

REBUILDING PARLIAMENTARY RULE POST- CONFLICT

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME LEGISLATIVE NEEDS ASSESSMENT SOLOMON ISLANDS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 5 June 2000 an armed uprising led to the seizure of the Prime Minister of Solomon Islands, Hon. Bartholomew Ulufa'alu, and his subsequent resignation under duress. Since the coup of 5 June 'the institutions of state have virtually collapsed'.¹ This is most evident in relation to the National Parliament, which 'appears an irrelevancy'.² Since the coup Parliament has met twice, in June and November-December 2000, with the next meeting scheduled to be held in March 2001. The sitting of Parliament on 28 June 2000 to elect a new Prime Minister was abandoned when only 28 of the 50 Members attended. Members of Parliament were reportedly threatened by militants against attending the sitting. A second sitting on 30 June was held on an Australian naval vessel anchored off Honiara.

In a paper to the Experts Group Meeting on the Post-Conflict Situation in the Solomon Islands held in Brisbane in October 2000, Donald Kudu, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of National Planning and Human Resources Development, asks:

How and why did the democratic and civil institutions of Solomon Islands fail to detect and resolve the complaints of various groups of the community before they resorted to the use of violence to further their concerns?³

The answer lies, according to Donald Kudu, with the absence of good governance. Without, according to Donald Kudu, 'the participation of all Solomon Islanders in the government's decision making process, without open processes of decision-making, without the government being held accountable for its policies and actions, without the efficient and effective implementation of those policies, the government is not a government for all the people of Solomon Islands'.⁴ The National Parliament of Solomon Islands has clearly failed to fulfil its constitutional responsibilities in ensuring good governance. The road to recovery for Solomon Islands lies very much with the rebuilding of the vehicle for ensuring good governance, Parliament.

The National Parliament of Solomon Islands experiences a number of problems that limit its ability to assist the Government in its commitment to adopt best practices of good governance and implement the Forum's "Eight Principles of Accountability". These problems are:

¹ Hegarty, D. September 2000. *Support for the Ministry of National Unity, Reconciliation and Peace: Consultant's Report*. SSGM Project, Australian National University, p. 4.

² Hegarty, D. September 2000. *Support for the Ministry of National Unity, Reconciliation and Peace: Consultant's Report*. SSGM Project, Australian National University, p. 4.

³ Kudu, D. *An Overview of Structural and Development Issues related to the Ethnic Conflict in the Solomon Islands*. Experts Group Meeting on the Post-Conflict Situation in Solomon Islands: Report of Proceedings, 19-20 October 2000, Brisbane, p. 2.

⁴ Kudu, D. *An Overview of Structural and Development Issues related to the Ethnic Conflict in the Solomon Islands*. Experts Group Meeting on the Post-Conflict Situation in Solomon Islands: Report of Proceedings, 19-20 October 2000, Brisbane, p. 2.

Lack of independence of Parliament

- ? Dominance of the Executive over Parliament;
- ? Poor scrutiny of Government activity by Parliament;
- ? Parliament lacks autonomy in staffing and budget matters;
- ? Weak parliamentary committees that require strengthening through legislative entrenchment;

- ? Need for an independent parliamentary legal counsel.

In a 1994 report the Parliamentary House Committee resolved to pursue the granting of full autonomy to Parliament which would include legislative enactment to establish Parliament's independent status from the Public Service. The Committee noted in its report that:

unless Parliament is given more autonomy and a statute is enacted by Parliament to control and determine major policies to guide the operation and management of our Parliamentary services, this institute will continue to be crippled, inefficient and uncoordinated.

The Committee referred to the report of the Solomon Islands delegation to the 1993 Pacific regional conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, *Status of Solomon Islands Parliament*, which recommended granting more autonomy to Parliament via legislation establishing a Parliamentary Service Commission modelled on the Queensland *Parliamentary Service Act 1988*. The functions of the proposed Parliamentary Service Commission would be:

- a) To determine major policies to guide the operation and management of Parliamentary services;
- b) To prepare budgets for the Parliament, staff establishment and Parliamentary services;
- c) To determine the size and organisation of the parliamentary department and the services to be provided to Parliamentarians;
- d) To supervise the management and delivery of the services to be performed by the Parliament.

The 1994 resolution of the Parliamentary House Committee and the recommendations of the 1993 delegation have, to date, not been acted on.

Lack of access to, and availability of, information

- ? Failure by government bodies to comply with reporting requirements and failure by Parliament to enforce compliance;
- ? Lack of access to and availability of necessary information for Members of Parliament to perform their role effectively;

- ? Poor institutional memory within Parliament;
- ? Need for a qualified librarian and a proper cataloguing system in the parliamentary library;
- ? Need for access to internet/E-mail facilities for parliamentary officers and Members of Parliament.

Lack of general understanding of the role of Parliament

- ? A lack of understanding and appreciation of the constitutional role of Parliament and of the separation of powers by both the public and Members of Parliament, resulting in unrealistic expectations placed on Members by constituents, the popular perception of Parliament as part of the Government, and the failure of Members to properly scrutinise the activities of Government.

Limited human resource development

- ? Lack of specialised skills among available human resources – training for both Members and parliamentary staff is required
- ? Limited opportunities for women to participate in the formal political structure - only one woman has been elected to Parliament since Independence.

Limited technical resources

- ? Lack of technical and physical resources - e.g. office facilities and space for Members of Parliament (only the first of three stages of the Parliament House building programme has been completed; the existing building is ill-suited to the tropical environment and is not being maintained resulting in a rapid deterioration of the building facilities).

Performance issues

- ? Poor attendance at committee meetings and parliamentary sessions;
- ? Emphasis on politics at the expense of governance by Members of Parliament;
- ? Members of Parliament need to improve their understanding of best practices of good governance and accountability, and become more active in promoting these objectives.

It is important to note that apart from some constitutional officeholders, some Members of Parliament and the senior parliamentary officers there is little public awareness of the Forum's adoption of best practices of good governance and the Eight Principles of Public Accountability.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Key Legal Documents

1. That all key legal documents be revised to ensure the elimination of gender biased language which implies exclusion of women from the decision - making process;
2. That the Standing Orders be revised to better reflect the needs of Parliament at the beginning of the 21st Century, including provision for additional Orders enabling oversight committees to impose consequences for non-compliance by government agencies with their accountability deadlines, incorporating reference to the code of ethical conduct for Members, the revised Oath of Office, and the establishment of a Standing Committee on Ethics;
3. The development and implementation of a Code of Ethical Conduct specifically for Members of Parliament to which Members would subscribe upon election to Office together with the existing Leadership Code;
4. The development and implementation of a more appropriate oath of office for Members of Parliament emphasising the standard of conduct members agree to uphold;
5. That Standing Order 78 be revised to incorporate the establishment of a Register of Interest for Members of Parliament and that each Member be required to provide a statement of their pecuniary interests to the Clerk of Parliament within one month of taking the oath of office and annually thereafter;
6. That Parliament establish a Standing Committee on Ethics, comprised of members of Parliament and members of the public, to develop a code of ethical conduct specifically for parliamentarians, to revise the Oath of Office, to review any code introduced, and to carry out the educative work in relation to ethical standards applying to members of Parliament as well as providing advice on the standards;
7. That the penalties under Section 7 of the *Leadership Code (Further Provisions) Act 1999* relating to disclosure of financial affairs by leaders be increased to ensure greater compliance with the provisions of the Act
8. That the Leadership Code Commission perform a greater educative role for both leaders and the public, and the Leadership Code be made available to and widely distributed to public officers and members of the public; and;
9. That induction programs and ongoing educative seminars and workshops that include an ethics component be held for members of Parliament and other constitutional officeholders.

Parliament-constituency relationship

10. That a workshop to consider the recommendations of the legislative needs assessment of Solomon Islands be held and involve all members of Parliament including the Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers, church and other non-government organization leaders, other constitutional office holders and members of the public;
11. That a community consultation model and supporting guidelines and principles for Parliament be prepared and disseminated among Members of Parliament and the community;
12. That the Parliamentary House Committee inquire into the possibility of co-opting members of the public onto parliamentary standing committees and of revising the Standing Orders to incorporate this change;
13. That a Handbook be published containing information on the structure and role of Parliament and related information on Parliament for both Members of Parliament and members of the public; and
14. That the Parliament, in conjunction with the Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation, produce regular educative programs on the role of Parliament for broadcast on radio.

Law-making procedures

15. That a review be undertaken to determine the viability of amending Part 2 of Chapter 6 of the Constitution to provide for non-urgent Bills to be distributed to each province for community input after the First Reading;
16. That a community consultation process be established whereby the Solicitor-General's Office provides simplified and easily understood explanatory memorandums for proposed legislation to the co-ordinating committees in each constituency; and
17. That the permanent position of parliamentary counsel be established to provide Members with access to impartial legal advice and assistance in the drafting of Private Members' bills.

Oversight role of Parliament

18. That Section 72 (2) of the Constitution and Part C of the Standing Orders be amended to increase the number of parliamentary meetings per year;
19. That amendments be made to the *Public Finance and Audit Act* and provision be made in the Standing Orders for the Public Accounts Committee to have recourse to the imposition of penalties to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Act for regular and timely submissions of the audited public accounts to Parliament;

20. That members of the Public Accounts Committee receive training in terms of the committee's role and in understanding the material on which they are required to report;
21. That Standing Order 75 be revised to impose greater penalties for failure by Members to attend meetings of parliamentary committees; and
22. The proposed National Audit Bill to provide for the establishment of a National Audit Office, for the duties and powers of the Auditor -General and related matters be drafted and passed into law by Parliament.

Human Resources

23. That the recommendation of the Solomon Islands delegation to the 1993 Pacific regional conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, contained in its report *Status of Solomon Islands Parliament*, to provide greater autonomy to Parliament via legislation establishing a Parliamentary Service Commission modelled on the Queensland *Parliamentary Service Act 1988* be implemented by Parliament through appropriate legislation;
24. That a parliamentary research unit be established and that its task involves producing briefing papers on proposed legislation and other issues Members need information on;
25. That priorities for public sector leadership be set and that a workshop/orientation module be prepared and conducted for new Members of Parliament – inviting a relevant person from one of the regional, New Zealand or smaller Australian legislatures and/or public sector/academia to prepare and conduct the workshop in conjunction with officers of the National Parliament of Solomon Islands;
26. That staff and Members of Parliament are provided training in technical courses such as computer skills including internet use, management and financial/accounting skills;
27. That newly appointed staff, Speakers and committee Chairs be sent on short-term attachments to other legislatures of similar size and/or the smaller Australian legislatures; and
28. That professional development and mentoring networks for both staff and Members of Parliament, particularly women, be established and maintained with small regional or Australian legislatures such as the ACT or Northern Territory Legislative Assemblies.

Women's Participation

29. It is recommended that the strategic objectives and action plans of the Ministry of Youth, Women, Sports and Recreation in relation to women and development as outlined in the National Women's Policy be implemented;

30. That every bill introduced to Parliament should include a gender impact analysis;
31. That concerted efforts are made to raise the standard of debates within Parliament in terms of both tone and quality;
32. That training courses for women be conducted in leadership skills, communication, presentation and writing skills and in understanding the Constitution and laws of Solomon Islands and the legislative process; and
33. That women's groups should be supported financially and technically in undertaking political education activities to encourage women to stand as candidates for election to Parliament and to encourage people to vote for female candidates, thereby changing the popular perception that 'politics is not a suitable pursuit for women'.

1. INTRODUCTION

This report provides background information on and a comprehensive needs assessment of the Solomon Islands National Parliament in order to serve as the basis of a support programme to strengthen the role of Parliament in the Solomon Islands. In addition, the report will assist in the generation of key generic principles of best practice for Pacific legislatures based on the notions of parliamentary democracy, participation, equity, accountability, transparency, efficiency, representation, integrity and fair elections. The report is divided into two sections:

- ? Section One forms the introduction to the report, describing the context in which the mission took place, and provides background information on Solomon Islands and its political system; and
- ? Section Two details the current situation within each area identified for institutional and capacity strengthening and provides a number of recommendations in these areas.

The Mission Terms of Reference, program undertaken by the consultant, information on the consultant, Members of Parliament and their political groupings and constituencies, Parliamentary staff, and committees are outlined in the appendices.

1.1. Context of the Visit

The legislative need assessment mission took place from 27 February to 6 March 2001. During this period Parliament was not sitting. A number of Members of Parliament were absent from Honiara, and other key individuals in terms of the assessment were unavailable. Parliament had been without communication access for several months with no working telephones or fax machines. All the parliamentary vehicles have been appropriated during and since the June 2000 coup. Parliament House did not have running water as the means of supply had been damaged in the period since the coup. As Parliament had no means of communication no program had been prepared in advance of the mission and it proved difficult to arrange meetings with key individuals at such short notice during the mission itself.

