu-

nities, Improved Social Services and Developed Skills Development Training Programmes. Premier Anthony Veke said that this was the first time for Guadalcanal Province to gather all stakeholders and key players in one venue, united in common purpose of working together to lay down the foundation for achieving bright future and for realizing the aspirations of the people through a participatory process. He also emphasized the importance of working together and combining all resources in pursuing a unified direction.

Provincial Secretary James Taeburi, on the other hand, stressed the importance of transforming the plans formulated into actions. He believes that the burden of implementing all these good plans would become even lighter if all the stakeholders shall continue to be united and cohesive during the implementation stage. *end.*

Continued from page 12
the province.

The Administration Officials also launched the regular monthly meeting among division heads to discuss monthly and quarterly reports and plans, which are then submitted to the Provincial Executive to be taken up during their meetings for their corresponding

policy actions. Also, the members of the Provincial Assembly are now adopting the principle of “agreeing to disagree”, departing from the old habits of “disagreeing to agree”. This means that back benchers are no longer opposing the administration proposals for the sake of opposition, but more on scrutinizing them on the area of transparency and accountability, as well as proposing better ways to achieve their purpose for

development.

This year, the province is implementing the biggest budget among the nine provinces - the first time in recent years. Perhaps, Guadalcanal is now letting itself in shifting its old paradigms towards taking the lead to serve. *end*



from

Makira Ulawa Province



Face-lifting Kira Kira Hospital

By Momodou Lamin Sawaneh
Chief Technical Advisor (interim), PGSP

The Provincial Government of Makira Ulawa through the Provincial Capacity Development Fund is fencing Kira kira provincial hospital for the first time to ensure maximum security in the hospital. The hospital which occupies a space of 100m square is badly in need of proper fence in order to protect the hospital and its valuable equipment including the lives of the people, according to Dr. Rodney Talo.



▲ *Water tank with a pressure pump provided by the Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening*

The provincial government is this year investing SBD100,000 from its PCDF on fencing the hospital premises. The initial design of the fence was meant to use cheaper materials but this was altered later and instead permanent fencing materials such as iron rods are now being used to ensure the project is of the desired quality and serve a longer duration. I visited the hospital and had a brief discussion with the Director of the hospital,

Dr. Rodney Talo, who informed me that the Kira kira provincial hospital was constructed over 40 years ago and since then there has been no major alterations to the buildings. He confirmed that the last time the hospital was renovated by the Ministry of Health and Medical Services was 10 years ago. Asked whether he is happy with the new fencing project, Dr Talo said that the hospital wel-

comes the fencing project funded by the provincial government of Makira through its PCDF for the following reasons:

The hospital central gate became accessible to everyone. Anyone can come in and out freely thus posing security risks to the hospital premises. A proper fence of this nature, he said, would provide the required and much needed security for the premises.

The Director indicated that the ablution blocks in the hospital are being misused by people who come in at anytime even when they have no business in the hospital.

Pollution is another concern that the Director is worried about as people litter all kinds of stuff in the hospital creating a lot of environmental damage, unconsciously. Dr. Talo is optimistic that the completion of the fencing project would surely facelift the hospital and makes it look like a proper hospital.



▲ *Fencing Kira Kira provincial hospital*

The initial funding of SBD100,000 approved by the provincial assembly would surely not complete the construction of the fence because of the alteration in the original design of the fence. The Provincial Secretary of Makira Ulawa, Mr Commins Ikioa, however, confirmed to me that the provincial government would certainly put in more resources to complete the project by next year. *continued on page 15*



from

Makira Ulawa Province



Continued from page 14

In addition to the fencing project, the provincial government is also spending SBD241,341 this year to renovate hospital shower block and also providing water tanks at a cost of SBD51,148.

As part of its objective in providing good hospital facilities to Premiers whilst attending the Premiers conference, the Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening provided about SBD100,000 for the renovation of two blocks in the hospital and reserved them for the participants to the conference.

This was completed before the conference and the hospital director is very proud of the newly renovated blocks. Both blocks have been provided with a water tank and a pressure pump to ensure continuous water supply to the wards.

The provincial government's investment in health sector is not just confined to the referral hospital in Kira kira, Makira Ulawa, but is being extended to other clinics within the province particularly those that are remotely located. In its budget for 2012/13, the provincial government has allocated SBD175,000 for Namuga Area Health Centre Project and SBD160,000 for Ngarigohu Clinic Staff Housing.

