

Guadalcanal Press Release

Guadalcanal Partner with UN for Peacebuilding

8 February 2017



Picture: Premier Guadalcanal Hon. Anthony Veke and UN Peacebuilding Project Manager, Agus Wandu discussing peacebuilding and development issues partnership

The Premier of Guadalcanal met UN Peacebuilding Project Manager this week to discuss peacebuilding activities in the province as part of UN support to peacebuilding in Solomon Islands.

Premier Hon. Anthony Veke highlighted the plan to organise a land summit this year as part of resolving land issues in Guadalcanal. The Premier stated that the summit is aim at assist the people of Guadalcanal on finding the best model for solution on how land could be used effectively for development without creating conflict. It will be an opportunity to also heard from the landowner, women and youth on how land reform should be addressed.

Agus Wandu, UN Peacebuilding Project Manager (UN PBF) expressed his support to this initiative, especially this is one of the most important issue discussed in the provincial dialogue and the national dialogue. It was recommended during the dialogues to find a consensus and a way forward. Project Manager stated the land issue is closely linked to peacebuilding in Solomon Islands in the long term. Addressing land issues is not easy, but it is essential for peacebuilding.

Premier Anthony Veke highlighted his commitment to follow up the provincial dialogue organised previously with the support from UN Peacebuilding. The province has established a task force who will work monitor the implementation of the resolution.

Premier is welcomed UN Peacebuilding support to the land summit and also to the work by the provincial government to continue engaging with community and central government on peacebuilding issues. On the land summit, Guadalcanal will cost share the event and will ensure inclusive participation with women and youths will also be invited.

Guadalcanal is also committed to promote women's stronger participation. The province is finalising the provincial gender strategy and seeking support to advance this agenda. Guadalcanal is keen to have support from UN, both UNDP and UN Women on promoting women leadership and support to women groups in remote communities.

Project Manager UN PBF briefed Premier that the UN's peacebuilding programme is designed to support sustaining peace in Solomon Islands in the immediate post RAMSI and election period. Agus Wandu encouraged inclusive implementation of solutions addressing development and peacebuilding challenges in Solomon Islands. UN Peacebuilding through UNDP and UN Women office here, will work closely with other efforts in the country to build a strong link between peace and development.