On Friday 2 March, Hon. David Vouza MP, Member for North Guadalcanal and Minister for Energy and Mines, died. A state funeral was held on Monday 5 March. Key individuals who had agreed to discuss their views were unavailable as a result and the parliamentary staff were required to attend to duties relating to the funeral. As a result of these factors the legislative needs assessment was restricted in its scope.

1.2. Background

Solomon Islands consist of more than 900 islands, of which roughly 350 are inhabited. In 1997 the total population was estimated to be 426,000 with an annual growth rate of 3.5%.

A major consequence of the violent ethnic conflict between militants from Guadalcanal and Malaita provinces that erupted in 1998 has been a severe

deterioration in the government's already weak capacity to deliver sustainable development to the people of Solomon Islands. The coup of 5 June 2000 has exacerbated this deterioration to the point where government exists in name only.

Since 1999 the Solomon Islands economy has experienced a 20 percent contraction in GDP, according to Mr Rick Hou, Governor of the Central Bank. Forecasts for 2001 suggest the economy may grow a little, but, notes Mr Hou, these are based on the assumption of major businesses re-opening and of considerable donor support. However the law and order is not under control, investor confidence is low, and physical infrastructure is badly damaged. The rehabilitation of physical infrastructure will be capital intensive, and Solomon Islands will rely heavily on the donor community for the foreseeable future, according to Mr Hou. Government finances are on a daily basis, a 'hand-to-mouth' scenario, according to the Governor, with the Government living on Central Bank advances. Each week there is a \$6-7 million loss of external reserves. The Government has not prepared a budget for 2001 although it is due for presentation to Parliament in March. The economy is 'still travelling down' and has 'not hit rock bottom yet', according to Mr Hou. The Governor of the Central Bank describes the economy as in a 'dire situation'. Mr Hou has been 'trying to get Members of Parliament and Ministers interested in getting ball rolling'. The Governor is embarking on a 'roadshow', involving public seminars, briefings, and radio interviews, during March throughout the country to raise awareness of the economic situation facing Solomon Islands.

1.2.1. Form of Government

Solomon Islands is a 'sovereign democratic state' with the Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II as Head of State. The Queen is represented by a Governor-General, presently the Reverend John Ini Lapli. Solomon Islands achieved independence from Great Britain on 7 July 1978. The Constitution came into effect on 7 July 1978 and declares in the Preamble that:

all power in Solomon Islands belongs to the people and is exercised on their behalf by the legislature, the executive and judiciary established by this Constitution.

The Constitution also provides that:

our government shall be based on democratic principles of universal suffrage and the responsibility of executive authorities to elected assemblies; and

we shall ensure the participation of our people in the governance of their affairs and provide within the framework of our national unity for the decentralisation of power.

Solomon Islands is a parliamentary democracy. The framers of the Constitution took the Westminster model of responsible government as the basis for government in Solomon Islands. In keeping with the Westminster model, the Constitution provides for three arms of government:

- ? The Executive composed of the Head of State whose authority is exercised by the Governor-General and the Cabinet consisting of the Prime Minister and the other ministers;
- ? The National Legislature consisting of a single chamber known as the National Parliament of Solomon Islands; and
- ? The Judiciary consisting of the High Court, Court of Appeal and subordinate courts.

1.2.2. The Parliament

The national legislature is unicameral. The role and functions of the National Parliament of Solomon Islands are direct derivatives of the House of Commons with Cabinet Government as the principal feature. The notion of responsible government is embodied in the structure and functions of the Parliament. The party or coalition of parties and/or independent Members which commands a majority in the House is entitled to form the Government. From this group emerges the Prime Minister and Ministry. Under Section 33 (1) of the Constitution the Prime Minister is elected by the Members of Parliament from among their number in accordance with Schedule 2 to the Constitution. Section 33 (2) and (3) provides for 11 Ministers including a Deputy Prime Minister, or a greater number determined by Parliament, to be appointed by the Governor-General on the advice of the Prime Minister from among the Members of Parliament.

Honourable Manasseh Damukana Sogavare is the current Prime Minister. Hon. Manasseh Sogavare was elected Prime Minister on 30 June 2000 by a vote of 23 to 21 at a special sitting of Parliament held onboard an Australian naval vessel anchored off Honiara. The Sogavare government is a coalition government comprised of 29 Members of Parliament who have formed the Coalition for National Unity, Reconciliation and Peace (CNURP). However, according to Hon. Charles Dausabea MP, Chairman of Government Caucuses, there are now 32 members of the Government Caucus.

According to the Speaker, Hon. Paul Tovua, Parliament has played a role of co-ordination throughout the crisis. Parliament maintained its constitutional role during the coup, for instance, Parliament was the forum for the change of government in accordance with Section 33 and Schedule 2 of the Constitution. However, the Chairman of the Peace Monitoring Council, Sir Peter Kenilorea, points out that there has been a lack of activity by Parliament in terms of the peace process and that discussions in Parliament on the peace process would likely 'be coloured by the weapons situation'.

According to Sir Peter Kenilorea Parliament has adequate checks and balances for ensuring good governance – it has the authority to scrutinise government revenue raising and expenditure – but in practice 'casualness', an expedient approach to the law, demonstrated by the attitude of some Members of Parliament leads to abuse of and lack of respect for the political system.

Section 35 (1) of the Constitution provides for a Cabinet composed of the Prime Minister and the other ministers. Cabinet advises the Governor-General and is

‘collectively responsible to Parliament’ for its actions. Under Sections 35 (4) and 42 (1) the Attorney-General is the principal legal adviser to the Cabinet. The Attorney-General, in accordance with Section 42 (4), may take part in the proceedings of Parliament as adviser to the Government, but cannot vote in any matter before the House.

There are 50 Members of Parliament elected through a first-past-the-post electoral system with single member constituencies.

The Speaker and Deputy Speaker

Under Section 64 (1a) of the Constitution, the Speaker is elected by the Members of Parliament at its first sitting after any general election or in the event of a vacancy at the next sitting of parliament. The Speaker is elected ‘from among persons who are qualified for election as a Member of Parliament’, but not from among the sitting members of Parliament. Order 5 of Parliament’s Standing Orders outlines the procedures for the election of Speaker. The Deputy Speaker is elected by the members of parliament from among their number. The Standing Orders of Parliament do not include provisions for the election of the Deputy Speaker or other Member elected to preside at a sitting in accordance with Section 65 of the Constitution. Under Section 64 (2b) Parliament may remove the Speaker and Deputy Speaker by resolution supported by the votes of a two-thirds majority of all members. The Speaker’s term of office ends ‘when parliament first sits after a general election’. The Speaker is also Chairman of the Electoral Commission and performs the functions of the Governor-General in the latter’s absence or if the office of Governor-General is vacant. The Speaker cannot hold any other office.

Under Section 65 of the Constitution the Speaker or Deputy Speaker or in their absence an ordinary Member of Parliament elected by Parliament for the sitting, presides at each sitting. Section 71 (1) of the Constitution provides that ‘all questions proposed for decision in Parliament shall be determined by a majority of the votes of the members present and voting’. Section 71 (2a) provides that the Speaker has neither an original nor a casting vote. Section 71 (2b) provides that the Deputy Speaker or Member elected by Parliament for the sitting under Section 65 does not have an original vote but does have and can exercise a casting vote if the votes on any question are equally divided. Under Standing Order 38 the Speaker’s ruling is final.

The current Speaker of the National Parliament is Honourable Paul Joseph Tovua OBE.

Sessions

Section 72 of the Constitution provides that the Parliament shall meet at least once every 12 calendar months, although the Governor-General may convene Parliament at any time. In the case of the National Parliament of Solomon Islands, ‘meetings’ refer the period of sittings, ‘sittings’ refer to the daily meetings of Parliament, and ‘sessions’ refer to the life of Parliament or parliamentary term. The Parliament generally meets three times per year for three weeks at each meeting. However the former Ulufa’alu government did not have any meetings of Parliament for 7 months and a consequence of this, according to Hon. Paul Tovua, was the coup in June 2000.

Meetings of Parliament are called by the Governor-General in accordance with Section 72 (1) of the Constitution on the advice of the Government. The convening of Parliament, therefore, depends on the government's legislative program. According to Hon. Paul Tovua the Speaker should have the authority to determine meetings.

Although the small number of meetings of Parliament per year is a problem the Government acknowledges, it is costly to convene Parliament on a more frequent basis. Despite this the Prime Minister, Hon. Manasseh Sogavare, suggests Parliament needs to sit more often, especially in relation to financial oversight role with a minimum of three meetings per year.

Attendance of Members of Parliament is a problem – can be penalised – Standing Orders could be revised to require greater attendance (Constitution and Standing Order provisions for non-attendance are there)

Parliamentary debates often continue without Quorum - issue of attendance of Members of Parliament at sittings - attendance of Members of Parliament also a problem for committees.

Committees

There is no constitutional provision for parliamentary committees. The power of the House to appoint committees is not in doubt but the source of this power cannot be stated precisely. The legal authority for the House to set its own rules and procedures is Section 62 of the Constitution. The legal framework in which parliamentary committees, therefore, are established and operate is Part N of the Standing Orders of Parliament. Parliament has two types of committees, standing select and special select.

Part N, Order 68.3 of the Standing Orders provides for the establishment of special select committees as necessary. Under Order 68.4 the Speaker determines the number of members of every select committee and nominates the chairman and members of select committees. The motion of appointment of a special committee specifies the terms of reference for the committee. Under the committee members elect a Chairman from among themselves. The Clerk usually acts as Clerk to any special committee. There are no special committees operating at present.

Part N, Order 68.2 of the Standing Orders provides for the establishment of standing committees. There is a parliamentary convention that the membership of standing and select committees must include representation from each group of parliamentarians. Members serve for the life of the Parliament.

There are five Standing Committees stipulated in Part N of the Standing Orders and others may be established as required. These are:

- ? Public Accounts Committee;
- ? Parliamentary House Committee;
- ? Bills and Legislation Committee;
- ? Constitution Review Committee; and

? Foreign Relations Committee.

Under the Public Accounts Committee is responsible for examining government revenue and expenditure, including the national budget. The House may also refer specific matters to the Committee for examination.

Under the Standing Committee is responsible for examining all draft legislation referred to it by the House and Private Members' Bills referred to the Committee under . The Committee is also responsible for reviewing the Standing Orders of Parliament.

Order 73.2 of the Standing Orders provides for the co-option of members of the public onto special committees. There are no provisions for the co-option of members of the public onto standing committees.

2. AREAS FOR INSTITUTIONAL AND CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

2.1. Review of Existing Key Legal Documents

The key legal documents covering the Parliament are:

- ? Chapter VI, sections 46-74 of the Constitution;
- ? The Standing Orders of the National Parliament of Solomon Islands;
- ? The *Leadership Code (Further Provisions) Act 1999* (No. 1 of 1999);
and
- ? *National Parliament Electoral Provisions Act 1980* (No. 5 of 1980).

All four documents, Hansard and the Gazette are written in English.

If Members of Parliament want to be active then mechanisms are there in Constitution of Standing Orders Constitution etc. (key legal documents) already provide for good governance mechanisms.

Solomon Islands does have a Leadership Code of Conduct and an independent, statutory body, the Leadership Code Commission, to regulate the Leadership Code. Parliament does not have a its own separate code of conduct or comprehensive accountability mechanisms for Members, although there are provisions in the Constitution (sections) and the Standing Orders () concerning the behaviour of Members of Parliament. There is no parliamentary Standing Ethics Committee that could prepare a draft code of conduct for Members of Parliament, review any code introduced, and carry out the educative work in relation to ethical standards applying to Members of Parliament as well as providing advice on the standards.

Section of the Constitution and Order of the Standing Orders outline the oath taken by new members and the associated procedures. Members of Parliament, including ministers read the oath in the presence of the and sign their names to the oath. In the oath Members swear loyalty to the monarch and promise to adhere to and protect the Constitution and perform the duties of a member of Parliament.

2.1.1. Constitution

Under Section 2 the Constitution is the supreme law of Solomon Islands. The Constitution is divided into fourteen chapters. These are as follows:

- I. The State and the Constitution;
- II. Protection of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms of the Individual;
- III. Citizenship;
- IV. The Governor-General;
- V. The Executive;
- VI. The National Legislature;
- VII. The Legal System
- VIII. Leadership Code;
- IX. The Ombudsman;
- X. Finance;
- XI. Land;
- XII. Political Divisions;
- XIII. The Public Service; and
- XIV. Miscellaneous.