Asked about the staffing in the referral hospital, the health Director informed me that the provincial hospital has a total of only 15 Registered Nurses and four Midwives serving the whole of Makira Ulawa Province. He considered this as very inadequate. He also told me that the hospital faces acute shortage of delivery units and emphasized that something needs to be done about that. Currently eight people are provided for in the delivery unit which is considered to be too crowded by medical standard taking into account that the hospital administers at least 100 births per month



▲ *The male ward renovated by MPGIS for the 6th Premiers Conference*

with a population growth rate of the province at 3.5%.

Being the only provincial hospital in the province, Dr. Talo informed us that there is always a pressure on the hospital. For example, on average, the hospital receives at least 50 incoming referral cases each month with outgoing referral cases being 5 per month. This indicates that most of the reported cases are treated in the provincial referral hospital which is quite high given the limited number of nurses and doctors available.

Kira kira provincial hospital is run by two medical doctors, Dr. Rodney Talo and Dr. Howard Marol and a dentist called Dr. William Waura.

At the end of our visit, the Director of the hospital appealed for immediate assistance for the provision of mattresses for the empty hospital beds. When Dr. Talo took us around the hospital we saw for ourselves dozens of empty beds that have no mattress on them. Considering the number of referral cases the hospital



▲ *These are the dozens of empty beds in Kira kira provincial hospital without mattresses. Dr Rodney Tallo would like the provincial government of Makira Ulawa to provide mattresses through their PCDF allocation*

receives each month, Dr. Talo feels that the hospital needs immediate help in order to provide mattresses for the empty beds so that all the beds can be fully utilised and patients would not be turned away. He told us his plan to appeal to the provincial government of Makira Ulawa to provide mattresses

continued on page 22



from

Makira Ulawa Province



PCDF promotes Local Economic Development: A story from a monitoring trip to East Makira

By Momodou Lamin Sawaneh
Chief Technical Advisor (interim), PGSP

Walking through narrow roads and crossing a small river by foot on the 13th of May 2012, I was told that we were heading to a little village called Waimagirugiru of East of Kira Kira where the province had just commenced PCDF funded construction of a storage

photo of the project on storage shed at Hagaeho as at 13th May 2012.

Only five months after that adventurous journey that took us over two hours, when i visited Kira kira again in October 2012, i was told that the storage shed is now fully completed and ready

ing from but i was later told that they are local contractors. I immediately tried to make arrangement with the Provincial Secretary, Cimmin Ikoa, for a visit to the same site to see the completed project, but this time it was not possible due to heavy rains that over-flooded River Rawa making it impossible to cross by foot.



PCDF
storage
shed in
Hagaeho
as on 13th
of May
2012

shed at an estimated cost of SB169,000 to enable copra and cocoa farming communities of ward 11 to use for storing their produce whilst waiting for ships from Honiara. Underneath is the

for use by cocoa and copra farmers of the area. I could not believe my ears that Makira has contractors that can deliver projects at such a speed. I was therefore left wondering where the skills are com-

But one thing I remembered was the speech given by Hon. Thomas Weape (MPA), Premier of Makira Ulawa Province when he said the infrastructure projects funded by PCDF are not only providing the much needed infrastructures on which service delivery will have to be anchored but that it is also a practical training ground in live skills for most of their young people who are employed in various companies in Makira Ulawa in construction industries. In addition to this the Premier indicated that the capacity of local entrepreneurs in construction industry is being developed and in future, they can compete in national competitive biddings.



Most of the local population in the small Island province of Makira Ulawa grows cocoa and copra which serve as stable cash crops. Land tenure system is customary. Cocoa and copra farms are mostly owned by individual families who try to make a decent living out of their plantations but this is only considered to be sustainable if further assistance could be provided particularly the infrastructural support and if constraints such lack of easy access to markets, storage facilities, dryers and poor road networks to the market outlets can be resolved. *Continued on page 18*

▲ The Hagaeho PCDF storage shed five months later



from Makira Ulawa Province



Continued from page 17

So far 2,869 hectares of land is under copra and cocoa production. The volume of production is likely to increase with the provision of better facilities to promote the industry and with assurance of market outlet. This could surely motivate local farmers and encourage them into large scale production.

