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Concept Note

Malaita Provincial Dialogue 23-25 November 2016

Background

1. Following a meeting organised by the UNDP with the Malaita Province Deputy Premier and Permanent Secretary on 2 November 2016, it was agreed that a provincial dialogue event will be jointly organised from 23 – 25 November 2016. The dialogue event will be organised jointly by the Malaita Provincial Government; Ministry of National Unity Reconciliation and Peace (MNURP) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
2. In July 2016 the UNDP in collaboration with the Solomon Islands government launched UN peace building support funded project called Supporting Inclusive and Peaceful Transition in Solomon Islands. This project is designed to support the Government of Solomon Islands and national stakeholders during a transitional period, to create an inclusive space for dialogue and reconciliation and to strengthen national capacity for implementing the Solomon Islands national peace building policy including women's and youth engagement in peace and reconciliation. Present opportunities for citizens to engage in government or parliamentary process are largely driven by government-led consultations such as the ongoing constitutional reform process and the parliamentary process of public hearing on bills presented for parliamentary review and approval. But at present, submission to the parliamentary committees have been mainly from urban based organizations. Therefore, innovative methods and opportunities for enhancing participation of people at the provincial and community level needs to be explored. One of way of finding new and innovative solutions is through democratic dialogue.
3. Output 1.1.3 of the project focusses on strengthening SIG capacity to implement selected peacebuilding activities by providing supplemental resources to expedite implementation and/or height quality. The activities to be considered for implementation are dialogue platforms for PMO and MNURP to engage with and in marginalized communities on peacebuilding plans and future issues. One of the proposed activities to be implemented under this output is the provincial dialogues to be piloted in Guadalcanal and Malaita provinces. The theme for the provincial dialogue will be *"unlocking current development challenges and investing future development prospects"*. The design and implementation of the provincial dialogue will be made in partnership and close collaboration with all national, provincial, community stakeholders to ensure inclusivity and ownership. Issues and challenges to be discussed during the provincial dialogue process must focus on challenges that needs to be unpacked and discussed so as to lay the foundation for sustaining long term peace in the country.

Challenges/issues to be discussed

- There is a strong interest from the Malaita Provincial government to explore how community governance arrangements can be strengthened. In Malaita as in other provinces, informal/traditional and local governance arrangements such as Ward Development Committees, Ward Council of Chiefs, Village Committees, and Village Councils exist in different forms across the country, but they are not institutionalized and have no connection to provincial or central authorities¹. Consequently, there is lack of consistent mechanisms for meaningful citizen participation and inclusiveness in decision making processes such as planning, budgeting and policy.
- At present, there is ongoing discussions about possible constitutional reforms to change the country's government system from the current unitary to a federal system of government. This work is being led by the Constitutional Reform Unit (CRU), which is a separate unit hosted by the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. During a recent meeting organised by the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet for all provincial premiers, Malaita Province made its position clear that current provincial government system is not working. The premiers called for a new system of government to ensure better delivery of services to the people.
- There is lack of financial and technical resources from the MNURP to facilitate a neutral space for leaders and people from Malaita province to discuss issues and find common solutions to challenges facing the province.

Provincial Dialogue Objectives

To provide opportunities and space for the Malaita province; its leaders and elders including chief; village elders; church leaders; youth leaders and women leaders; and people of the province to:

- Discuss and unpack issue/challenges to be addressed to in order to build and sustain peace in the province which in turn provides a conducive environment for socio-economic development
- Discuss potential for institutionalising dialogue as a mechanisms for raising and addressing issues to authorities and track progress of issues both at the provincial and national level.
- Discuss alternative local/community governance arrangements to facilitate improved service delivery and strong and resilient communities.
- Provide an inclusive space for dialogue geared towards locally found and owned solutions.

Workshop Outcomes

The workshop will achieve the following outcomes:

- List of issues and challenges and recommendations for addressing these challenges with clear identification of responsible parties and possible timeframes
- Proposal on how to implement the dialogue outcomes and resolutions by the Malaita Provincial government and national government.

Participants

The target participants for this workshop will be 160 persons to include:

- 4 representatives from 33 wards on Malaita province (4 from each ward)
- 33 Members of Provincial Assembly
- 14 Members of National Parliament
- 5 Chair persons
- 5 Facilitators
- 5 Resource persons

¹ A variety of such arrangements are documented in Allen et al. *Justice Delivered Locally* (2013 World Bank)

- 5 Rapporteurs
- 2 UNDP staff

Budget: US\$70,000

United Nations Peacebuilding Fund Project
Malaita Provincial Leaders Peace Dialogue Report

Country: SOLOMON ISLANDS

Period Covered: 23rd to 25th November 2016

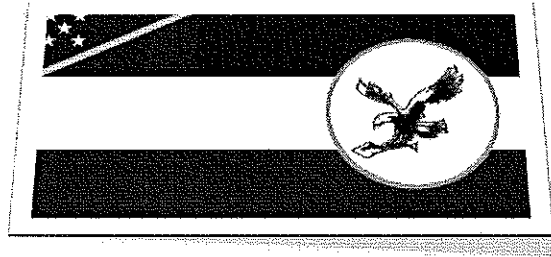
Prepared by: Erick Hale (*Monitoring Evaluation and Research Officer*)

Date: 2nd, 12, 2016

Approved by:  Date: _____



Solomon Islands Government



Malaita Provincial Government



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MALAITA PROVINCIAL LEADERS PEACE DIALOGUE

Theme

“Malaita Leadership and Peacebuilding for Inclusive Sustainable Development”

Date: 23rd to 25th November 2016

Venue: Rarasu Restaurant, Auki, Malaita Province



Title: *The Malaita Provincial Leaders Peace Dialogue*

By: *Erick Hale, Monitoring Evaluation and Research Officer UNPBF Project*

Edited by: *Alice Fakarii, Deputy Manager UNPBF Project*

FOREWORD

As the Premier for Malaita Province, I wish consider it is wise that I acknowledge and commend the Solomon Islands Government through the Ministry of National Unity Reconciliation and Peace (MNURP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through the United Nations Peace Building Fund (UNPBF) project for seeing the need to support and facilitate the provincial peace dialogue. The dialogue has seen leaders from various levels and organizations attended and contributed well to discussions and creative ideas shared.