Chapter Six, The National Legislature, is divided into two parts. Part One, sections 46 to 58, outlines the provisions for the Parliament including the composition of Parliament, qualifications and disqualifications for membership, the vacation of seats, determination of questions as to membership, the Constituency Boundaries Commission, constituencies, qualifications and disqualifications for registration as an elector, and the Electoral Commission. Part Two, sections 59 to 74, outlines the provisions for legislation and procedure in Parliament. These provisions include the power to make laws, the introduction of bills, alteration of the Constitution, rules of procedure, oath of allegiance, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker, leaders of opposition and independent groups in Parliament, quorum, privileges, Entitlements Commission, determination of entitlements, voting, sessions of Parliament, and prorogation and dissolution of Parliament.

The national legislature, the National Parliament of Solomon Islands, is established under Section 46 of the Constitution. Section 46 provides for a single chamber

legislature. There are 50 Members of Parliament, elected through a first -past-the-post electoral system, from single member constituencies, for four year terms. Section 73 (3) of the Constitution provides that the life of each Parliament is four years following the first sitting after any general election. Under Section 73 Parliament may also be prorogued or dissolved during the life of a Parliament.

Under Section 48 of the Constitution a person is qualified for election as Member of Parliament if he or she is a citizen of Solomon Islands and is 21 years of age or older. Under Section 49 a person is also disqualified for election as a Member of Parliament if they are in allegiance to another state, hold any public office, is an undischarged bankrupt, certified to be insane, under sentence of death or imprisonment, is disqualified from registration as an elector, or holds any office related to the conduct of elections to Parliament. Under Section 52 the High Court determines questions as to membership of Parliament.

Section 54 of the Constitution provides for 'not less than thirty and not more than fifty' constituencies. The boundaries of each constituency is determined by the Constituency Boundaries Commission comprised of three non-parliamentarians appointed by the Governor-General on the advice of the Judicial and Legal Services Commission, and the Surveyor-General and Head of the Statistics Office. Following reviews of the number and boundaries of constituencies the Constituency Boundaries Commission makes recommendations to Parliament. Under Section 54 of the Constitution, Parliament can either approve or reject the recommendations but not alter them. Under Section 55 a person is eligible to register as an elector if he or she is a citizen of Solomon Islands and is 18 years of age or older. The Electoral Commission, established under Section 57 of the Constitution, is chaired by the Speaker and two non-parliamentarians appointed by the Governor-General on the advice of the Judicial and Legal Services Commission.

Constitution is not unique – common to other countries except for the land tenure provisions (unique to Pacific).

2.1.2. *Standing Orders*

Solicitor-General says that the revision of Parliament's Standing Orders can be done by Solicitor-General's office (no need for outside assistance to review and revise Standing Orders). issue is performance of Members of Parliament i.e. turn up to meetings, understand procedures. Parliament's Standing Orders are standard procedures common to many Westminster type parliaments.

Standing Orders – strengthening of standing committees - Committees have authority to call anyone to appear and to make recommendations re Bills. Revision of Standing Orders – re powers and function of Committees (especially Public Accounts Committee plus setting up other committees) Increase powers of committees – overhaul of standing orders needed.

Role of Parliament needs to be enhanced ? this means revising Standing Orders so people can look at Parliament as a unifying force in country and Parliament becomes the forum for working out issues.

Review of Standing Orders – should include provisions to empower committees such as Public Accounts Committee- via Act of Parliament Other committee requiring attention is Bill’s Committee eg. Tuvalu process should be examined.

Require a Parliamentary specialist to review and revise Standing Orders to keep up with development of procedures in the House. Established Standing Orders Review Committee or use existing House Committee to be assisted by expert from another Parliament (‘immediate need’) – Attorney-General/legal draftsman are short staffed, therefore need outsider/specialist.

2.1.3. Ethics provisions and the Leadership Code Act 1999

Despite the existence of these various provisions relating to the conduct in office of Members of Parliament and other constitutional officeholders, the Leadership Code Commission lacks the resources and capacity to fulfil its role as the source for advice and education on ethical issues. There are no comprehensive formal guidelines relating to Members’ conduct in office.⁵ .

The main accountability mechanism for ensuring that Members of Parliament do not have conflicts of interest is a pecuniary interest register. It is recommended that the Register of Interest should be compiled on an annual basis and a summary of the Register be available as a public document. It is recommended that each Member of Parliament be required to provide a statement of their pecuniary interests to the Clerk of Parliament within one month of taking the oath of office and annually thereafter.

In order to promote integrity among Members of Parliament and an effective, accessible and accountable political system a comprehensive set of standards, incorporating the existing provisions relating to the conduct of Members and other constitutional officeholders in the Leadership Code Act and additional provisions within one document, needs to be developed and implemented. A code of ethical conduct specifically for Members of Parliament should be enacted in legislation, which Members would have to subscribe to upon election to Parliament. Adherence to the code of ethical conduct should be incorporated in the oath of office.

The proposed code of ethical conduct should at a minimum be comprised of three areas:

- ? An aspirational framework of reference for leaders in the course of their duties
- a statement of ethical principles and an outline of the obligations imposed on leaders;

⁵ For a comprehensive assessment of ethics regimes in the various Australian parliaments by way of comparison, see the New South Wales Legislative Assembly Standing Ethics Committee, *Report on Interstate Study Tour February 2000*, April 2000.

- ? An overview of the restrictions and obligations placed upon members including such matters as a Register of Members' Interests, bribery and advocacy, conflicts of interest, authorised use of allowances and misuse of confidential information; and
- ? The procedures for handling complaints concerning matters contained within the code ⁶.

The purpose of the code of ethical conduct is to present relevant information concerning the obligations of Members, together with specific guidelines for their conduct in office, in one document that is given to all Members upon election to office and is available to the public. This proposed code brings together in one document the current obligations and requirements of Members presently dispersed in a number of documents.

In order for the Leadership Code to be effective the Leadership Code Commission needs the resources to undertake its responsibilities to regulate the Code, to investigate complaints and to refer offences to the courts. The role of 'watchdog' of this body should be balanced by the role of 'reformer and educator' on public sector standards and leadership. This educative role is important because effective measures to prevent poor standards of leadership require a long-term view and governments are often tempted to look only to short-term results.

To support and complement the Leadership Code Commission, Parliament needs to establish a standing committee on ethics to assist in developing the code of ethical conduct for Members, to develop an oath of office that incorporates adherence to the code, and to review any code introduced. The Committee would carry out the educative work in relation to ethical standards applying to Members of Parliament as well as providing advice on the standards. Both members of the public and parliamentarians should serve on this Committee. The Committee should also have responsibility for monitoring the operation of the Register of Members' Interests, and for oversight of the Leadership Code Commission.

The Clerk is responsible for organising, and often running, educative and induction programs for Members of Parliament. These programs should also include an ethics component.

Members of Parliament behaviour – needs to be a code of ethics to cover everything (private and public) behaviour of Members of Parliament.

Parliamentary committees need to be strengthened – needs an ethics committee with powers to recommend dismissal to Head of State.

Ethics is weak – Members of Parliament are not held accountable for poor leadership and mismanagement/unethical behaviour.

⁶ See Queensland Members Ethics and Parliamentary Privileges Committee, *Report on a Draft Code of Conduct for Members of the Queensland Legislative Assembly*, May 1998.

Suggests ethics committee made up of Members of Parliament plus non Members of Parliament such as Church leaders.

Does not know how Leadership Code Commission works but yet to see a Member of Parliament tried in courts for breach of Leadership Code.

Quality of leadership the country can produce is an issue – need leaders that can be trusted. Therefore there is a need for education, especially with role of churches in teaching moral leadership.

– lack of discipline among Members of Parliament which leads to instability

alien system of government is biggest problem. Members of Parliament all come from villages – level of understanding of system of government is limited.

Tradition/culture predominates against Western system of governance.

Try to make Leadership Code Commission suit our needs

disciplinary in nature i.e. correct leaders who have stepped out of line

- leaders caught in a system beyond their understanding

- Member of Parliament elected from village can suddenly become a Cabinet Minister

Those who the Leadership Code Commission speaks to are receptive to the Commission.

- needs time – Leadership Code Commission can impose fines but tends to try to help first through advice.

Leadership Code Commission covers all public office holders, public servants etc.

Limited by resources in terms of providing copies of Code to public. Code asks leaders to act responsible, respect local customs.

Leadership Code Commission has substantial powers including removing a leader from office due to gross misconduct. - comes under Act of Parliament – quasi-judicial office. No autonomy in terms of resources.

People have to lodge a complaint with Leadership Code Commission, name the leader and wrongdoing committed – Leadership Code Commission will check if it is genuine, then investigate complaint.

Problem is people are not aware of role of Leadership Code Commission or its procedures – lack of financial support from government (need means to go out and talk to people).

Try to co-ordinate with Police in terms of operations.

Investigations are for corrections, not punishment – ('do not use beyond reasonable doubt')

As co-Chairman of the Peace Monitoring Council, Speaker is exposing himself to conflict of interest (Peace Monitoring Council is a government committee) – Constitutional office holders should not hold other offices – how would Speaker extract himself. currently Members of Parliament can serve as Chair of Statutory Authorities – this needs to change.

Only one code of conduct – need resources to make it work.

Leadership Code Act 1999 (repealed previous Act) now Leadership Code Commission takes its own cases to court.

People should demand leadership.

Leadership Code Commission needs legal advice. Prefers non Solomon Islander to perform role of Ombudsman and Leadership Code Commissioner.

1 or 2 programs on Leadership Code Commission to educate people and the media. Confusion between Ombudsman and Leadership Code Commission – should they be merged? What goes where?

Powers of these bodies ? People concerned about powers of these bodies – have 1999 amendments to Leadership Code Commission Act been properly explained.

Need to groom/educate the young for positions of responsibility.

Issue of behaviour/performance of Members of Parliament needs to be addressed - eg. Code of Conduct and Leadership Code Commission are not effective.

Leadership Code Commission's powers need to be strengthened – need a review of Code of Conduct.

15-20 years before standard of Members of Parliament will improve.

Members of Parliament not aware of nature of their statements in House – lack of confidentiality.

Candidates with criminal records or bankrupts can be elected.

Parliament office to discuss role of Member of Parliament, rules of proceedings, etc.

No minimum qualifications for Members of Parliament. Eg. Illiterate Member of Parliament – perhaps need for minimum educational qualifications.

Quality of Members of Parliament themselves is a problem.

2.1.4. National Parliament Electoral Provisions Act 1980

2.1.5. Recommendations

1. That all key legal documents be revised to ensure the elimination of gender biased language which implies exclusion of women from the decision - making process;
2. That the Standing Orders be revised to better reflect the needs of Parliament at the beginning of the 21st Century, including provision for additional Orders enabling oversight committees to impose consequences for non-compliance by government agencies with their accountability deadlines, incorporating reference to the code of ethical conduct for Members, the revised Oath of Office, and the establishment of a Standing Committee on Ethics;
3. The development and implementation of a Code of Ethical Conduct specifically for Members of Parliament to which Members would subscribe upon election to Office together with the existing Leadership Code;
4. The development and implementation of a more appropriate oath of office for Members of Parliament emphasising the standard of conduct members agree to uphold;
5. That Standing Order 78 be revised to incorporate the establishment of a Register of Interest for Members of Parliament and that each Member be required to provide a statement of their pecuniary interests to the Clerk of Parliament within one month of taking the oath of office and annually thereafter;
6. That Parliament establish a Standing Committee on Ethics, comprised of members of Parliament and members of the public, to develop a code of ethical conduct specifically for parliamentarians, to revise the Oath of Office, to review any code introduced, and to carry out the educative work in relation to ethical standards applying to members of Parliament as well as providing advice on the standards;
7. That the penalties under Section 7 of the *Leadership Code (Further Provisions) Act 1999* relating to disclosure of financial affairs by leaders be increased to ensure greater compliance with the provisions of the Act
8. That the Leadership Code Commission perform a greater educative role for both leaders and the public, and the Leadership Code be made available to and widely distributed to public officers and members of the public; and;
9. That induction programs and ongoing educative seminars and workshops that include an ethics component be held for members of Parliament and other constitutional officeholders.

2.2. Assessment of Existing Parliament-Constituency Relationship

The heart of the Solomon Islands system of government is a Parliament elected by universal adult suffrage. For this system to work effectively, the people of Solomon Islands needs to exercise sound judgement in, firstly, electing their representatives and, secondly, in consulting them once their representatives are elected. It is important that the people 'know and understand, at least in broad terms, what the Parliament is, what it does, how it works, what happens there and what is said there'.⁷ The peoples' elected representatives must, in turn, 'be aware of the beliefs, needs, aspirations and circumstances of those they represent. They must therefore be accessible to the people, individually and collectively'.⁸ The elected Parliament is directly accountable to the people, a fact Members must keep at the forefront of their thoughts and actions as Members.