The plantations are located inland and not easily accessible by road because of broken bridges, small and shallow lakes. It is thus difficult to reach plantations with trucks in order to transport copra to the provincial centres whilst awaiting shipment.

This explains why the provincial government whose responsibility it is to create and pro-

"We do not have the means to provide infrastructures such as storage facilities as they cost a lot of money. With adequate facilities, we can definitely do well knowing that our produce would not be destroyed whilst waiting for ships to load them to Honiara", said one farmer in Kira Kira.

motivate conducive environment for local businesses to flourish, decided this year to prioritize projects targeting copra and cocoa production in the province. Coconut and cocoa plantations are the largest employer in Makira Ulawa as over 5,000 families are involved in its cultivation.

Due to the presence of a narrow river called "River Rawo" towards Ward 11 of Makira East (see photo) a journey of 20 minutes by car from the provincial capital of Kira Kira to Waimagirugiru took us over 2 hours. After crossing River Rawo, we had to walk the rest of the journey into the plantations. Further down the road, there is a broken old bridge hanging over just a small river (see photo). These unsuitable crossings and poor road infrastructures deter a lot of farmers to get involved in intensive cultivation as it costs them dear to get their produce to the nearest market outlets.

Cocoa: One storage house could store

about 300 bags of cocoa of 89kgs per bag. There are over 560,000 coconut trees in Makira Ulawa province owned by over 5,000 farmers of a total household of 7,173.

Copra: there are 2,100 copra farmers in the province and over 500,000 copra trees. The estimated income from each copra tree is about USD15/tree per month benefitting almost 5,000 families. This analysis is based on the assumption that copra and cocoa trees are all fully harvested and they reach the market outlets in Honiara on time. The best estimates using the above assumption has

been used in the absence of reliable statistics.

One reason that discourages

farmers from large scale cultivation of copra and cocoa is lack of storage, drying facilities and above all lack of assurance that the produce would reach the market for the much needed cash. As a cash crop, the farmers badly need the market outlet and the fact that they have to struggle a lot to get their goods to the market kills their spirits and thus discourages large scale production of this most valuable commodity that is capable of transforming the economic and social landscape of Makira Ulawa.

In 2012/13 the province allocated PCDF funds for storage sheds and is constructing storage shed in Hagaehu above and also in ward 9 whilst carrying out feasibility studies in ward 13 for the storage shed. Dryers like the one we visited above are simple and not too expensive but they are not within the reach of most of the cocoa producers. Farmers do call for assistance to be able to construct proper drying facilities in every location at the most acceptable standard. The industry standard for dryers is high con-



▼ Provincial staff crossing the Rawo



◆ Copra sheds on Makira & Ugi



▼ A farmer from Ahia vge on Ugi



sidering the fact that quality of cocoa is mainly determined by the quality of doing feasibility. This is important in order to fetch competitive prices in the world market. *Continued on page 19*



from

Makira Ulawa Province



Continued from page 18

Cocoa dryers are few of the small scale investments in economic activities that the provincial government of Makira Ulawa is now focusing on in order to boost the local economy and motivate farmers to go for large scale production.

When cocoa and copra are properly dried and stored, they can stay for a long period of time whilst waiting for shipment and at the same time maintaining their quality. The recent decision by the provincial government to invest more on these facilities through PCDF is raising

kira kira and elsewhere in the province as they link to vital trade routes to the main provincial centre of Kira kira. Constructing short distance bridges and feeder roads is a devolved function of the provincial governments and this is one aspect of the investment menu where the PCDF can be utilised to its maximum. Talking to the provincial officers and the local residents in Makira, I have been told that the following are some of the tangible benefits that PCDF funded storage facilities can create for the people involved in copra and cocoa production in the province:

driers to storage houses allowing new production to begin.

- Island cargo boats can make quick turnaround in transportation of Cocoa /copra products to Honiara

- Proper monitoring and administration of cocoa /copra production can be carried out at focal points

- Entrepreneurs can set up trade stores in the villages where rural people can access goods to improve diets and household goods

- The money earned from copra and cocoa is also used to pay school fees, improve homes with modern equipment, such as solar lightings

- Build permanent houses to improve livelihood and living conditions

- There would be increased revenue for the provincial government as the province would be able to charge more business licenses with the expansion in cocoa and copra production industry.