Development can only transpire in Malaita province if there is sustained peace. Every Malaitans has a role to play to ensure peace and tangible development reign and exist in the province. The dialogue has paved the way to move the province forward. The Malaita Provincial Government will seek assistance for the National Government and its stakeholders to ensure that the resolutions made during the dialogue are implemented as anticipated.

The Malaita Provincial peace dialogue is therefore considered appropriate and timely.

Hon. Premier Peter Ramohia

Malaita Province

SUMMARY

In July 2016, the UNDP in collaboration with the Solomon Islands government launched UN peace building support funded project called Supporting Inclusive and Peaceful Transition in Solomon Islands. This project is designed to support the Government of Solomon Islands and national stakeholders during a transitional period, to create an inclusive space for dialogue and reconciliation and to strengthen national capacity for implementing the Solomon Islands national peace building policy including women's and youth engagement in peace and reconciliation. Present opportunities for citizens to engage in government or parliamentary process are largely driven by government-led consultations such as the ongoing constitutional reform process and the parliamentary process of public hearing on bills presented for parliamentary review and approval. But at present, submission to the parliamentary committees have been mainly from urban based organizations. Therefore, innovative methods and opportunities for enhancing participation of people at the provincial and community level needs to be explored. One of way of finding new and innovative solutions is through democratic dialogue.

On the 23rd to 25th November 2016 the UNPBF Project supported the Ministry of National Unity Reconciliation and Peace (MNURP) to facilitate the Malaita Provincial Leaders Peace Dialogue in Auki, Malaita provincial capital. The peace dialogue objectives are as follows - To provide opportunities and space for the Malaita province; its leaders and elders including chief; village elders; church leaders; youth leaders and women leaders; and people of the province to:

- Discuss and unpack issue/challenges to be addressed to build and sustain peace in the province which in turn provides a conducive environment for socio-economic development
- Discuss potential for institutionalizing dialogue as a mechanism for raising and addressing issues to authorities and track progress of issues both at the provincial and national level.
- Discuss alternative local/community governance arrangements to facilitate improved service delivery and strong and resilient communities.
- Provide an inclusive space for dialogue geared towards locally found and owned solutions.

This report is a documentation of the processes involved and dialogue sessions including resolutions decided for the way forward for peace and development in Malaita province. The peace dialogue consists of the following themes: -

- Healing and restoration of Malaita province
- Governance and constitutional reform
- Land reform and development,
- Malaita land registration/ pilot bill project
- Traditional/ community governance
- Land reform and economic development projects in the province

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1.0 MALAITA PROVINCE: AN OVERVIEW

Malaita Province is one of the largest provinces of the Solomon Islands. It is named after its largest island, Malaita (also known as "Big Malaita" or "Maramapaina")¹. Other islands include South Malaita Island (also called "Small Malaita" or "Maramasike"), Sikaiana Island, and Ontong Java Atoll². Britain defined its area of interest in the Solomons, including Malaita, and central government control of Malaita began in 1893, when Captain Gibson R.N., of MHS Curacoa, declared the southern Solomon Islands as a British protectorate with the proclamation of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate³.

The provincial capital and largest urban center is Auki, which was established as the Administrative center for Malaita Province in 1909⁴. Tourism is largely underdeveloped in Malaita; Auki is near to the Langalanga Lagoon, which provides opportunities for snorkeling, and the villagers provide shell making demonstrations⁵.

The projected population of the province in 2016 was 161,632. The area of the province is 4,225 km² (1,631 sq mi). The Melanesian population of Malaita has unique cultural traditions in social aspects of life. Bride price is a tradition which is unique to Malaita compared to the other islands of the Solomon Islands. In this practice the groom's parents present customary money of shells and food to the bride's parents.

Malaitan shell-money, manufactured in the Langalanga Lagoon, is the traditional currency used in Malaita and throughout the Solomon Islands. The money consists of small polished shell disks which are drilled and placed on strings. It can be used as payment for bride price, funeral feasts and compensation, with the shell-money having a cash equivalent value. It is also worn as an adornment and status symbol. The standard unit, known as the tafuliae, is several strands 1.5 meter in length. The shell money is still produced by the people of Langalanga Lagoon, but much is inherited, from father to son, and the old traditional strings are now rare.

2.0 MALAITA PROVINCIAL PEACE SUMMIT/ DIALOGUE

The UNPBF Project for ⁶supporting peaceful and inclusive transition in the Solomon Islands was designed to support the government and national stakeholders to create an inclusive space for dialogue and reconciliation and to strengthen national capacity for implementing the Solomon Islands national peace building policy including women's and youth engagement in peace and reconciliation. The project focusses on two main outcome areas: -

1. Inclusive space established for dialogue and reconciliation and national capacity strengthened for implementation of peace policy
2. Youth engaged in peace process with society and leadership

The Malaita provincial peace summit/ dialogue supported by UNPBF project was facilitated on the 23rd to 25th of November 2016. The theme for the provincial dialogue was "*Malaita Leadership and Peacebuilding for Inclusive Sustainable Development*". The dialogue was aimed at strengthening local capacity for development and peacebuilding in the province. Supporting inclusivity in peacebuilding and development, the dialogue seeks to ensure broad participation of Malaitans and inclusion of the widest possible spectrum of opinions.