Parliament is the link between the government and the people. On the one hand, it tells the Government what the people want or will stand for; on the other, it informs and teaches the public about the Government's intentions.⁹

2.2.1. Absence of Consultation and Lack of Understanding

Consultation between national Members of Parliament and provincial level leaders eg. Constituency committee include chiefs, village organisers, provincial members. Emphasis on Members of Parliament to go back to people to explain/ raise awareness. - this works better at provincial level.

Members of Parliament tend not to return to constituencies (even provincial members) once elected – people are reluctant to vote/participate in political process.

Absence of dialogue between Members of Parliament and constituents.

Members of Parliament rarely return to constituency to explain issues to people – people generally do not understand role of Parliament – Civics not in school curriculum – People tend to know about political leaders such as Prime Minister, Ministers and their Member of Parliament but little else. People perceive Parliament as part of Government – No separation of powers in popular views.

- need to bring general populace into governance – referees are the people/Leadership Code Commission is a channel through which a complaint is lodged – people watch the leaders and exercise control over leaders through Leadership Code Commission.

⁷ Barlin, L. M. (Ed), 1997, *House of Representatives Practice: Third Edition*, AGPS, Canberra, p. 727.

⁸ Barlin, L. M. (Ed), 1997, *House of Representatives Practice: Third Edition*, AGPS, Canberra, p. 727.

⁹ Crick B. & Jenkinson S, 1966, *Parliament and the People*, Hamish Hamilton, London, p. 111.

Society not active in getting discussion/dialogue going.

Parliament as a hand down from colonial authorities – irrelevant to lives of most people. Member of Parliament as a ‘big man’ and unapproachable – go to Member of Parliament for personal gain.

People are misinformed by Members of Parliament. Provincial government needs to be fully explained to people, rather than advocating state government.

– have no access to their Member of Parliament most of the time

breakdown of communication because no mechanism in place for Members of Parliament to perform role

Co-ordination Committee is important – there is no body for each constituency which can co-ordinate the delivery of services

need for co-ordinating body at constituency level eg. A steering committee

some Members of Parliament initiate such committees themselves, but no general effort, only “solo efforts”. Voice of people not heard in decision making

Churches (Church of Melanesia (Anglican), Catholic, United, SDA are the main churches– people tend to listen to religious leaders – people looked to Churches during crisis. Churches retain social capital.

Education of public – eg. Schools – awareness programs or mock parliament/debates judged (competitions established).

Need money for actual election plus money for voter education and registration.

Members of Parliament should be in forefront in their own constituencies to educate the people.

People generally do not understand role of Members of Parliament and Parliament – not actively educating people – pressure on Members of Parliament as source of money.

Members of Parliament must be prepared to go down to people – in Solomon Island politics links to tradition – people need to be educated re roles and responsibility of Members of Parliament and Parliament.

Need political education for people.

His constituents are aware of what happens in Parliament – not difficult to get information to people. People want their representative in government.

General view of Parliament - not much awareness of Westminster system - lacking from beginning i.e. Independence, until now - 1999 review committee of provincial governments found that people had no understanding of how provincial government

works or how national government works – general ignorance of whole governance system.

Lack of knowledge (political education) means that people feel they are not part of the political system.

Political awareness is “great need” for all people

People generally don’t understand how Constituent Development Fund is used. The CDF procedures, access to the CDF etc.

Some understanding of role of Parliament by general public, but this understanding is overshadowed by public perception of their Member of Parliament as a source of material resources – emphasis on short term benefit crowds out better understanding of broader issues and policies.

This is exacerbated by Constituencies Development Fund Scheme – advice of cultural form of leadership in that it is now one sided, and not a reciprocal relationship any more. - difficult to expect Members of Parliament to change this.

Looking at having sessions at schools – general interest in this proposal – also proposes to tour villages – drawback is physical/financial resources to do this.

Need to conduct educational programs in villages then Leadership Code Commission would be busy. - whistle blower protection. Protect leaders as well in terms of their reputations. Do not have to report to Parliament – administratively under Prime Minister’s office, for cases under High Court. High Court given power to remove persons from office. Leadership Code Commission holds records of leaders.

If best educated have problems understanding how government works, people in villages would not have a clue but are expected to participate in political system.

Genuine lack of understanding on part of Members of Parliament – lack of education and experience (quality of Members of Parliament is poor).

Struggle is to get people interested.

Education campaign about Parliament would be very useful. - educate public as to what they can expect from Members of Parliament - educate that women can be Members of Parliament and overcome cultural constraints on participation of women.

Education through schools, both primary and secondary – need for civics education, Use of radio (Solomon Islands is an oral society) and drama groups for this purpose.

Need for educating people on role/responsibilities of Members of Parliament/Parliament.

Lack of understanding by people of system of government and Parliament – made Member of Parliament of “everything under the sun”.

Issue of communication – connections with others abroad – Parliament should have communication access.

People generally do not understand political system. Parliament should press education and economic development.

Also working with Curriculum Unit, Ministry of Education, on nits on electoral system for primary and secondary schools (kids educating parents) – made submission in 1998 but sidelined due to government's redundancy program.

Not many people understand how Parliament works.

Attitude of people re Members of Parliament – Members of Parliament are 'answer to everything'

debates are superficial, repetitive.

Hansard comes out next morning.

Solomon Islanders have not been able to educate people re role of Member of Parliament and Parliament.

Education/awareness in schools especially in relation to political process, current affairs – only at secondary level – to people. Parliament is 'nothing' – do not appreciate the importance of Parliament – this attitude needs to change.

Raising awareness among people using pamphlets, schools, radio, drama groups.

Need to fund programs to enable teams to go out to provinces, villages in rural areas to raise awareness amongst people.

Good governance = discipline. Good governance should start outside Parliament – traditional practices have been bypassed but this is an important aspect of good governance traditional system of governance needs to be used/emphasised and education in schools re awareness of political system needs to be reviewed and improved. Need to 'go deeper' rather than focus just on Parliament. start with people generally

'What Solomon Islander do you want to lead in Solomon Islands'? - this question needs to be addressed.

Need education re political processes in general, particularly in rural villages and in primary schools.

Suggest wider representation of views on Parliamentary Committees via co-option of non Members of Parliament eg. Representative from Chamber of Commerce on Public Accounts Committee - Co-opt members of public to Select Parliamentary Committees Globalisation pressures forcing change in attitudes.

2.2.2. Political Culture

Parliament is new to Solomon Islands - as elections approach political parties emerge. Members of Parliament from coalitions – Lack of commitment to parties which leads to instability via crossing the floor - results in governments emphasizing survival

ahead of good governance. Parties (people) do not believe in set principles/particular ideologies. There are no real issues of difference between political groups - no ideological difference. Members of Parliament cross floor frequently which results in instability.

Party system – is it needed – advantages/disadvantages to party system. Voting on personality, personal connections. Parties tend only to be active in election year. Parties could be contributing to political education. Lot of antipathy – candidates have to make sure voters are registered eg. Members of Parliament/candidates charter. Rules re political parties needed to prevent crossing-the-floor. – need constitutional amendment to create party stability and prevent floor crossing by Members of Parliament plus limits to number of political groups going to election. Suggests developing party system and get away from personality based politics.

State Government is necessary for provinces – devolution of power to provinces but not at expense of national unity.

Provincial Governments are agents of the national government – provinces are tied by law eg. Cannot draw loans or make relationships with donors. Provinces are crippled in terms of development they want. Under Provincial Government Act very limited areas Provincial Legislative Assemblies can legislate on. 4 year terms – in Western Province 26 members of Legislative Assembly plus 9 members of National Parliament.

Only 2 tier system – national and provincial – need for area council governments. Greater autonomy for provinces advocated by 5 premiers. - more powers in revenue collection, investment etc. Still operate under Provincial Government Act – Western Province most advanced in terms of change to greater autonomy. Provision in Act for co-ordinating committee between provincial government and national Members of Parliament – lack of interest by national Members of Parliament. Members of Parliament need to work closely with constituency eg. Ward committees (provincial/electorates)

Lack of interest from Members of Parliament in terms of attendance at sessions.

2.2.3. Electoral Process

There are three types of elections:

- ? National Parliament;
- ? Provincial assemblies;
- ? Local area councils.

Electoral Commission only supervises National Parliament election. Provincial Government Ministry supervises provincial assembly elections. Home Affairs Ministry supervises local government election, including Honiara City election.

Electoral Commission sets date and advises Governor-General. - Government doesn't set election date. This year Parliament should dissolve on 26 August – elections

should be held within 4 months. 42 days after election called, election held. - polling on one day throughout country.- System of one box per candidate. Elections held during week –declared public holiday – voter education prior to elections but financial constraints in 2001 – working on video for distribution in provinces. Usually takes 2 weeks to finalise election results. Publish results in newspaper and gazette.

Solomon Islands \$2,000 nomination fee. Campaign period – use of media, advertising etc by candidates – Electoral Commission raise awareness through radio and newspaper. People must register to vote prior to election (90 days before election) A vessel/aircraft to take registered voters back to constituencies to vote at polling booths.

1997 General Election = 332 candidates (4 women candidates, 1 successful) – highest number was 18 in central Honiara, lowest number was 2 candidates. Voter turnout in 1997 election was 85 percent.

Electoral Commission appoints its staff – 9 electoral managers – 50 returning officers appointed by Commission for the 50 electoral constituencies.

Working on changes to Electoral Act.

Elections – need for good people in Parliament – depends on electoral process and the people themselves but it will take considerable period of time. Right people are not getting elected - currently Members of Parliament are elected on personality etc. Members of Parliament go into Parliament for reasons of personal benefit. Many extravagant election promises that are not met – raising of people's expectations. Poor educational background. Many do not understand what Standing Orders are. Members of Parliament favour constituents who supported them – selfish attitude.

No major issues that galvanize people at elections – no true political parties.

4 Year term but Bill to extend life of Parliament by 1 year to assist peace process is to be tabled at next session. If go to election this year, possibility of violence and election of radicals to Parliament – proposes extension of Parliament by 1 year. Amend Constitution to provide for 5 year terms. Allows for implementation of Townsville Agreement. The Chairman of the Peace Monitoring Council, Sir Peter Kenilorea, does not see any advantage in extending life of Parliament.

Hon. Charles Dausabea advocates a political party system and amendments to Electoral Act to achieve this. Review is underway re political parties by Electoral Commission. Political Parties do not register with Electoral Commission. Parties register with Registrar-General's office under Charitable Act – trying to change this. Political parties active only during elections. Draft bill for next session of Parliament.

2.2.4. Role of the Media

Involvement of media. Parliament broadcast live on radio. Hon. Charles Dausabea MP, Chairman of Government Caucus, suggests establishing a parliamentary media team – teach politics in schools (primary level) – would help Members of Parliament considerably as misconception re Members of Parliament continues. Use of radio and

newsletter – political education through the media. Radio programs on Parliament needed.

One daily, Monday to Friday, newspaper Solomon Star established in 1982. One Government owned national (radio) broadcaster, Solomon Islands Broadcasting Authority (SIBC), and two private, commercial FM radio stations

Solomon Islands Broadcasting Authority (SIBC) Government Statutory Authority - Minister responsible can under Act order withdrawal of programs under certain circumstances – on daily basis SIBC is independent.

no program covering Parliament – have discussed this between Speaker and SIBC – have slot in schedule for this year.

Live broadcast of Parliamentary sittings – straight to air – broadcasters explain agenda, notice papers, First Reading, Bills etc. (Second Reading is when debate occurs) on air – If SIBC received Bills beforehand they could explain Bill etc. on the news etc. – could start discussing proposed legislation when it is at the Cabinet stage eg. Budget (which is kept secret – “if you are lucky you can get hold of budget priorities”) - If information re Bills etc. available before sittings, this would help SIBC coverage and people to understand process. People do listen to coverage of Parliament to hear their Members of Parliament speak. Presenters use Pijin only – Ministers introduce everything in English. Don’t have open public hearings of committee meetings – only receive final report (perhaps Parliament not aware this process could be public). Don’t know much about work/role of committees.

Parliament broadcasts used to be free of charge – Parliament pays for live coverage (charge \$600 per hour)

AM Station broadcasts on medium and shortwave (covers whole country) – new transmitters (MW and SW) (national service) 2 provincial stations which are in Gizo and other in East – broadcast 3 or 4 hours per day of local programming then relay national service (Radio Happy Isles) – news and current affairs, music etc. – English and Pijin. News every ½ hour (on hour it is in English, on ½ hour it is in Pijin) but no broadcasts in local languages.

Commercial FM station – music, commercials and news. Proposed to reintroduce talkback shows – more informative format, but, according to the General Manager of the Solomon Islands Broadcasting Authority, Mr Johnson Honimae, since the June 2000 crisis people are reluctant to come forward and appear in public to discuss issues.