- Improve the farmers' ability to construct permanent houses for themselves instead of living in makeshift houses.

- Water is mostly a scarce commodity in Makira Ulawa province but with increased disposable income, farmers would be able to buy larger water tanks to store thousands of litres of water that would take them for several weeks.



▲ One of the oldest (near-collapse) bridges in East Makira leading to Waimagirugiru

the hopes of many farmers that a better future for their industry shall surely come.

Small as it may look, bridges of this size are many in the province and they are vital links to economically productive areas. The province is investing in foot bridges and hopefully next year more attention shall be paid to the construction of short distance bridges (through PCDF) of this nature that are vital to cocoa and copra farmers in the east of

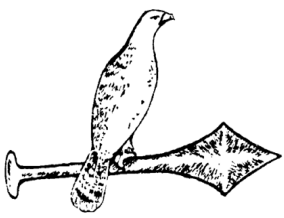
- Cocoa and copra farmers' access to long term storage facility which might have the added advantage of guaranteeing the quality of the product whilst in transit.

- It would enable the Island cargo vessels to have focal points of collection

- Reduce the cost of fuel for ship operators

- Storage facility will increase production, because the dried copra/cocoa will be taken from

During times when the storage facilities are not being occupied with copra or cocoa, the stores can be used for storing construction materials, timber etc for various infrastructure projects. *end*



from Malaita Province



Provincial Public Accounts Committee - the 2012 Malaita Experience -

By Samuel Rogers
UNV Provincial Advisor
for Malaita Province

Background

The Provincial Public Accounts Committee is one of the Standing Committees that the **Provincial Government Act (PGA)** of 1997 recognises and makes provision for its establishment, composition and function of its members as laid out in schedule 2 of PGA 1997. What was lacking until last year was the clarification of detailed roles and responsibilities of members of this important provincial assembly oversight committee. With the formulation of the policy framework on expanded responsibilities of the provincial accounts committees by the MPGIS with the technical support of PGSP, the composition and roles of the committee have changed fundamentally and it is now set to work more effectively as a functioning committee.

In the province of Malaita, like the other eight provinces, the Provincial Public Account Committees had been established by name but whether they are functioning effectively in respect to their mandated responsibilities remains questionable. Provincial Public Accounts Committees (PAC) had existed for long in the Provincial Government systems just by name without playing any active role in ensuring that the budgets and expenditures of the executive were scrutinized.

Recent audit reports have continued to indicate lot of deficiencies in financial accountability in the Provincial Governments which has been compounded by lack of an effective oversight institution such as Public Accounts Committees.

Being the only legislative tool that can be used to enhance oversight of the financial operations of the Provincial Governments, the need to assist the Provincial Governments to strengthen this specialized assembly standing committee (PAC) is gathering a sense of urgency. Therefore the MPGIS/PGSP intervention to provide the required guidelines was indeed very timely.

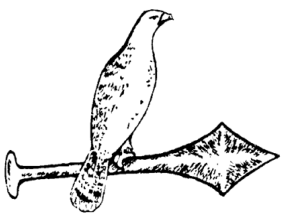
To effectively support and strengthen this specialized committee meant broadening their responsibilities to cover all activities related to provincial expenditures and provision of training to cover the expanded responsibilities of the committee. With the support of MPGIS/PGSP in 2011, provincial executives in collaboration with the office of the speaker were requested to submit names of Provincial Public Accounts Members (mainly from the back bench) in addition to their respective speakers and clerks for a Public Accounts Committee training that was facilitated by the Centre for Democratic Institutions (CDI) from Canberra. This training served as an eye opener for most provinces regarding their roles and how they can function effectively.

The Malaita Public Account Committee (PAC)

The Public Accounts Committee of Malaita Provincial Government comprised of six (6) members all from the back bench and a secretary that was identified outside the Provincial Assembly based on the advice of the MPGIS/

PGSP. This committee was expected to participate in the training organised by MPGIS/PGSP and facilitated by Centre for Democratic Institutions (CDI) but unfortunately only the Speaker and the Clerk to the Provincial Assembly remained in the committee amongst who participated in the 2011 training. The non attendance by the six fulltime members (who became new members of the committee) created a knowledge gap among the committee members relating to their roles and responsibilities as PAC members of the Malaita Provincial Government which affected the effective operation of the committee.