Therefore, the dialogue has given chiefs, traditional leaders, women's representatives, youth representatives and Community and Faith Based Organizations an opportunity to share and express their views on the current peace and development challenges faced in the province and to offer suggestions and strategies to progress Malaita province forward in its development aspirations. The dialogue has also enabled them to reach recommendations and resolutions on important steps to take forward for prospect of peace and development in the province. It has given rise to a strong desire and

¹ "Malaita Island". Solomon Islands Historical Encyclopedia 1893 – 1978. Retrieved 20th February 2017

² "Malaita Island". Solomon Islands Historical Encyclopedia 1893 – 1978. Retrieved 20th February 2017

³ Stanley, David (1999). South Pacific Handbook. Moon South Pacific. P. 895

⁴ Commonwealth and Colonial Law by Kenneth Roberts – Wray, London, Stevens, 1966. P.897

⁵ Solomon Islands Historical Encyclopedia 1893 – 1978. Retrieved 20th February 2017

⁶ UNPBF Project Document. P. 1

commitment by the Malaita Provincial Government to pursue the resolutions made to ensure peace, development and a prosperous future for all Malaitans.

2.1 Challenges Facing Malaita Province

1. Ongoing customary land disputes which become an obstacle to economic development in the province, mainly in rural areas where ownership of land is vested through customary tenure
2. Unimproved internal revenue collection and lack of wider sustainable economic base and a political environment that allows the private sector to flourish
3. The law and order situation is under threat because of the rapid population growth rate and increase in crime relating to consumption of beer and homemade alcohol (kwaso) and marijuana
4. Climate change and natural disasters are increasingly a concern in Malaita province due to the increased frequency and intensity of bad weather and natural disasters (storm surges, earthquakes and flooding and sea level rise).
5. Poor leadership and social relationships which were shown to negatively influence development in the province



Some of the female participants



Some of the male participants

2.2 The Malaita Dialogue Proper

The Malaita provincial peace dialogue brought together a total number of one hundred and twenty leaders from the Northern, Eastern, Central and Southern regions of Malaita province. These include traditional chiefs, Church leaders, women's representatives, youth representatives, other community leaders and Faith Based Organizations. Out of the one hundred twenty leaders who attended the peace summit, 56% were traditional chiefs and church leaders, 22% were women's representatives and 22% were youth representatives. There were more male participants than female participants. This shows that men still dominated consultations and discussions on peace and development processes – as participants, negotiators, commentators, enforcers and implementers. The limited number of women attending the peace summit clearly showed that women were continually hindered in attempts to boost their participation in peace and development processes in the province. Youth representation was also limited. Youths can play active roles as agents of peace and their full participation must be encouraged for sustained peace and development in the province.

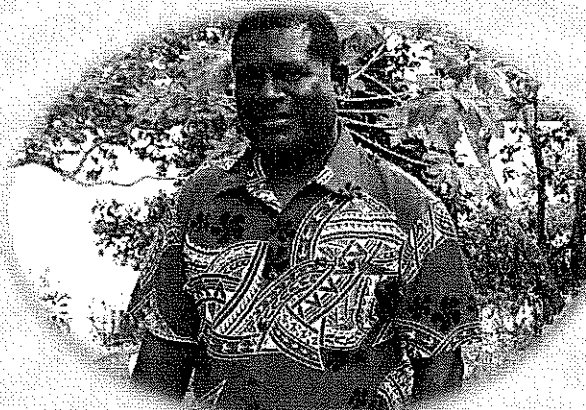
2.2.1 Strategy Employed During the Peace Summit/ Dialogue

The main strategy employed for and during the peace summit include; presentations made on various themes and topics followed by participatory discussions. The discussions were aimed at creating a supportive environment in which participants explore their experiences, exchange ideas and share their views. The presentations made focused on the following themes; healing and restoration of Malaita province, governance and constitutional reform, land reform and development, Malaita land registration/ pilot bill project, traditional/ community governance, and land reform and economic development projects in the province. RAMSI personals were also invited to attend the peace dialogue in which

Deputy RAMSI Coordinator, Acting RAMSI Commander and the RSIPF Commissioner made brief remarks on RAMSI's exit strategy.

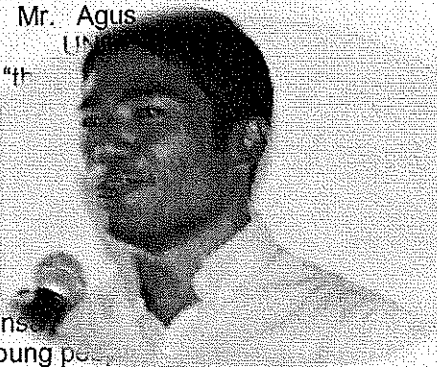
The dialogue saw all those attending contributed very well during the discussions on the different topics presented. There was high – level inputs from the facilitators and presenters which saw active participation and engagement throughout the discussions held.

Box 1: Voices from the Malaita Province Premier and UNDP Representative



- In an opening remark by the premier of Malaita province, Honorable Peter Ramohia stressed that "development can only transpire in the province if there is sustained peace". He further stressed that "every Malaitan has a role to play to ensure peace and development exist in the province". He asked all participants to grasp the opportunity to dialogue and make practical resolutions on the prospect for peace and development in the province.