Media has not helped crisis situation by not discussing problems – have a big role now to make information available to people. The Deputy Speaker, Hon. Jackson Sunaone MP, points out that the SIBC often broadcasts irrelevant programs to Solomon Islands, and that the SIBC should be doing more to educate people on issues of good governance.

2.2.5. Recommendations

10. That a workshop to consider the recommendations of the legislative needs assessment of Solomon Islands be held and involve all members of Parliament including the Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers, church and other non-government organization leaders, other constitutional office holders and members of the public;
11. That a community consultation model and supporting guidelines and principles for Parliament be prepared and disseminated among Members of Parliament and the community;
12. That the Parliamentary House Committee inquire into the possibility of co-opting members of the public onto parliamentary standing committees and of revising the Standing Orders to incorporate this change;
13. That a Handbook be published containing information on the structure and role of Parliament and related information on Parliament for both Members of Parliament and members of the public; and
14. That the Parliament, in conjunction with the Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation, produce regular educative programs on the role of Parliament for broadcast on radio.

2.3. Assessment of Law-Making Procedures of Parliament

2.3.1. Constitutional Provisions

The legal power to initiate legislation is vested only in the legislature. Under Section 59 of the Constitution Parliament has the power to make laws. In practice the responsibility falls to the Government. Laws take the form of Bills passed by Parliament. When a Bill is passed by Parliament it is presented to the Governor-General for assent. Once assent has been given, the Bill becomes law. A law only comes into effect once it has been published in the Gazette. Under Section 60 Parliament cannot consider any appropriations bill unless on the recommendation of Cabinet signified by a Minister.

Section 61 of the Constitution provides for amendments to the Constitution. Parliament may alter the Constitution. For a bill amending sections 46 to 58, 61, and 108, and chapters 2, 7, 9 and 14 of the Constitution to be passed, it requires a majority of three-quarters of all members of Parliament at two separate readings. A bill amending any other section of the Constitution can only be passed with a two-thirds majority of all members of Parliament at two separate readings. Notice of such a bill must be given to the Speaker at least four weeks before the first reading of the Bill.

The Standing Orders of the National Parliament of Solomon Islands are provided for under Section 62 of the Constitution and came into effect on 22 October 1982.

There is a Briefing Handbook on Parliamentary Procedures in practice in the National Parliament of Solomon Islands for the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Clerk and Deputy Clerk. The briefing handbook contains 11 guides. These are:

1. Matters of Privilege;
2. Point of Order;
3. Motion without Notice;
4. Motion;
5. Bills;
6. Motion for Adjournment of Parliament;
7. Presentation of Papers, Reports;
8. Questions;
9. Quorum;
10. Voting; and
11. Division.

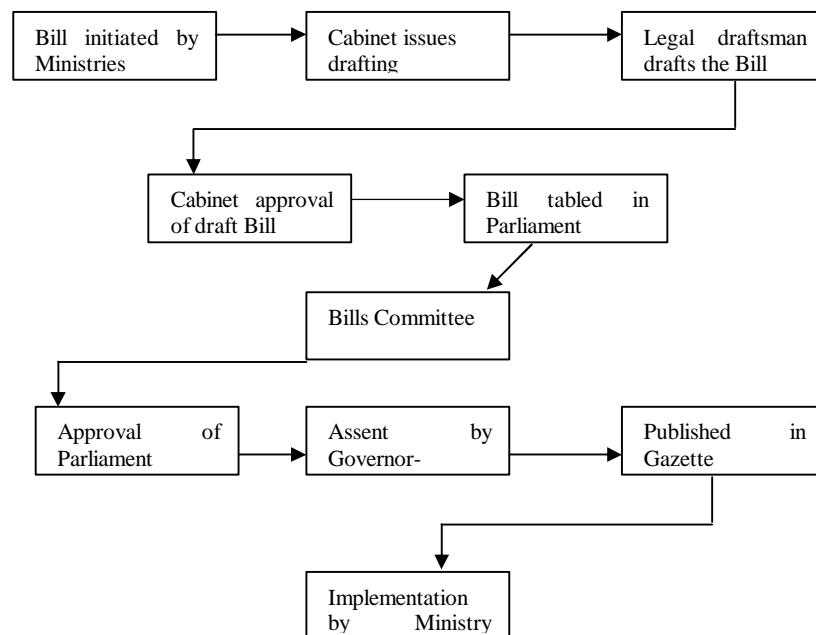
2.3.2. *Legislative Process*

Committee of the Whole House

Under Order 49 of the Standing Orders after the second reading a Bill will be committed to the Committee of the Whole House. In this event, under Order 4.3, the Speaker vacates his chair and seats himself at the Clerk's table as Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House. The Committee of the Whole House is an extension of the Chamber of the House. Under if, after the second reading but prior to the vote of the House, a Member requests debate on any provisions of a bill, it will be committed to the Committee of the Whole House for debate. Under , following consideration of the bill, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House reports to the House with any amendments to the bill. All members of the House are members of the Committee of the Whole House and are eligible to participate in its meetings. All matters considered by the Committee of the Whole House are reported back to the House by the Chairman.

All Bills are initiated by Ministries which then goes to Cabinet, then Cabinet issues drafting instructions ? a legal draftsman then drafts the Bill ? Cabinet approval of draft Bill ? then final Bill tabled in Parliament which then ? goes to Bills Committee ? then must receive approval of Parliament, then must receive ? assent of Governor-General ? then published in Gazette ? then implementation by

ministries concerned. Eg. Regulation etc. come into force with signature of Minister – no need for Cabinet approval of regulations.



Bills go through Parliament without proper debate – Members of Parliament are “managers of little projects in villages!” Legal framework needs some improvement but lack of legal expertise hampers change. Parliament does have provisions to ensure Members of Parliament know/understand the Bills they are passing – referral of Bills to committees/review of legislation by committees. There is no legislation program – i.e. Ministries would submit Bills for following year. the priority is given to Finance Bills – Appropriations Bill must be ready before 31st March. No one available to draft Private Members’ Bills – only 2/3 qualified persons available in Solicitor-General’s office for drafting legislation but only for the government.

Solicitor-General’s abstains from giving advice to private Members of Parliament, Government gives advice to all ministries. There are sufficient private lawyers available to Members of Parliament or Members of Parliament can go to the public solicitor. In practice legislative processes works well. - Always last minute rush from ministries with legislation. No areas for improve ment in legislative process according to Solicitor-General. Bills Committee goes through Bills ‘very well’.

The Speaker, Hon. Paul Tovua, would like to change legislative procedure, so after First Reading allow Bills to be sent out for community consultation. In practice the Bills Committee receives a Bill in final form despite what Standing Orders require and Bills Committee do not have input into drafting, therefore need to give Bills Committee more powers to ensure they have input into drafting process – eg. Provision for penalties such as not tabling Bill in Parliament

2.3.3. Recommendations

15. That a review be undertaken to determine the viability of amending Part 2 of Chapter 6 of the Constitution to provide for non-urgent Bills to be distributed to each province for community input after the First Reading;
16. That a community consultation process be established whereby the Solicitor-General's Office provides simplified and easily understood explanatory memorandums for proposed legislation to the co-ordinating committees in each constituency; and
17. That the permanent position of parliamentary counsel be established to provide Members with access to impartial legal advice and assistance in the drafting of Private Members' bills.

2.4. Assessment of the Oversight Role of Parliament

Donors want to see transparent budgeting process – scrutiny of government expenditure by Parliament needed – (Public Accounts Committee chaired by Leader of Opposition plus Members of Parliament from both sides of the House) – no authority given to committees in Solomon Island's Parliament.

Perception is that government/cabinet is above Parliament. Parliament needs to scrutinise expenditure by government – government should be answerable/accountable for its actions to parliament. need control over budget as spending by government is often outside budget. Problem is that Parliament has not been seen as having an oversight role – focus has been on the government rather than Parliament. Important issues are not addressed by Parliament.

2.4.1. Public Accounts Committee

The Public Accounts Committee is appointed under Standing Order 69. Its functions are:

- (a) To examine the accounts prescribed by section 38 of the Public Finance and Audit Act, together with the report of the Auditor General thereon, and to report the results of such examination to Parliament;
- (b) To establish the causes of any excesses over authorised expenditure and to make recommendations to Parliament on any appropriate measures to cater for such excesses of expenditures;
- (c) To examine such other accounts laid before Parliament as the Committee may think fit, together with any auditor's report thereon and to report the results of such examination to Parliament;
- (d) To summon any public officer to give information on any explanation, or to produce any records or documents which the Committee may require in the performance of its duties;

- (e) To consider in detail the Draft Estimates prepared by the Government in support of the Annual Appropriation Bill;
- (f) To summon and examine the Accounting Officer and Technical staff of ministries and departments to provide background information and explanation to the Draft Estimates;
- (g) To report to Parliament in such a way that the report may inform members prior to the parliamentary debate thereon of the background to the Draft Estimates and draw attention to those matters which the Committee feels should be the subject for such parliamentary debate; and
- (h) To make such recommendations as the Committee sees fit and subsequently receive comments and reports and such recommendations from the Government, particularly actions that might be necessary to impose on those concerned.

The Auditor General (or his nominee) serves as the secretary to the PAC and the staff and facilities of the Audit Office are made available to the PAC.

There are five members of the PAC.

The PAC's Report on its Consideration of the Draft Estimates for Year 2000 highlights the following problems:

- (a) Delay in submitting the draft budget documents to the PAC -- the PAC was scheduled to commence deliberation of the documents on 8 November but because not all budget documents were ready by that date the Committee was unable to begin until 15 November (the same week the parliamentary session began). The Committee registered its "dissatisfaction with the Government's laxity in abiding with the approved timetable." According to the Committee, the reasons for this delay could be attributed to the fact that "(1) ministries did not submit budget proposals on time, (2) accounting officers did not fully understand the concept of performance budgeting, and (3) liaison between the other ministries with the Department of Finance, Department of Development Planning and the Department of Public Service was minimal";
- (b) A lack of "total understanding, co-operation and coordination between ministries";
- (c) Failure by officers of the Department of the Public Service to be "permanently on hand to offer advice, explanations and guidance on matters relating to the level and size of the public service, and against known policies of the Government and interrelated financing requirements".

Auditor-General provides secretarial support to Public Accounts Committee -- attempts to improve linkages between Parliament and Public Accounts Committee. Auditor-General office serves as secretariat for Public Accounts Committee and must play an education role for Public Accounts Committee - conduct of interviewing of witnesses - interest of Members of Parliament often half hearted when scrutinising appropriations/budget.

Political will for this is quite important. Current situation is that all public accounts are quite late -- needs a rigorous effort by Finance Ministry to abide by Law. 1996,

1997 and 1998 accounts have been produced and are currently under audit. AusAid funding outsourcing of audit of accounts (Ernst and Young assisting Auditor-General) Accountant-General yet to finalise 1999 and 2000 accounts. - only one person able to finalise government accounts who has resigned – leaves a vacuum for finalising accounts/process. Statutory Authority accounts are up to date with exception of one or 2 eg. SICHE 8 years behind.

Reports submitted to Minister responsible, then tabled in Parliament, then referred to Public Accounts Committee – Public Accounts Committee is body to which manages answer for their actions.

Auditor-General will table a 'Late Submission of Accounts' Report to Parliament (covers national government, statutory authorities and provincial governments)

Challenge is Provincial Governments – they are not abiding by accountability. Provisions of their Act – 10 provinces and 1 city council – all in arrears in terms of submitting accounts for audit.

“Slackness” by Public Accounts Committee to scrutinise and follow up these issues – political will absent – not all members of Public Accounts Committee understand their responsibility as Members of Parliament generally and members of Public Accounts Committee in particular.

Public Accounts Committee authority and role is provided for in Standing Orders – enough reference for them to call witnesses etc. Provision of Standing Order are adequate but providing Public Accounts Committee with additional authority and role is important – some “teeth” to strengthen its role in enhancing good governance and accountability in public sector.

Auditor-General trying to expand to provide performance audits – appraisal of projects etc. Auditor-General's role of secretariat to Public Accounts Committee is subject of debate - Auditor -General's view is that Parliament retains a Public Accounts Committee secretariat with Auditor -General's officers assisting on secondment – this would be more effective in terms of accountability. Therefore a Public Accounts Committee secretariat be established but manned by Auditor -General's/Finance officers on secondment – this would make Public Accounts Committee more effective by upgrading secretariat instead of current ad hoc arrangement.

Key is timely reports by Auditor -General are tabled in Parliament and referred to Public Accounts Committee – “crucial”. Public Accounts Committee is not proactive – waits for Auditor -General to report.