Recognising this limitation from the part of the members, the provincial administration with the support of MPGIS/PGSP organised crash presentations and discussion sessions to orientate the rest of the members regarding their roles and responsibilities as credible PAC members. The Under Secretary of MPGIS during one of her visits to the provincial headquarter town of Auki had discussions with the members on the framework of provincial PACs developed by the Ministry. She emphasised the oversight function of the committee and its good work that will not only contribute to strengthening accountability processes and procedures at the PG level but will also promote development of the province as a whole. With the expanded roles and responsibilities of the provincial PACs which are expected to be incorporated into the standing orders of the Assembly, she added, *continued on page 21*



from Malaita Province



Continued from page 20

the members will be much more engaged and become even more active in playing their roles as a provincial assembly standing committee.

Lessons learned

With my very close interaction with the Public Accounts Committee of Malaita Province, the following observations were noted, some of which are administrative whilst some operational. I would like to share this little experience with my other colleagues who would be assisting the formation and training of these important accountability institutions in other provinces.

Unclear Terms of References of the PACs

It was realised during my initial interactions with the members of the committee that the Terms of Reference of the committee was not clear and as such members did not understand their roles as PAC members. This significantly limited their scope and narrowed their activity to just scrutiny of annual provincial budgets and plans. But the expanded roles as spelt out in the framework by the Ministry in 2011 will help members in the committee, if incorporated in the Standing Orders of the Provincial Assembly. This framework has clarified the roles and responsibilities of the PAC members and the required composition that should make the committee work more effectively has been well spelt out. This proved very helpful to committee members and the PGSP funded training that followed the release of the framework further en-

hanced the understanding of Malaita PAC members.

Limited Administrative support for the PACs

Support to the PAC to discharge their legislative functions as laid out in the PGA 1997 poses some challenges as limited budget allocations are made for all this important oversight committees. This condition significantly narrowed

vices of secretaries with Finance background to support the process.

Provincial Executive in remote tension with the legislative oversight committee members

The policies of the provincial executive are normally implemented through the annual work plans which are costed by the associated budgets. Scrutinizing budgets means scrutinizing policies through the annual work plans. This has often raised an uneasy calm between the provincial executive and the Provincial Accounts Committee (PAC) as all of them are backbenchers and their good work may be misinterpreted and sometimes discredited.



▲ Members of PAC with MPGIS during one of the training

down the scope of the committee's work. The Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening has advised the provinces to budget adequately for PAC in order to ensure the committees become functioning committees.

Limited knowledge and Skills by the members to perform their functions

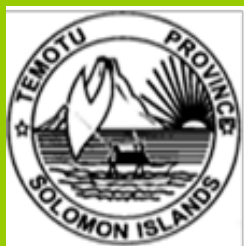
Most of the members are just mainland politicians with no related professional experience in areas such as Finance and Accounting that can add value to their function as committee members. If capacity development of the PAC members is to be prioritised, extensive on-the-job training is required given the skills gap that exists. It was recommended that provinces engage the ser-

Conclusion

The Provincial Public Accounts Committee can be regarded as a good servant only conducive environment and logistical supports are provided, but can also be a bad master if the conditions are not provided and members decide to witch-hunt their compatriots in the executive. The expanded roles of the PAC when incorporated into the standing orders of the Assembly will significantly contribute to the accountability processes at the provincial level and subsequently promote service delivery. *end*

What do accountants suffer from that ordinary people don't?

DEPRECIATION



from Temotu Province



Temotu MPAs receive training from ANU's State Society and Governance in Melanesia Program

By Buddley Ronnie
Provincial Advisor for Temotu Province

The Temotu Provincial Government (TPG) under its Provincial Capital Development Fund (PCDF) work plan has achieved a historic collaboration with the State Society and Governance in Melanesia Program (SSGMP), a program of the School of International Politics of the Australian National University (ANU). The relationship, collaboration and sharing was achieved through a successful two days workshop for the Members of Provincial Assembly (MPAs) which was held from 24th – 25th May 2012 at the Luelta Resort.

their leadership roles and importance of covered topics such as: Development community participation in decision Challenges in the Context of Temotu;



▲ Participants of the Workshop on Leadership and Participatory Decision Making at Luelta Resort. Dr Jack Maebuta sitting from left.