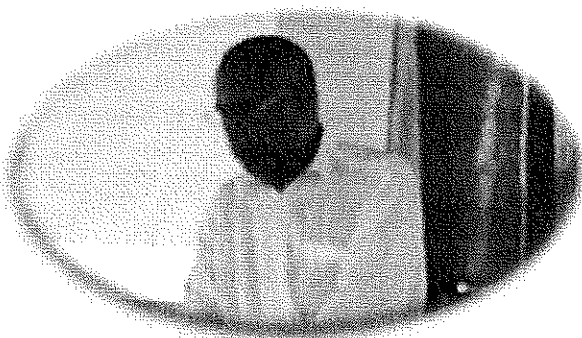
- Mr. Agus Wand



representative and UNPBF Project Manager emphasized that "the UNDP is to support the Government of Solomon Islands in its prospect". He mentioned that "this is an opportunity Malaitans of and possess the spirit of peacebuilding". He further encouraged people and women to be part of this very important peacebuilding and have their voices heard. Mr. Wand also clarified that the project is not here to replace RAMSI and that the project is focused on the provinces (Malaita, Guadalcanal and Western provinces). He mentioned that the project is not paying for any form of compensation but that it is here to facilitate peacebuilding dialogues and support young people and women in development and re – building the Solomon Islands.

Mr. Agus Wand UNDP Representative & Project Manager UNPBF Project

2.2.2 Healing and Restoration of Malaita Province



COM Diocese of Malaita Representative Mr. Lesley Falimae Presentation on Healing & Restoration of Malaita Province

The ethnic tension has forced thousands of Malaitans to be displaced. They were evicted from their long – established settlements on Guadalcanal. Some returned to their home villages in Malaita province while some resort to settle on the outskirts of Honiara, the capital city of the Solomon Islands. The displacement has had a lot of ramifications on the lives of these Malaitans and made them highly vulnerable. They suffer from discrimination, experience significant deprivation and frequently impoverish. They were marginalized and faced with emotional trauma of their uprooting experiences. They turned into excluded people who suffer loss of economic opportunities, loosening of social and familial structures, interruption of school and increased poverty levels. They also suffer relating to dead or missing family members. As such according to Lesley Falimae, a representative from

the Anglican Church of Melanesia, Malaita Diocese, in his presentation, mentioned that "this has made Malaita being sick economically, socially, spiritually and physically and in desperate need of healing and restoration. He reiterated that "without being healed Malaita will not prosper in all its undertakings towards peace, development and prosperity".

Mr. Falimae highlighted that there exist problems with increase psychological health, worsening depression, anxiety, trauma and lawlessness in the province. He said "this can be referred to as untreated post – conflict issues which continue to impact many individuals and communities in the province"; "for others, personal anguish continues because the fate of loved ones who disappeared is unknown and their remains have not been returned". He further mentioned that according to statistics gathered, the province has also witnessed a sudden increase in people with mental illness, teenage pregnancy, substance abuse (kwaso and marijuana), hike in the number of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and crime since year 2000. He stressed that "the alarming increasing rate of mental illness is a great concern to everybody in the province". He continued to stress that "in ten-year time if Malaita is not healed, our communities will not be a safer place to live".

He further emphasized that "many people do not know what post-traumatic stress is about". "They have the experience of trauma, but they do not know what it is". "When we go out and talk about post-traumatic stress in communities, that is when people suddenly realize they need help" he said. He mentioned that "the processes to ensure healing and restoration in Malaita for peace and development to occur must be in place and implemented".

Box 2: Voices from the Participants Regarding Healing & Restoration



A Chief from Eastern region making his contribution

- One of the Chiefs representing the Eastern region pointed out that he has witnessed over the years an increase of young people, especially since 2000, afflicted with substance abuse and that there was connection with legacy of the conflict. This has contributed to a lot of lawlessness and mental disorder. He stressed that it is now becoming a growing concern in the region and responsible authorities and the communities must work together to address these issues to see peace and development occur in the province.

- One of the youth leaders representing the Central region expressed that it's time to come up with effective strategies to tackle this worsening situation in the province. He stressed that youths are the leaders of tomorrow and that the current situation does not portray this

expectation. He further mentioned that peace and development cannot occur in the province given the current situation the province is faced with.

- A female youth representative from the Southern region also expressed; "there are people living in their communities whose lives are haunted, they roam around and are silent; they are traumatized. They don't want to participate in any form of development; their minds need healing".

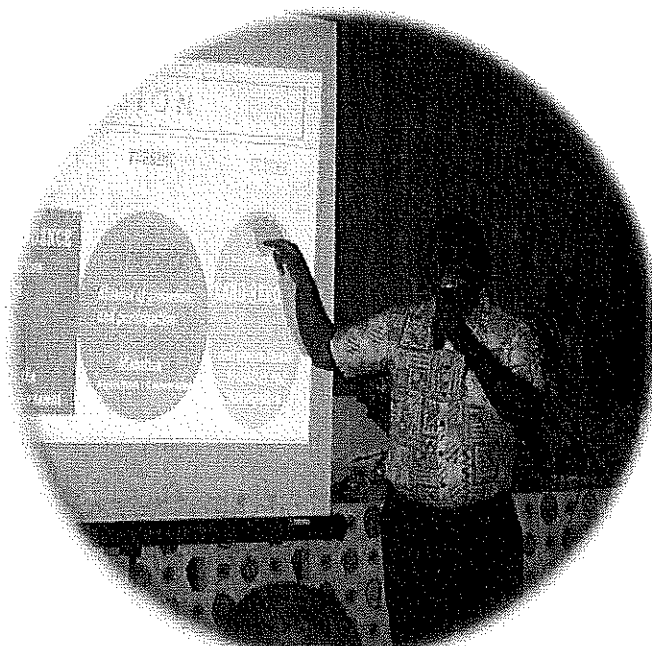


A female youth representative making her contribution

2.2.3 Land Reform and Traditional Governance in Malaita Province

The main topic highlighted in the Malaita province peace dialogue was land reform. This land reform is intended at replacing the current land tenure system. The current land tenure system is totally alienating the land rights from the ultimate right exercised under the customary land rights, and the traditional governance. Therefore, to reconcile the introduced legal frameworks with the customary law systems and traditional governance structures is one of the challenges Malaita province has experienced since time immemorial. An area where these differing systems continue to clash is land tenure and the related issue of resource rights. This has to do with the fact that land is owned not by one person only but by clans or by people who believe they belong to the same genealogy rather than owned outright by individuals and administered in a manner that is more like trusteeship or custodian.