Number of Ministers need to be called to Public Accounts Committee – Public Accounts Committee should take on role of supervising appropriations process – currently government can do whatever it likes as Public Accounts Committee process is too late.

Public Accounts Committee, other parliamentary committees do very little - not performing role of scrutiny.

Public Accounts Committee has no involvement in legislative process until they receive final appropriations Bill. Therefore Public Accounts Committee needs to be involved in formulation of national budget from beginning of process. Want to have whole budget process scrutinised by Public Accounts Committee. - broaden role of Public Accounts Committee Process of accountability lies with Members of Parliament eg. Behaviour of Members of Parliament – need to be seen to be responsible and responsiveness is important.

2.4.2. Auditor-General

First priority is independence of Auditor-General's office – draft National Audit Act was submitted to Attorney-General's office but delayed due to crisis – Auditor-General intends to pursue this for next sitting. Constitution provides for Auditor-General's 'independence' but in terms of resources it comes under Ministry of Finance therefore vital that proposed bill goes through so Auditor-General's office is not impeded by financial and resource constraints.

Attendance at parliamentary committees has been called to appear before Public Accounts Committee – disappointed by lack of interest and standard of question of Public Accounts Committee. Only a few people take an interest in accountability of government.

Audit office needs to be strengthened – needs independence in terms of staff and budget. This assists Public Accounts Committee process.

Annual Report given to Minister of Finance who tables it in Parliament. but no discussion of this by Parliament. not sure whether Parliament is interested – never get called to appear before parliamentary committees.

No penalties or enforcement re late submission of annual reports. Very few statutory authorities are complying with reporting requirements and no penalties to enforce compliance. Eg conditions of service of Managing Directors of these bodies should include provisions re reporting responsibilities i.e. for Chairman/Directors of Statutory Authorities.

2.4.3. Role of the Opposition

Role of Opposition needs to be looked at – need to formalise shadow ministers – Opposition currently “loose federation of individuals”. Properly organise Opposition so it is a watchdog over government. Members of Parliament need to be full time employees of Parliament. Public Accounts Committee meant to examine how budget is implemented but does not do this.

Opposition does point out government failure, misconduct in House and there is free debate.

2.4.4. Other Oversight Bodies

Ombudsman

Mechanisms are in place to ensure good governance. Mechanisms for accountability in place eg. Ombudsman. Ombudsman must report on annual basis. - Auditor-General reports to Parliament annually.

Independence of Central bank – have to refer to Minister of Finance. - difficult to control monetary policy when Minister of Finance has lost control of fiscal policy. In best interest of country if Central Bank is fully independent.

2.4.5. Recommendations

18. That Section 72 (2) of the Constitution and Part C of the Standing Orders be amended to increase the number of parliamentary meetings per year;
19. That amendments be made to the *Public Finance and Audit Act* and provision be made in the Standing Orders for the Public Accounts Committee to have recourse to the imposition of penalties to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Act for regular and timely submissions of the audited public accounts to Parliament;
20. That members of the Public Accounts Committee receive training in terms of the committee's role and in understanding the material on which they are required to report;
21. That Standing Order 75 be revised to impose greater penalties for failure by Members to attend meetings of parliamentary committees; and
22. The proposed National Audit Bill to provide for the establishment of a National Audit Office, for the duties and powers of the Auditor-General and related matters be drafted and passed into law by Parliament.

2.5. Assessment of Existing Human Resource Constraints

Autonomy of Parliament (i.e. budget, staffing etc) – separate from government and its running not inhibited by other ministries. Parliamentary system is like a skeleton – other bodies form flesh. Motion re autonomy of Parliament passed several years ago. needs a parliamentary commission Parliament needs its own budget – currently centralised with Ministry of Finance. Need to establish Parliamentary Service Commission – need autonomy in terms of budget and staffing – 1998 resolution passed in House re this but no follow up since then.

Parliamentary House Committee should be active in maintenance issues but their reports to Ministries do not elicit project funding.

Parliament Budget Maintenance is put under Ministry of Works by Finance Ministry, although Parliament office proposed in its budget submissions for maintenance to come under its budget. By transferring Parliament office budget areas to other ministries, these receive low priority. Ministry of Finance determines allocation of budget.

the Clerk of the National Parliament, Elizabeth Andresen, the Deputy Clerk of the National Parliament, Mr Selwyn Miduku

2.5.1. Human Resources

Need for research staff but terms and conditions of service need to be more appealing. Research staff would be answerable to and guided by Clerk and Speaker – primarily research on policy.

Members of Parliament have nothing at their disposal – no support services, although they can access Parliamentary office secretarial service – have been proposing office facilities and support services.

Major problem are Members of Parliament themselves – inexperienced, lack of qualifications – reflected in standard of debate – lack of understanding of parliamentary procedures.

Training for staff – need additional staff such as research officers

Speaker has to be consulted re staffing eg. Postings to Parliament – Public Service can post staff anywhere – problem with losing technical (Hansard) staff who are experienced – eg. Few years ago lost a research officer position and have not replaced/filled this position since.

Clerk is equivalent to Permanent Secretary level and Deputy Clerk is equivalent to Deputy/Assistant Secretaries. Staff Training – only type is attachments to other Parliaments.

Security and attendant services need improvement – arrangement with police to provide security eg. Special constables and would like to use them as attendants – should maintain close contact with law enforcement agencies and these bodies should advise Members of Parliament on personal safety.

Have asked Ministry of Works to put up security fence around Parliament house but no money currently – need for security passes for staff. There is a “Rest House” (accommodation for Members of Parliament) but no longer used due to lack of maintenance/deterioration of building. Issue of budget (control over budget).

Training for Members of Parliament - Training for provincial and national Speakers in form of workshop (Speakers and Clerks)

Members of Parliament need to understand and know their role and that of Parliament – workshop/orientation for Members of Parliament (only post-election orientation at present) on dealing with issues.

Need workshops for Members of Parliament on how budget is created etc. by

Real problem is lack of access to legal expertise – budgetary issue.

– need for orientation of Members of Parliament re their responsibilities.

Need to improve role of Parliament. - Speaker of Parliament - training for Speakers and Clerk at national and provincial levels.

Provincial Assemblies need access to information and technical/human resources.

Awareness training is needed

Need for legal experts to explain legal framework.

Training for Members of Parliament on their roles.

Need training for Members of Parliament, especially on relations with constituents and on Parliament itself.

Need for continuing education of public and Members of Parliament

Disciplinary consequences/penalties needed within the legal framework. No example where an individual Member of Parliament has been penalised for misconduct in office.

General talk at Member of Parliament orientation session – depends on Clerk to organise or Leadership Code Commission writes to Clerk asking for a meeting with Members of Parliament.

Lack of support, the giving of technical advice etc for Members of Parliament.

Briefings by Central Bank - nature of briefings for new Members of Parliament - can be heavy going for Members of Parliament, Briefings should be ongoing. Governor supposed to be briefing Cabinet on a regular basis, but this doesn't happen.

Members of Parliament should see it as necessary part of obligations to understand economy. Lot of ill-informed statements re economy in Parliament.

Members of Parliament need orientation in relation to what does Parliament expect of them.

Parliament level of leadership has ducked responsibility during the crisis.

Focus on public and Members of Parliament. Ask questions – people need to demand answers from leaders.

Lack of forethought and planning by leaders.

Educating people when they win their office – she is still not familiar with private members' Bills or Standing Orders or legislative process generally.

Many Members of Parliament do not know anything about system of government. Often Ministers have no experience or qualifications.

Informal training for Ministers needed.

Need for workshop or parliamentary procedures.

Capacity building of Parliament ? need 'everything' – office training for Members of Parliament.

Training for Speakers (provincial assemblies and national parliament speakers).

Problem is with Members of Parliament capacity to comprehend legislation and their willingness to learn how to understand issues/legislation.

Attorney-General sits in Parliament – tend to get Attorney-General to bail out Ministers when they are explaining Bills and have difficulties doing so.

Matter of time and education to change mentality of Members of Parliament to fully understand their role

Sergeant-at-arms also doubles as Librarian.

2.5.2. Other Resource Constraints

Technical Resources

Resources for Parliament – technical resources such as access to Internet etc. Training for staff on use of technical resources. Technical resources – has been some assistance from Australian Parliament for Hansard. Need for Internet connection (funding constraints have prevented this) - Library needs to be computerised. - accounts section needs to be computerised. - Update needed for present computers.

No Handbook for Members of Parliament - new members do receive copies of key documents plus 2-3 days induction (officials from different parts of government to talk to members) Need for regular briefings for committees eg. Governor of Central Bank.

Telephones and Facsimiles not working because Finance Ministry has not paid the bills – No 'phones/faxes since February but in previous years lines were frequently down as well. Transportation problem – no vehicles – all stolen during crisis. Prior to sittings, have to work through Ministers to ensure communication is restored for sessions.

Clear need for control over budget - support staff situation needs to be stabilised so control over staffing is a priority. No funding for stationery.

Physical Resources

Security of Members of Parliament is an issue. Security at Parliament needs to be improved.

There is a building next to Parliament House housing offices for the Leader of Opposition and Opposition Caucus – Opposition offices plus 2 staff (secretarial and research) – clearly marked as Leader of Opposition Office. Similar office facilities for Government Caucus. Both paid for out of Parliaments' budgetary allocation.

Parliament House – American designed and built with US fittings – poorly designed in terms of tropical climate and expensive to maintain – require US replacements.

Members of Parliament need office facilities at Parliament House – Phase 2 of construction project urgently needed plus equipment for these offices. Funding for other phases for construction of Parliament House is required. Members of Parliament are floating – ad hoc approach to managing role of Members of Parliament – office support could rectify this.

Water to Parliament House building has ceased due to disruption of services – makes it difficult to work here.

2.5.3. Recommendations

23. That the recommendation of the Solomon Islands delegation to the 1993 Pacific regional conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, contained in its report *Status of Solomon Islands Parliament*, to provide greater autonomy to Parliament via legislation establishing a Parliamentary Service Commission modelled on the Queensland *Parliamentary Service Act 1988* be implemented by Parliament through appropriate legislation;
24. That a parliamentary research unit be established and that its task involves producing briefing papers on proposed legislation and other issues Members need information on;
25. That priorities for public sector leadership be set and that a workshop/orientation module be prepared and conducted for new Members of Parliament – inviting a relevant person from one of the regional, New Zealand or smaller Australian legislatures and/or public sector/academia to prepare and conduct the workshop in conjunction with officers of the National Parliament of Solomon Islands;
26. That staff and Members of Parliament are provided training in technical courses such as computer skills including internet use, management and financial/accounting skills;
27. That newly appointed staff, Speakers and committee Chairs be sent on short-term attachments to other legislatures of similar size and/or the smaller Australian legislatures; and

28. That professional development and mentoring networks for both staff and Members of Parliament, particularly women, be established and maintained with small regional or Australian legislatures such as the ACT or Northern Territory Legislative Assemblies.

2.6. Review of Women's Participation and Representation

It is generally recognised that the incorporation of women into positions of authority in the political domains of Solomon Islands such as Parliament and the public service is incomplete. Only one woman has served as a Cabinet Minister. The number of women in the senior ranks of the public service is limited. There are no female heads of departments. One woman is Deputy Chief Secretary and other women do hold senior positions but disproportionately to men. The Clerk of Parliament is a woman. The majority of women in the public service, however, are employed in lower level, primarily clerical, positions.

Only one woman has been elected to the post-independence Parliament, Mrs Hilda Kari, who is currently serving her third term as a Member and is Minister for Youth, Women and Sports. Another woman was elected to the pre-independence Legislative Assembly in the 1970s. There is only one female provincial assembly member in Malaita. Elections are male dominated. There are very few female candidates, according to the Secretary of the Electoral Commission, Mr John Babalu. there were only two women out of nine candidates contesting the election. In the 199 national election there were only three female candidates out of 30 candidates.

Women generally tend to be marginalised from the formal political processes due to the strong influence of cultural norms, customs and religion. It is important to overcome these problems through voter education and involving men in this will be crucial to its success.

Several factors contribute to women's under-representation in formal decision-making, including their commitments in private, domestic realms and barriers to their pre-selection at the local level. There are traditional gender prejudices preventing women from participating fully in the formal political structure. Although women are not intentionally marginalised, interviewees expressed the view that traditional cultural constraints operate to women's disadvantage.

Opportunities for women to actively participate in the formal political processes are also limited by socio-economic factors. Women may also be prevented from active participation by 'heavy domestic workloads' and consequent lack of time.

A number of interviewees suggested that a seat in Parliament should be reserved for women candidates. However, Section 15 of the Constitution prohibits the enacting of laws that accord privileges or advantages to persons on the basis, among other things, of gender. The Constitution, therefore, would have to be amended in order to reserve a seat for female candidates.