This was a major breakthrough by both parties because it means that TPG as a provincial government is now linked with a renowned institution while on the part of ANU, it means a new outreach and audience for their SSGM programme.

The main objectives of the workshop were: to provide a learning space for MPAs in terms of leadership and participatory decision making practices in Temotu Province; to inform MPAs of

making; to review the provincial planning processes in light of MPAs involvement in selection of development projects; and to explore opportunities for a suitable and alternative model of participatory planning and decision making in the context of challenges that are unique to Temotu Province.

The key resource person was Dr. Jack Maebuta, a recipient of the prestigious Australian Prime Minister's Award and a research fellow at ANU. Dr. Maebuta who is also a local inspiring speaker

Aspiring to Lead; Ethical Leadership; The Decision Making Dynamics; The Basics of Participatory Decision Making; and Community Engagement.

Mr Buddley Ronnie, the National Provincial Advisor for TPG under the Provincial Governance Strengthening Programme (PGSP) assisted and facilitated the workshop. He also talked on the mechanisms of Provincial Planning and Development Committee (PPDC) with World Vision (WV) who also did a presentation *continued on page 23*



from Temotu Province



Continued from page 22

highlighting their project identification method in the community level. The workshop was designed to address the strengthening of planning and budgeting

processes in institutions and how participatory decision making and leadership roles assumed by MPAs are able to reflect people's aspirations, expectations and needs in the process. This is in line with PGSP's PPDC model. When PPDC was discussed at the Executive level it attracted heated debates and two major issues were highlighted: the cost implication on operating PPDC in a scattered geographic setting of the province; and the possible replication of a joint collaborative establishment that has already existed. The PPDC agenda was then deferred for Temotu Province pending further consultations with the political leaders and thus this workshop was the first step towards this effort.

The participants have regarded the workshop as interactive; interesting and

touched on real issues and case examples in Temotu Province. The Premier expressed in his closing remarks that this was a very uniquely designed and delivered workshop which he and colleague members thoroughly enjoyed and benefited through the sessions. The workshop concluded that better understanding by MPAs on the dynamics of

leadership and participatory decision making would enhance their roles as decision and policy makers as they facilitate the PPDC model advocated by PGSP.



▲ *Hon Premier Brown Beu thanked Dr. Jack Maebuta of ANU during closing programme*

The workshop was co-funded by TPG under its Investment Servicing Menu to meet the cost of catering and venue hire and the State, Society and Governance Programme of ANU sponsored all travel



▲ *Hon Premier Brown Beu and Deputy Premier, Hon Badley Tau listen to presentation*

costs for Dr. Maebuta from Canberra to Lata, Temotu Province. The ANU representative thanked the National Provincial Advisor for gauging the official engagement by SSGPM after many months of planning and communication through TPG and ANU's official protocol. *end*

Continued from page 15

provincial government once more to provide assistance through its PCDF programme in its 2013/14 allocation. This, he said, would enhance the capacity of the hospital to handle referral cases.

Apart from its water and sanitation programme for the province, the PCDF is also being allocated to provide 16 aluminium water tanks and one rotor mould in schools and communities devastated by heavy rains and landslide in east Makira in wards 5, 12 and 13. After the traditional sources of water for those communities such as streams got destroyed by heavy rains and landslides, the communities in east Makira requested water tanks in order to cease their dependency on streams which are vulnerable to natural disasters such as landslides and erosion that normally buries their water sources. The provision of water tanks shall provide assurances to the communities for continuous water supply for domestic use.

The completion of fencing and the ablu-tion block projects in the referral hospital would indeed face-lift the hospital. The Kira kira referral hospital would then look like a proper referral hospital and be protected from unwelcome visitors. Patients and properties can now be more secure whilst the provision of mattresses would improve the capacity of the hospital to admit more in-patients and give them better and sufficient treatment. I am sure this point is now taken up by the provincial government of Makira Ulawa in case the province qualifies for PCDF allocation next year. Providing mattresses for the dozens of empty beds would go a long way in improving the health conditions of the people as only fewer patients would be turned away because of lack of hospital beds. *end*

Guadalcanal Province Welcomes Complaints and Suggestions

In line with promoting the principles of transparency, accountability and performance, the Guadalcanal Provincial Government (GPG) started its campaign in June this year by welcoming complaints and suggestions from the general public on issues that would contribute to good governance and accountability, and improve delivery of services at the Guadalcanal province.