In Malaita province people usually inherit access to land and other resources as part of the relationships which give them their place in society. An area of land belongs to everyone who is descended from any

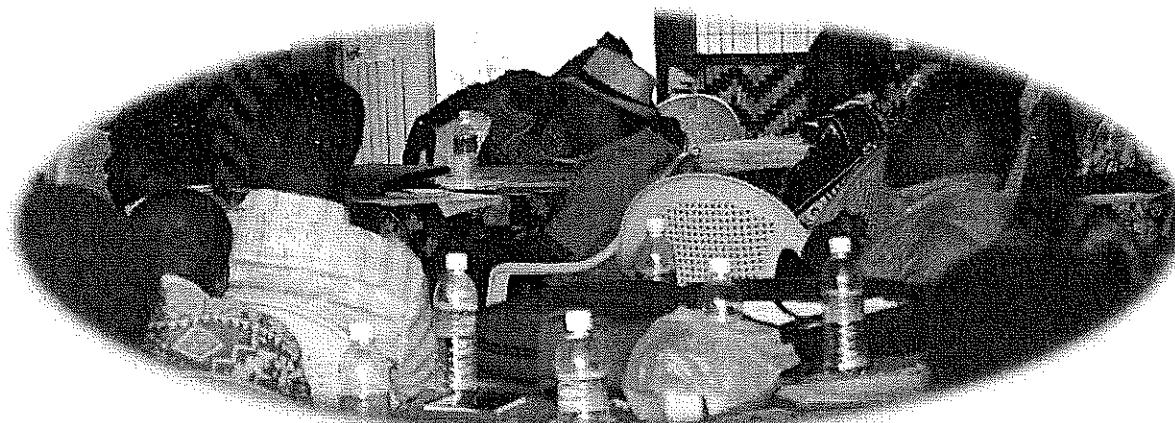


Mr. Willy Hiuare making a presentation on land reform

of the people the land belonged to in the past, going all the way back to the ancestor who first settled the in land or received it from someone who was there before him. But among all these relatives, those descended through a line of fathers and sons oversee the land (primary rights). Men related in this way usually live together, on this land or elsewhere, since a man usually stays with his father's family and a woman normally leaves home to live with her husband. So although in theory a piece of land may belong to an enormous number of people and everyone belongs to many different lands, in practice people remember and claim only a few of the lands they inherit through their female ancestors. Even so, many people live where they are "born of women" - that is, where they have only "secondary rights" and can use the land but not manage it.

regarding decision-making over resource development, may be inadvertently privileging certain individuals or groups with absolute authority over land use. This has often replaced customary norms of communal ownership and resource sharing, setting the stage for dispute.

Thus, the legal system's application of terms such as 'traditional owner', particularly



Participant's listening to Mr. Hiuare's presentation on land reform

Disputes over the rightful ownership of traditional land have been part of everyday discourse for the people of Malaita province and has been long - established. This is a subject that is far and wide discussed both in informal conversations, in village meetings, and in the local courts. Obviously, if more development projects start up, the disputes over land ownership will increase.

According to Willy Hiware, a lawyer by profession who was invited to do presentations on land reform, traditional governance and development during the peace dialogue, highlighted that "Malaita province is still in its alienation stage". This means that there still exist absence of land protection and participation by land and resource owners, investors and the provincial government. This has raised the question on "how can economic development coexist with indigenous property rights regarding land in the province?" He stressed that "while the people of Malaita province wants economic development, the province must rely on outside investment". He further stated that "the culture, language, skills, knowledge, sea, rivers, environment, minerals and the forest are still subject to alienation thus hindering development and prosperity in the province".

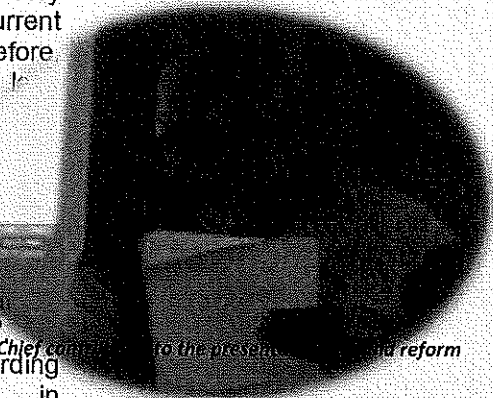


Mr. Hiware responding to questions & comments made regarding land reform

Therefore, according to Mr. Hiware the way forward is in – alienation through a system of land reform that allows land and resource owners, investors and the provincial government to be safe guarded while ensuring security, peace, sustainability and equal benefits for all.