No provision in Constitution for special arrangements for women - could examine Reserve seats for women plus seats for minority groups. Idea of appointing women to Parliament rather than relying on election of women. Need to reserve seat for women in Parliament. – need for 3-4 female Members of Parliament Ms Martini Ului, President of the National Council of Women, suggests it is a ‘must’ that parliamentary seats are reserved for women. She suggests $\frac{1}{4}$ of total seats be reserved for women. Suggests nominated women Members of Parliament, nominated by NWC and women’s groups – directly appointed by Head of State. need to examine constitutional amendments re reserving seats or appointing women plus workshops for women planning to stand as candidates.

Solomon Islands still traditional – welcomes women to politics but women need to be mindful of tradition concerning women. some women candidates are confrontational in their approach. Despite being a matrilineal society in some areas, men tend to dominate politically. Women’s role – “slowly and surely women are moving” – women compete with men in education. Some customs are very powerful. Cultural constraints – women seen as ‘second vote’ – want to push for recognition of women who have achieved secondary/tertiary education ? equality of education standards. Women increasingly going into education system.

Women do stand as candidates but women not recognised by men.

The policies re women passed in Parliament not necessarily implemented at ministerial level – dominance of men in department levels. Only few women at top level in public sector, result of cultural constraints predominate.

Perception of Parliament for women – it is ‘out of reach’ women generally stay quiet. Traditionally there is a decision making role for women to play but it is hidden – women involved especially in decision making within family. Role of women in the peace process as mediators. This is encouraging men to view women seriously in terms of political participation.

Advantage to sitting Members of Parliament in terms of funds for election campaign – women candidates hampered by this.

- cultural constraint to women participating more fully – no legal discrimination against women but cultural aspects prevent them/discriminates against them.

He does not believe in need for specific consideration for women given absence of legal constraints – interfering with cultural norms leads to confusion and loss of cultural values. No specific hindrances for women who want to participate.

Women find it difficult to come out – there has been a National Council of Women since 1993 but still difficult for women, even though Constitution provides equality of opportunity.

Women – Will ‘take time’ for acceptance of women in Parliament - male dominated society – question of “time” – to push now would not work because of traditional cultural norms.

- 3 Workshops for women re political participation needed. Women do stand as candidates plus SIBC broadcast programs encouraging women. Prior to last election, Electoral Commission assisted with 2 workshops for women – successful in terms of attendance. Lack of awareness by women generally of political system. Civics course in secondary level needed. A Media Unit already established but needs funds to continue - could look at using Media Unit (SI UNET) to promote political awareness. Need workshop for women candidates. Need for education of women standing as candidates and for women who become Members of Parliament. Women's groups have discussed with Electoral Commission another workshop for women prior to election. Need workshops in provinces. Tried UNIFEM to assist candidates in 1997 general election – assist 11 women candidates – but UNIFEM came only 1 week before the election. Cultural constraints for women educating public on constitution/rights, why cultures impinge on women participation. Not enough coverage for women in politics – want money to publish this coverage.

Education system tends to favour boys over girls.

Women are keen for change but there are entrenched attitudes among older males.

Main problems for women are School fees are increasing - collapse of export economy

Women's networks – NCW is an umbrella body – all women's groups belong to Church organizations – they work through church bodies/networks, use of outreach programs to train leaders (train-the-trainer) who return to their own groups (in villages) to teach people about system of government. NCW – National Council of Women YWCA – Young Women's Christian Association 1983 National Council of Women established Mrs Hilda Kari became President of the NCW in 1986 - she toured country to solicit women's views - she lost the first election she contested but was successful in the second election she contested in 1989 – she voices what people think in Parliament, plus use of constituency Development Fund – she listens to constituents and tells truth about what can be done for constituents.

There is a National Women's Policy.

Preparing women for next election as soon as possible.

2.6.1. Recommendations

29. It is recommended that the strategic objectives and action plans of the Ministry of Youth, Women, Sports and Recreation in relation to women and development as outlined in the National Women's Policy be implemented;
30. That every bill introduced to Parliament should include a gender impact analysis;
31. That concerted efforts are made to raise the standard of debates within Parliament in terms of both tone and quality;

32. That training courses for women be conducted in leadership skills, communication, presentation and writing skills and in understanding the Constitution and laws of Solomon Islands and the legislative process; and
33. That women's groups should be supported financially and technically in undertaking political education activities to encourage women to stand as candidates for election to Parliament and to encourage people to vote for female candidates, thereby changing the popular perception that 'politics is not a suitable pursuit for women'.

Appendix A: Terms of Reference for Solomon Islands Legislative Needs Assessment

AREAS FOR INSTITUTIONAL AND CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

The major challenge for Solomon Islands and its democracy is to sustain the functions of State governance institutions to cope with democratic changes in society. Capacity- and institution-building support to the Parliament will be of great value for strengthening parliamentary democracy on the one hand, and for enhancing legislative-parliamentary, parliamentary oversight and parliamentary-constituency relations, on the other.

Solomon Islands' parliamentarians must have the capacity for sound professional analysis of draft laws prepared by Government agencies, particularly on such critical issues as budget preparation, market economics, aid co-ordination and aid management, the role of state in a modern democracy, decentralisation, etc. The *existing human resource constraints* in the Parliament limit the effectiveness of parliamentarians in performing their mandated tasks and make difficult the practical implementation of weak and vaguely formulated laws. There is a need for technical expertise to provide support to all MPs on various issues to help them scrutinise proposed legislation and contribute effectively to parliamentary debates. Technical expertise is also needed so that proposed laws can be harmonised with existing ones.

It is important that *parliament-constituency relationships* are enhanced by introducing appropriate mechanisms to improve parliamentarians' accountability vis-à-vis their constituents. This mechanism should enable the electorate to assess the effectiveness of MPs in representing their aspirations in the public decision-making processes, as well as their ability to explain the importance of decisions made and laws adopted by Parliament.

Most important to be improved is the *Parliament's oversight* role. Parliament needs to consider whether it is now appropriate to establish other oversight committees of Parliament. The role of the Public Accounts Committee has to be strengthened in accordance with the changes in emphasis of the National Budgets, where resources are now allocated based on achievable targets. The Committee needs to have the appropriate powers to demand disclosure and prompt accountability from any government agency, public enterprise and any other entity, including NGOs, who received public funding.

Legislating procedures of parliament needs to be reviewed to determine whether there are sufficient mechanisms for the inclusion of people in the legislative process. The Rules of Procedures of Parliament needs to adequately provide for peoples' views on proposed legislation, even if a Government certified a proposed legislation as urgent. Regulatory provision should also be sufficient to allow for all parliamentarians to have adequate understanding of proposed legislation before parliamentary debate.

Many parliamentarians recognise *a need for reviewing the Law on the Legal Status of Members of Parliament and their codes of conduct*. The Speaker recognises the importance of all Parliamentarians to live by examples and to be accountable for their entitlements paid to assist them with their public obligations. An on-going training

programme and the provision of a “codes of conduct” for all parliamentarians should strengthen the performance of MPs and the sanctity and integrity of Parliament.

OBJECTIVES OF THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT STUDY

- 1) Assess the existing national legislation related to the Parliament and Members of Parliament;
- 2) Review the existing mechanisms for legislative–parliamentary, parliamentary oversights and parliamentary -constituency relations;
- 3) Conduct a needs assessment to address the gender imbalance in parliamentary representation and legislative consideration;
- 4) Based on the above three objectives, develop a report with the recommendations on a concrete set of initiatives to be implemented by the Solomon Islands Parliament.

TASKS & RESPONSIBILITIES

The assessment mission, under the over-all direction of the Regional Programme Manager of GOLD and the Resident Representative of UNDP for Solomon Islands will:

Conduct a review of the existing key legal documents, including the Constitution of Solomon Islands, Electoral Laws, and Rules and Procedures of the Parliament, to assess if the legal framework is adequately contributing to effective law making and parliamentary oversight processes. In this effort, consultations with members of the Standing Committee, present and former Members of Parliaments, representatives of the Executive Branch, the Judiciary, civil society organisations (including women NGOs), and the media will be undertaken. As a result of this assessment, there should be recommendations on how to improve the current legal and institutional system for the Parliament of Solomon Islands.

Assess the existing parliament-constituency relationship to suggest better mechanism aimed at strengthening parliamentarians’ accountability vis -à-vis their constituents. This mechanism should enable the electorate to assess the effectiveness of MPs in representing their aspirations in the public decision -making processes, as well as their ability to explain the importance of decisions made and laws adopted by Parliament.

Assess the law-making procedures of Parliament and recommend ways in which this process might be improved. The improved process should maximise the participation of all constituents in the legislative process. The new proposed mechanisms (if any) of this improved process should provide people the opportunity to articulate their comments on proposed legislation in a timely manner.

Assess the oversight role of Parliament and the effectiveness of the Public Accounts Committee in holding users of public funds to account. Recommend ways in which this function might be improved, including the role of the Auditor General and the relevant powers required by oversight committees to impose consequences for non-compliance by government agencies with their accountability deadlines.

Assess the existing human resource constraints that limit the effective functioning of the Parliament and parliamentarians, in order to develop a comprehensive strategy/plan for addressing the current needs of parliamentarians to improve their professional capacity.

Review the current policies and, what is more important, practices of the parliament, parliamentary fractions, and NGOs aimed at moving from 'de jure' to 'de facto' equality and strengthening women's participation in political leadership, in general and women's representation, in particular. This review will be undertaken through existing policy documents as well as active discussions with present and past MPs, heads of women NGOs and other civil society organisations.

Recommend ways in which potential and existing women leaders will be assisted in building skills, confidence and opportunities through training and other support activities; advocacy through media and gender sensitive surveys/researches to address problems relating to social relations and attitudes which perpetuate gender inequality. Emphasis should be placed on involving both women and men throughout of the design and implementation of a support programme for the Parliament of Solomon Islands.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

Upon completion of the assessment mission and discussions with key stakeholders, the consultant is expected to deliver a report with the recommendations on concrete initiatives to be implemented by the Parliament of Solomon Islands.

Appendix B: Country Visit Program

The country visit took place between 27 February and 6 March 2001. A program was prepared by the Deputy Clerk of the National Parliament, Mr Selwyn Miduku, in conjunction with the consultant. The program was as follows:

Tuesday 27 February:

Briefing/orientation by the Deputy Clerk of the National Parliament, Mr Selwyn Miduku

Wednesday 28 February:

Discussion with Hon. Speaker of the National Parliament, Paul Joseph Tovua OBE;

Discussion with Hon. Manasseh Damukana Sogavare MP, Prime Minister;

Discussion with Mr Issac Vula Tatapu, Auditor-General;

Discussion with Hon. Charles Dausabea, Chairman of the Government Caucus.

Thursday 1 March:

Discussion Hon. Alfred Saelea Maetia, Chairman of the Parliamentary House Committee;

Discussion with Hon. Rueben Lilo, Premier of Western Province;

Discussion with Hon. Nathaniel Waena MP, Minister of Provincial Government & Rural Development;

Discussion with Ms Alice Ramosaea, President of the YWCA, and Ms Martina Ului, President of the National Council of Women;

Discussion with Pastor Alfred Alufurai, Chairman of the Solomon Islands Full Gospel Association;

Friday 2 March:

Discussion with Sir Peter Kenilorea, Ombudsman;

Discussion with Mr Rick Hou, Governor of the Central Bank;

Discussion with Mr Leonard Maenu'u, Chairman of the Leadership Code Commission;

Discussion with Mr Gianfranco Taviani and Mr Bruce Saunders, representatives of the Chamber of Commerce;

Discussion with Hon. Mrs Hilda Kari, Minister of Youth, Sports & Women Development;

Saturday 3 March:

Discussion with Mr John Lamani, Managing Director of Solomon Star newspaper;

Discussion with Mr John Babalu, Secretary of the Electoral Commission.

Sunday 4 March:

Discussion with Mr Johnson Honimae, General Manager, Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation.

Monday 5 March:

Discussion with Mr Ranjit Hewagama, Solicitor-General and Legal Draftsman;

Discussion with Hon. Chief Justice, Sir John Muria;

Discussion with Hon Jackson Sunaone, Deputy Speaker of the National Parliament.

Tuesday 6 March:

Discussion with Hon. Speaker of the National Parliament, Paul Joseph Tovua OBE;

Discussion with Clerk of the National Parliament, Mrs Elizabeth Andresen.