A complaint and suggestion box was installed at the entrance of GPG Headquarter, and a notice to the public was posted asking for public support by accomplishing the complaint and/or suggestion forms available at the information centre where the said box is also located. The public notice was signed by both the Premier Anthony Veke and Provincial Secretary James Taeburi to signal that both the Provincial Executive and the Administration are serious in improving governance through this effort and are working together for the common good of the public.

As provided in the forms, the public may have the option to give or not to give their names, as long as the comments and suggestions are constructive in nature.

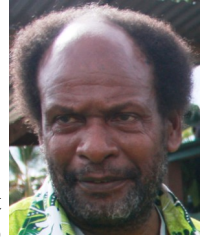
So far, GPG received substantial number of comments and suggestions since the inception of this initiative. GPG is also resolved in publishing these comments and suggestions, and what were the corresponding actions/responses taken by the Provincial Secretary so that people are regularly updated, except for one that needs to be substantiated. *end*

Continued from page 11

“What’s more, it means that the public of Taro and surrounding villagers will have more shops for their shopping and more products to choose from, you see” wittily interrupted John Tabepuda the Provincial Secretary who with his usual loud outbursts, boasted about the achievement. But then within few seconds there was a sudden change in the tone of his voice as if he had regretted what he had stated. He bent over and whispered, “But it cost us an amount of \$240,000.00” and then ruptured with another usual hysterical laughter of his. *End*

Staff Employee Profile

Name: Pital Commins Ikioa
Position: Provincial Secretary Makira Ulawa Province
Marital Status: Married
Island/Province of origin: Ugi Island, Makira Ulawa Province



Demands of the job: Dedication, ability to drive government plan programmes forward with scarce resources and be able to maintain firm decisions consistently. Being a Provincial Secretary is more than just being a Chief Executive Officer. The responsibility covers wide range of tasks, including dealing with local land disputes, solving tensions between ethnic groups, coordinating disaster assessment team, managing provincial budget, managing PCDF projects, supervising divisions and even attending to a query from a simple individual from a remotest village. So it also involves dealing with high and low profile characters.

Being the Project manager of PCDF projects, require you to visit proposed project sites to discuss land access and agreements with Land owners. During the implementation stage, contractors visit your office on daily basis. PCDF is the largest project in the province and that we need to ensure it is implemented in the best interest and benefit of the provincial people. Being a Provincial Secretary is challenging, you are expected to deliver the best results and attend to every need.

Rewards of the job: Developed self discipline, dedication, honesty and have confident in your ability to achieve bigger goals. My ten years of senior management in the private sector equip me with skills to drive forward government programmes to achieve positive outputs with poor logistic and scarce resources.

Most memorable experience at work: Two most memorable experiences at work come to mind. First one is taking the leadership role to improve proper expenditure management of provincial grants in 2010 and reducing of logging business license arrears from \$7.1Million to \$4.8Million in 2010/2011. Second is taking initiative to build Makira Ulawa Provincial Assembly Chamber and Provincial Office complex projects in Kira Kira. I am proud to be part of a strong administration team who stand firm in their positive links with an industrious and disciplined local contractor to implement two largest provincial projects which will give facelift to kira Kira Township when fully completed.

Your Strengths: I have the confidence, mobility and ability to lead a team of multi-cultural background and semi – technical skilled in an environment of scarce resources.

Your weakness: I always demand the best from my work colleagues without realizing their capacity limits.

How important is it to set goals: Very important. Goals set the direction to achieving targets within budget provisions and timeframes.

Your career ethic: Disciplined, commitment, punctuality and demanding the best.

How you spend leisure time: Tramp quickly home and work on family farm near Kira Kira for long hours.

Dream job: I want to retire from formal employment and become a successful piggyery farmer.

Tell us one more interesting fact about yourself: I have never submitted formal applications to get the different high profile jobs I enjoyed during my employment career which now spans 23 years to date. These senior management positions were offered to me by organizations of high standing and reputations. I have enjoyed three different employment career paths which range from Engineering, Management, Secondary School Physic teaching and currently a public servant.

I look back with joy and sometimes wonder how I was able to navigate my way through without strong competition. My advice to young managers is arrive at workplace early before junior staff arrive and let them leave workplace on time while you are still hard at work.

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