Box 3: Voices from the Participants Regarding Land Reform and Traditional Governance

- A youth leader in the Northern Region mentioned that he was very encouraged by the presentation on land reform. He said "the current land tenure be an obstacle for development in the province". Therefore the Malaita provincial government must embrace the propose reform put forward to witness tangible development in the provin
- A chief from Central Kwara'ae said "based on the presentatio now see that we are not protected by our current constitution comes land".
- A Chief from South Malaita asked "is there a political will to p land reform through". In response, the Deputy Premier for t province said "the land reform is in the best interest of the cu provincial government and there is high political will to push for it".
- A Chief from East Malaita mentioned that the pilot project regarding land registration in Malaita is not right. This has affected the Aluta basin oil palm project. He mentioned land ownership is still held by trustee members or custodian and not the whole tribes/ clans. This still gives room for land disputes.
- The Deputy Provincial Secretary of Malaita province in his contribution regarding land reform mentioned that "the peace summit is timely and that land dispute has been an obstacle to development in the province"; "ensuring respect for law and order, honesty and commitment to good leadership, maintenance of unity and political will in the province are qualitative attributes towards land reform that enabled sustainable peace and development".



A Chief contributing to the presentation on land reform



DPS of Malaita Province contributed to presentation on land reform

2.2.4 Peacebuilding in Malaita Province

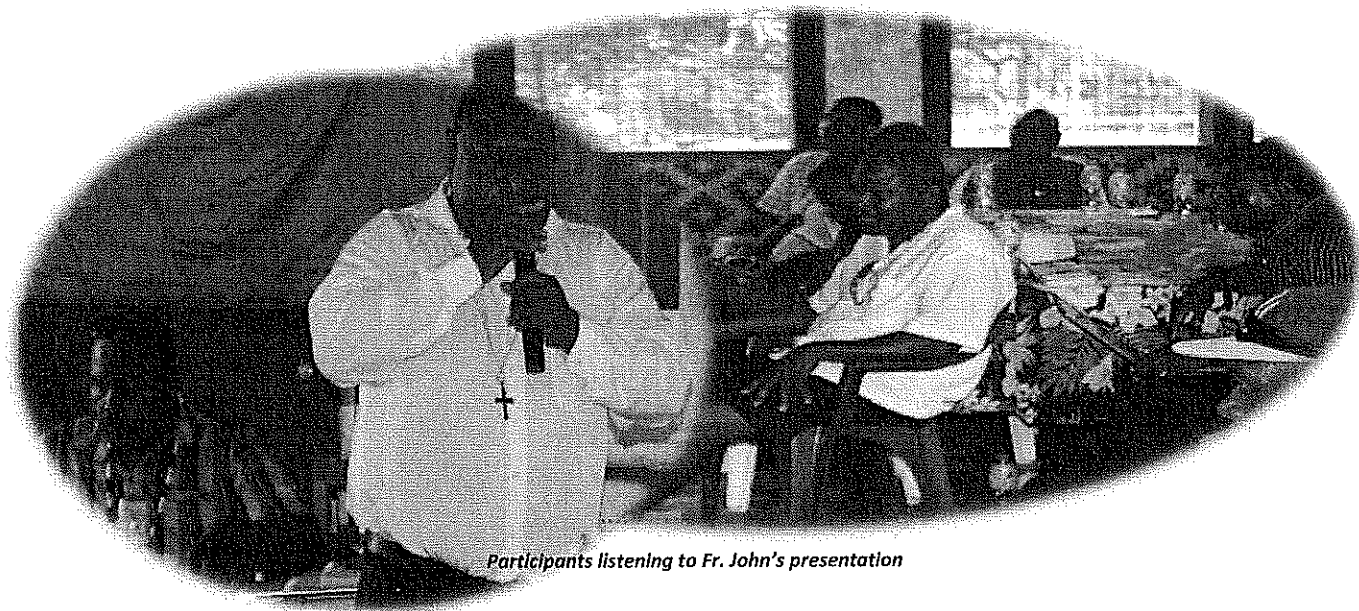


Fr. John making a presentation on peacebuilding

"The need for Malaita province today is peacebuilding through trauma healing, mediation and negotiation, reconciliation and forgiveness, reparation and reconciliation and community re – integration" This was highlighted by Fr. John Ngalihesi from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). He further mentioned that "peacebuilding is a process that facilitates the establishment of durable peace and tries to prevent the recurrence of violence by addressing root causes and effects of conflict through reconciliation, institution building, and political as well as economic transformation". The PMO representative reiterated that peacebuilding in the province as well in the Solomon Islands as whole will ensure all citizen live in a peaceful environment and have

equal opportunities and that peacebuilding is everybody's business.

Regarding healing and reconciliation of trauma victims Fr. John mentioned that "we are dealing with symptoms of violence, wounds, scars, abuses, loss and death in all their different forms". He highlighted that traumatic reactions occur when action is of no avail. "When neither resistance nor escape is possible, the human system of self-defense becomes disorganized" he said. He further stressed that "traumatizing experiences are not only episodic but also systemic and therefore can extend over many years". As such Fr. John reiterated that there is need for trauma healing, raising the trauma repertoire of communities and identifying peacebuilders in communities in the province.



Participants listening to Fr. John's presentation

Fr. John mentioned that PMO, MNURP and UNDP is currently putting together a national comprehensive reparation framework. The objective of the framework is aimed at healing the nation, to deliver a proper closure to those who suffered by restoring human dignity, and to provide a path for the peoples of Solomon Islands to reconcile and to focus on the future, with the goals of preventing a reoccurrence of the violence, and improving the economy and community wellbeing. Fr. John stressed that the framework is in alignment with customary and Christian principles that provides guidance for implementation of the National Comprehensive Reparations. The framework also takes into considerations the principles of non-discrimination, restorative justice, empathy, equity, fairness, efficiency, and confidentiality.