Appendix C: Consultant

Mr Quinton Clements is a Senior Research Officer in the Committee Office, Department of the House of Representatives, Parliament of Australia. He has served as Inquiry Secretary to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters. Mr Clements is currently completing his PhD at the Australian National University. Mr Clements was previously engaged by the United Nations Development Programme to undertake Legislative Needs Assessments of the Parliaments of Nauru, Kiribati and Solomon Islands. He also attended the *Pacific Regional Conference on Governance for Parliamentarians* held in March 2000 in Nadi, Fiji. He undertook the legislative needs assessment of Tuvalu in December 2000, and the legislative needs assessments of Tonga and Solomon Islands in February 2001.

Appendix D: Members of Parliament and Their Political Parties

GOVERNMENT GROUPING - COALITION FOR NATIONAL UNITY, RECONCILIATION & PEACE (CNURP)

Leader :	Hon. Manasseh Damukana Sogavare (MP for East Choislul)
Deputy:	Hon. Michael Maina (MP for Temotu Pele)
Members:	Hon. David Sitai (MP for East Makira)
	Hon. William Haomae (MP for Small Malaita)
	Hon. David Vatamana Vouza (MP for North Guadalcanal)
	Hon. Charles Ferania (MP for Lau/Mbaelelea)
	Hon. George Luialamo (MP for West Kwaio)
	Hon. Charles Dausabea (MP for East Honiara)
	Hon. Moon Pin Kwan (MP for Central Honiara)
	Hon. Job Dudley Tausinga (MP for North New Georgia)
	Hon. Nathaniel Waena (MP for Ulawa/Ugi)
	Hon. Allan Kemakeza (MP for Savo/Russells)
	Hon. Danny Philip (MP for South New Georgia/Rendova/ Tetepare)
	Hon. Jackson Sunaone (MP for West Makira)
	Hon. Snyder Rini (MP for Marovo)
	Hon. Robins Mesepitu (MP for South Vella Lavella)
	Hon. David Holosivi (MP for Malaita Outer Islands)
	Hon. Thomas Koh Chan (MP for West Guadalcanal)
	Hon. Allan Paul (MP For North Vella Lavella)
	Hon. William Harry Gigini (MP for Gao/Bugotu)
	Hon. Saueha Josea Tahua (MP for Rennell/Bellona)
	Hon. Albert Bakele Laore (MP for Shortlands)
	Hon. Johnson Koli (MP for East Guadalcanal)
	Hon. Alfred Saelea Maetia (MP for East Malaita)

Hon. Stephen Tonafalea (MP for West Kwara'ae)

Hon. Victor Samuel Ngele (MP for South Guadalcanal)

Hon. Lester Huckle Saomasi (MP for West Honiara)

Hon. Mrs Hilda Kari (MP for East Central Guadalcanal)

Hon. Ronidy Mani (MP for Fataleka)

Number of MPs in Government = 29

OPPOSITION GROUP – “SOLOMON ISLANDS ALLIANCE OF CHANGE”

SOLOMON ISLANDS LIBERAL PARTY

Leader: Hon. Bartholomew Ulufa'alu (Caretaker Leader of Opposition & MP for Aoke/Langa Langa)

Members: Hon. Edmund Andresen (MP for Hograno/Kia/Havulei)

Hon. Gordon Mara (MP for Ngella)

Hon. Walton Naezon (MP for Central Guadalcanal)

Hon. Daniel Enele Kwanairara (MP for North Malaita)

Number of MPs = 5

SOLOMON ISLANDS LABOUR PARTY (SILP)

Leader: Hon. Sir Baddeley Devesi GCMG, GCVO, K St. J (MP for North East Guadalcanal)

Members: Hon. Jackson Piasi (MP for Gizo/Kolombangara)

Hon. Nelson Boso (MP for West New Georgia/ Vona Vona)

Number of MPs = 3

UNITED PARTY

Leader : Hon. Fred Iro Fono (MP for Central Kwara'ae)

Members: Hon. Dickson Warakohia (MP for East Are'Are)

Hon. Meshach M. Maetoloa (MP for North West Guadalcanal)

Number of MPs = 3

SOLOMON ISLANDS NATIONAL PARTY (SINP)

Leaders: Hon. Francis Billy Hilly (MP for Ranonga/Simbo)

Members: Hon. Patteson John Oti (MP for Temotu Nende)

Hon. Alpha Kimata (MP for North West Choiseul)

Hon. Alfred Hairiu (MP for West Are'Are)

Hon. Hugo Ragoso (MP for Maringe/Kokota)

Number of MPs = 5

PEOPLES ALLIANCE PARTY (PAP)

Leader :

Members: Hon. Japhet Waipora (MP for Central Makira)

Number of MPs = 1

OTHERS IN THE SIAC CAMP

Hon. Alfred Solomon Sasako (MP for East Kwaio)

Hon. Dr. Stephen Sanga Aumanu (MP for Baegu/Asifola)

Hon. Rev. Leslie Boseto (MP for South Choiseul)

Hon. Hudson Teava Rangisearofa (MP for Temotu Vattu)

Number of MPs in Opposition = 21

Number of Independent MPs = 0

TOTAL NUMBER OF MPS = 50

Appendix E: Staff of the National Parliament of Solomon Islands

Administration & Accounts Sections

Hon. Paul J. Tovua OBE	Speaker
Mrs Elizabeth Andresen	Clerk to National Parliament
Mr. Selwyn Miduku	Deputy Clerk
Mr. Atban Kapule	Serjeant-at-Arms
Mr. Henry Baeoro	Chief Accountant
Mr. Wilson Iro	Accounts Clerk
Mrs Linda Marigeni	Executive Personal Secretary
Mrs Freda Rifasia	Executive Personal Secretary
Mrs Josephine Mae	Assistant Personal Secretary
Vacant	Assistant Administrative Officer
Mr. Augustine Peli	Registry Clerk

Hansard Division

Mrs Clera Pita	Principal Hansard Editor
Mrs Audrey Magu	Assistant Hansard Editor
Mrs Grace Pitu	Assistant Hansard Editor
Ms Esther Lembu	Hansard Reporter
Mrs Rose Mark	Hansard Reporter
<i>Vacant</i>	Hansard Transcriber

Auxiliary Staff

Mr. Alfred Nollen	Store Clerk
Mr. Fredrick Kolua	Orderly
Mr. Rex Benisi	Official Driver
Miss Oitalana Tafoa	Office Cleaner
Miss Joana Sanga	Office Cleaner

Ms. Joyce Gegeu

Office Cleaner

Mrs Stella Laugolo

Office Cleaner

Mr. Allen Mae

Security Officer

Mr. Henry Mendana

Security Officer

Appendix F: Sixth Session Standing Select Committees of the National Parliament

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Hon. Bartholomew Ulufa'alu	-	Chairman
Hon. Nelson Boso	-	Member
Hon. Patteson J. Oti	-	“
Hon. Alpha N. Kimata	-	“
Hon. Hugo Ragoso	-	“
Isaac V. Tatapu (Auditor General)	-	Secretary
Chief Accountant (NPO)	-	Asst. Secretary

PARLIAMENTARY HOUSE COMMITTEE

Hon. Alfred Maetia	-	Chairman
Hon. Alfred Hairiu	-	Member
Hon. Jackson Sunaone	-	“
Hon. Gordon Mara	-	“
Hon. Walton Naezon	-	“
Hon. Ronidy Mani	-	“
Hon. Rev. Leslie Boseto	-	“
Selwyn Miduku	-	Secretary
Linda Marigeni	-	Asst. Secretary

BILLS AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

Hon. Fred I. Fono	-	Chairman
Hon. Nelson Boso	-	“
Hon. Stephen Tonafalea	-	“
Hon. Alfred Hairiu	-	“
Hon. Meshach Maetoloa	-	“

Hon. Walton Naezon	-	“
Hon. Patteson J. Oti	-	“
Elizabeth Andresen	-	Secretary
Freda Walekwate	-	Asst. Secretary

CONSTITUTION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Hon. Francis B. Hilly	-	Chairman
Hon. Charles Ferania	-	Member
Hon. Hugo Ragoso	-	“
Hon. Stephen Tonafalea	-	“
Hon. Daniel E. Kwanairara	-	“
Hon. Rev. Leslie Boseto	-	“
Hon. Alfred S. Sasako	-	“
- Secretary		
- Asst. Secretary		

FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Hon. David Sitai	-	Chairman
Hon. Hudson Teava	-	“
Hon. Stephen Tonafalea	-	“
Hon. Patteson J. Oti	-	“
Hon. Sir Baddeley Devesi	-	“
- Secretary		
- Asst. Secretary		

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION – SOLOMON ISLANDS BRANCH

Officers of the Branch

President - Hon. Paul J. Tovua OBE

Vice President ex-officio	- Hon. Jackson Sunaone
Vice Presidents	- Hon. Manasseh Sogavare, Prime Minister
	-Leader of Opposition
Deputy Chairman	- Hon. Jackson Sunaone
Secretary	- Clerk to Parliament (Elizabeth Andresen)
Assistant Secretary	- Deputy Clerk to Parliament (Selwyn Miduku)
Treasurer	- Chief Accountant (Henry Baeoro)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Hon. Paul J. Tovua OBE	- Chairman/ex-officio
Hon. Jackson Sunaone	- Deputy Chairman
Hon. Fred I. Fono	- Member
Hon. Michael Maina	- “
Hon. Alfred Maetia	- “
Hon. Alfred Hairiu	- “
Hon. Hugo Ragoso	- “
Elizabeth Andresen	- Secretary
Selwyn Miduku	- Assistant Secretary

Appendix G: Members of Solomon Islands National Parliament

List of Members of Parliament in Alphabetical Order

<u>NAME</u>	<u>CONSTITUENCY</u>	<u>MARITAL STATUS</u>
Hon. Edmund Andresen	MP Hograno/Kia/Havulei	M
Hon. Dr. Stephen S. Aumanu	MP Baegu/Asifola	M
Hon. Rev. Leslie Boseto	MP South Choiseul	M
Hon. Nelson Boso	MP West New Georgia & Vona Vona	M
Hon. Thomas K. Chan	MP West Guadalcanal	M
Hon. Charles Dausabea	MP East Honiara	M
Hon. Sir Baddeley Devesi	MP North East Guadalcanal	M
Hon. Charles Ferania	MP Lau/Mbaelelea	M
Hon. Fred I. Fono	MP Central Kwara'ae	M
Hon. William H. Gigini	MP Gao/Bugotu	M
Hon. Alfred Hairiu	MP West Are'Are	M
Hon. William Haomae	MP Small Malaita	M
Hon. Francis B. Hilly	MP Ranonga/Simbo	M
Hon. David Holosivi	MP Malaita Outer Islands	M
Hon. Hilda Kari (Mrs)	MP East Central Guadalcanal	M
Hon. Allan Kemakeza	MP Savo/Russells	M
Hon. Alpha N. Kimata	MP North West Choiseul	M
Hon. Johnson Koli	MP East Guadalcanal	M
Hon. Moon P. Kwan	MP Central Honiara	M
Hon. Daniel E. Kwanairara	MP North Malaita	M
Hon. Albert B. Laore	MP Shortlands	M
Hon. George Luialamo	MP West Kwaio	M
Hon. Alfred Maetia	MP East Malaita	M

Hon. Meshach M. Maetoloa	MP North West Guadalcanal	M
Hon. Michael Maina	MP Temotu Pele	M
Hon. Ronidy Mani	MP Fataleka	M
Hon. Gordon Mara	MP Ngella	M
Hon. Robin Mesepitu	MP South Vella Lavella	M
Hon. Walton Naezon	MP Central Guadalcanal	M
Hon. Victor S. Ngele	MP South Guadalcanal	M
Hon. Patteson J. Oti	MP Temotu Nende	M
Hon. Allan Paul	MP North Vella Lavella	M
Hon. Danny Philip	MP South New Georgia/Rendova/Tetepare	M
Hon. Jackson Piasi	MP Gizo/Kolombangara	M
Hon. Hugo Ragoso	MP Maringe/Kokota	M
Hon. Hudson T. Rangisearofa	MP Temotu Vattu	M
Hon. Snyder Rini	MP Marovo	M
Hon. Lester H. Saomasi	MP West Honiara	M
Hon. Alfred S. Sasako	MP East Kwaio	M
Hon. David Sitai	MP East Makira	M
Hon. Manasseh Sogavare	MP East Choiseul	M
Hon. Jackson Sunaone	MP West Makira	M
Hon. Saueha J. Tahua	MP Rennell/Bellona	M
Hon. Job D. Tausinga	MP North New Georgia	M
Hon. Stephen Tonafalea	MP West Kwara'ae	M
Hon. Bartholomew Ulufa'alu	MP Aoke/Langa Langa	M
Hon. David D. Vouza	MP North Guadalcanal (Deceased)	M
Hon. Nathaniel Waena	MP Ulawa/Ugi	M
Hon. Japhet Waipora	MP Central Makira	M
Hon. Dickson Warakohia	MP East Are'Are	M