A reparation preparation programme is being put together. The programme is aimed at collective peacebuilding trainings, collective symbolic reconciliation activities appropriate to the local customs in key areas not targeted/ visited, outreach, consultations and discussions with provincial stakeholders and community representatives on promoting development in the communities. In line with the reparation preparation programme a national reparation programme is also being put together. These include the programme for collective reparations for governance and land reform, programme for individuals and collective reparations to promote and facilitate access to land and housing for "internally displaced persons" on government registered land, programme for collective reparations for the exhumation and return of bodies to loved ones, programme for individual and collective reparations in education and a programme for individual and collective reparations in health. "To ensure the programmes are implemented an Independent Reparations Commission with seven commissioners is established to coordinate the implementation of the National Reparations Programme" Fr. John said.

Box 4: Voices from the Participants Regarding Peacebuilding

- A youth representative in his contribution mentioned that the positive role that youths can play in peacebuilding must be recognized. "The recognition needs to take into accounts the interrelationship between sustainable development and peace as pervasive in the daily lives of youths in the province". He said.
- A female youth representative from the Southern region, in her contribution stressed that the inclusion of women and young people in peacebuilding processes ensures a relevant, representative and active category of the society and will positively contribute to peace, security and development in Malaita province.



A Chief made his contribution on the session on peacebuilding

- One of the chiefs in his contribution said "I am more than happy to hear that the government has come up with a national reparation programme regarding governance and land reform. Malaita province need a land reform that will address and do away with land disputes paving the way forward for development".



A female representative contributed to session on peacebuilding

2.2.5 RAMSI and RSIPF



Deputy RAMSI Coordinator making a brief remark

The Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) is a partnership between the people and government of Solomon Islands and fifteen countries of the Pacific⁷. RAMSI arrived in Solomon Islands in July 2003 at the request of the Solomon Islands Government⁸. Since then, RAMSI has been helping the Solomon Islands lay the foundations for long-

term stability, security and prosperity⁹.

The Deputy RAMSI Coordinator in his remark mentioned that "RAMSI is leaving very soon (Mid – 2017) and that it is now a smaller mission and the nature of the work has now changed". He said "the Royal



RAMSI Acting Commander making her brief remark

⁷ <http://www.ramsi.org>. Retrieved on the 6th March 2017

⁸ <http://www.ramsi.org>. Retrieved on the 6th March 2017

⁹<http://www.ramsi.org>. Retrieved on the 6th March 2017

Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) is increasing its capacity and that RAMSI is confident in the police force with its current strong leadership"; "after over ten years of extensive capacity development by RAMSI, the RSIPF has become a very different police force". "It now has greater levels of accountability and disciplinary procedures". He said. He further mentioned that "the RSIPF to progress the organization into a modern, effective and independent police force".

The Acting RAMSI Commander mentioned that "RAMSI will still be supporting the RSIPF". In her brief remark, she stressed that "the support will continue to occur through re – armament of the police force, infrastructure development, ongoing trainings for RSIPF". "The limited rearmament of the RSIPF represents the last key capability gap needing to be addressed for the force to be able to independently guarantee law and order in Solomon Islands". She said. She stressed that "this must be addressed for RAMSI to successfully complete its mission". She further emphasized that "there are occasions when police officers need to be able to use firearms during their duties in self-defense, or in defense of others"; "police officers may come across situations where there is an immediate threat of death or serious injury of themselves or members of the public".



RSIPF Commissioner making a brief remark

The police commissioner highlighted that the police force is ready. He mentioned that "RSIPF has been providing security in the Solomon Islands by its own". He acknowledges that RAMSI has done a lot of work to develop the RSIPF over the years. This

include establishment of real time communication, providing trainings to RSIPF in other countries, police officers are serving the United Nations in other countries. However, he mentioned that this is a work in progress. The RSIPF must continue to be developed and improved.

Box 5: Voices from the Participants Regarding RAMSI



A women's representative contributed to RAMSI & RSIPF

- A women representative in her contribution mentioned that, given the situation that Malaita province is faced with, it is high time the traditional leaders, church leaders and the communities work closely together with the RSIPF to strengthened law and order through community policing in the province.

- One of the chiefs in his contribution expressed that he was happy to hear the developments so far regarding the RSIPF. He mentioned that listening to the presentations made by the RAMSI Deputy Coordinator, RAMSI Acting Commander and the RSIPF Commissioner made him have confidence in the RSIPF.



A Chief contributed to RAMSI & RSIPF presentation



A women's representative contributed to RAMSI & RSIPF presentation

- A women's representative from the Central region in her contribution mentioned that it was the women and the children who have suffered very much from the ethnic tension. She said although RAMSI will be leaving, she was very appreciative of the fact that RAMSI has helped strengthened institutions, the rule of law and improved services with education and health.

2.3 Recommendations and Resolutions

Documented follow – up actions for implementation in 2017 were made as outcomes of the peace dialogue by all stakeholders. Although UNDP through the UNPBF project will render support to wards

implementation of the above recommendations, the Malaita Provincial Government and the National Government through MNURP must make commitment to ensure these recommendations are implemented.

Box 6: The Following are the Resolutions Made at the Closure of the Dialogue

1. The adoption of the proposed Land Reform Pilot Bill (In alienation law) is a way forward to secure, protect, sustain and participate in socioeconomic development. Action by: MPG/OPMC
2. We recognized that Land, Sea and Air Space resources are the Tribal Entities of Malaita people.
3. Malaita Members of National Parliament and Provincial Members to render mutual and full support in the adoption of the proposed Pilot Bill (In alienation law). Action by: MPG
4. The National Government declares Malaita is a land recording zone under the proposed Pilot Bill (In alienation law). Action by: MPG/Land Reform Unit of OPMC
5. A subsidiary Land Reform Office to be established in early 2017 in Malaita Province with funding from the National Government. Action: MPG/Land Reform Unit of the OPMC.
6. The Malaita House of Chiefs and Tribal Leaders shall be responsible to carry out the land recording process in their respective Tribal lands. Action by: Malaita Interim Great Council of Chiefs/ MNUR.
7. Establish an Interim Committee charged with the responsibility for overseeing the implementation of the land recording process is carried out as required. Action by: MPG/MNURP – Malaita Peace Office.
8. The National Government of Solomon Islands to fully support the implementation of this land reform process by ensuring funding is available from relevant Government Ministries and Agencies, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other International Donor Partners. Action: MPG/ MNURP – Malaita Peace Office
9. We recognized and value the importance of Healing and Reconciliation for development and progress in Malaita. We therefore call for the design and implementation of a Malaita wide Peacebuilding programme commencing in 2017 to 2018. Action: MPG/MNURP – Malaita Peace Office
10. The Malaita Provincial Government in collaboration with ALL Malaita Tribal Elders and Chiefs to set-up the MALAITA GREAT COUNCIL of CHIEFS. Action by: MPG/ Malaita Interim Great Council of Chiefs/ MNURP
11. We recognized the value and importance of having memorial monuments to mark and bring closure to the history of the people of Malaita. Action by: MPG/MNURP/UNDP?
12. All Reconciliation programmes and ceremonies to be conducted in accordance to Malaita culture and Christian belief. Action by: MPG/MGCC/MNURP – Malaita Peace Office
13. The Ministry of National Unity Reconciliation and Peace through the Malaita Peace Office in collaboration with the Malaita Provincial Government to address all outstanding human rights and property rights violation in Malaita for submission to the United Nations through the indigenous voices of the region to restore justice and bring closure. Action by: MPG/OPMC/MNURP
14. We recognized the importance of the erection of the communication towers at Pelau and Sikaiana to address climate change. Action by: MPG
15. The development and construction of roads, public utilities and amenities are important for effective delivery and coordination of peacebuilding programmes and activities in Malaita. Action by MPG/OPMC and MID
16. Malaita to establish a Peace, Justice and Development Commission in 2017. Action by MPG/MNURP- Malaita Peace Office.
17. Malaita Provincial Government to submit the Governance Model for further consultations and discussions with the Ministry of Provincial Government for their legal clarification. Action by: MPG/MPGIS
18. Malaita provincial Government to draft the Malaita Traditional Governance Ordinance to strengthen, preserve and promote our worthy cultural values, norms, language, arts, music, dance, folklore, monument, totems and practices. MPG/MGCC/MNURP – Malaita Peace Office Malaita Peace Office
19. The Malaita Provincial Government to establish a School for Cultural and Language in Malaita. Action by: MPG/MNURP-Malaita Peace Office/MCT
20. Malaita Provincial Government to scrutinize foreigners setting up shops in Auki that sells all sorts of different items in the shop. Action by: MPG/Ministry of Trade & Commerce

3.0 CONCLUSION

The Malaita provincial peace dialogue has been considerable. With the high level of participation, presentations and discussions, it must be noted that the dialogue has paved the way forward for healing and restoration, peace and security for the development aspirations of the people of Malaita. Among the many resolutions made during the dialogue, the resolution on land reform gained support from all participants as the major step forward towards sustained peace and development. During the dialogue, it was identified that the current land tenure system is weak often depriving individuals and communities

of essential resource rights and other natural assets and has hindered the prospect for peace and development. The Malaita peace dialogue also demonstrated to the people of Malaita province that inclusiveness and participation can strengthen unity by ensuring rights of all Malaitans and creating peace and harmony for sustained peace and development.

4.0 REFERENCES

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Anthony Veke

By EDDIE OSIEFALO

GUADALCANAL Province (GP) is looking at ways to progress its development aspirations from now until 2040.

About 170 Guadalcanal people including their members of parliament, provincial government

and resources persons discussed their dreams in a three day summit held at Heritage Park Hotel which started on Tuesday.

Guadalcanal Province premier Anthony Veke said leaders discussed different issues that hinder progress of Guadalcanal to develop lives of their people.

Mr Veke said it's an opportunity to look back to the past and find solutions now and into future.

He said in the past people of Guadalcanal demanded that the national government address their pressing issues which related to developments.

However, Mr Veke said they look at this and see whether to keep demanding the government or rise up and develop the people of Guadalcanal first.

Furthermore, Mr Veke said there needs to be peace and law and order on Guadalcanal before they start talking about developments in future.

opments in future.

United Nations Development Programme is funding the summit.

In the meantime, Malaita Province is also holding its summit, funded by UNDP in Auki.

Malaita leaders summit in Auki

By BIRA'AU WILSON SAENI
in Auki

A three days leaders' summit to discuss peace, reconciliation, land and other general issues affecting Malaita will end today.

The summit which was officially opened on Wednesday in Auki was organized by the Malaita Peace and Reconciliation Office in Auki funded under the United Nation Development Program (UNDP).

Malaita provincial peace and reconciliation deputy director Francis Kairi said, the dialogue was requested by the Malaita provincial government because the province is ready to venture into some of its program so it requested the dialogue to allow leaders to come and share ideas.

Some of the main agendas discussed during the summit includes; peace building, how to address land problems in Malaita, what causes the problems

in Malaita in general and how would the stake holders work together to solve the associate problems.

Mr Kairi said the type of approach they are now taking to address some of the issues in Malaita are different from the traditional one man decision usually used in Malaita.

He said this time they encouraged a more participatory democracy approach which includes women and youths as well in the decision making sphere.

Present at the summit are; the Solomon Islands Police Commissioner Frank Prendergast, members of the RSIPF Auki, members of the Malaita Provincial Assembly, Malaita Premier Peter Chanel Ramohia, Malaita provincial secretary Jackson Gege, Malaita chiefs, women group leaders, UNDP representatives from the Ministry of National Unity, Reconciliation and Peace and other stakeholders.

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