



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

# Pacific Parliamentary Effectiveness Initiative (PPEI) Project

## Progress Report

Quarter 3 of 2017  
(October - December)

Prepared for New Zealand Ministry of Foreign  
Affairs

Funded by:



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## Introduction

The 2017 Quarter 3 report outlines PPEI's activities by country for the period October to December 2017, according to the project's financial year. These countries include Tonga, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, and the Cook Islands. The project remains on track both in terms of activity implementation and financial delivery. It's Activity Log list can be found on pages 4 and 5 while the financial expenditure for is part of *Annex 1*.

# Quarter 2 Activity Log List (July – September)

15-17 October	Tonga IT to attend course in Auckland on how to construct Database	Auckland
16-19 October	Professional Certificate in the Work of Public Accounts Committees (Sulia Makasini)	Tonga
16-19 October	Professional Certificate in the Work of Public Accounts Committees (Hon. Rick, Jasmine)	Solomon Islands
16-20 October	South-South Attachment for Gloria with Fiji – Tonga Parliament	Tonga
16-20 October	IT Attachments for LA with Fiji Parliament to understudy the development of Mobile App	Tonga
23-25 Oct	Hansard Training	PNG
30 October	Meeting with MFAT to discuss PPEI	Wellington
1 -28 October	One month procedural attachment to another parliament	Solomon Islands
6-10 Nov	Review of Standing Orders (SO) of Parliament	Tonga
6-10 November	Consultant to review and develop a monitoring and Evaluation methodology for LA	Tonga
Dec TBC	Training for new Clerk	Vanuatu
16-17 November	Workshop #1 – Budget Workshop #2 – National Development Plan	Vanuatu
23 November	Workshop for MPs on key development issue – climate change?	Cook Islands
21 November	Workshop for MPs on the Crime Bill	Cook Islands
22 November	Workshop fo_r Other Bills	Cook Islands

24 November	Consultation with Political party of reform of Standing Orders	Cook Islands
27-30 Nov	Procedural Advise during sitting of parliament	Cook Islands
7-8 Dec	Attachment with tables Office for Losa Latu Hasting (Tables Officer) with NZ Parliament	Tonga
7-8 Dec	Attachment with 2 Women Mps -Akosita Lavulavu and Losaline Ma'asi with NZ Parliament	Tonga
11-13 December	South-South Training for Public Accounts Committee Chairs and Secretaries	Wellington

# Summary Overview

Over the period considered, the project continued to deliver high quality support and assistance the four Parliaments.

Some of the highlights of PPEI's work in this quarter include:

- The first ever training for Hansard staff of the National Parliament of PNG was implemented with involvement of the New Zealand Parliament;
- A five-days south-south exchange involving four staff of the Tonga Legislative Assembly and staff of the Fiji Parliament took place in Fiji;
- A parliamentarian, member of the public account committee of the Parliament of the Solomon Islands and a staff of the Tongan Legislative Assembly completed their *Professional Certificate in the work of Public Accounts Committees*.

The UNDP team continued discussions with MFAT on potential additional project funding for the current PPEI countries, and discussed the inclusion of Vanuatu in the project from the first quarter of 2018 onwards.

# Highlights of Activities

## Papua New Guinea

**24-25 October 2017:** At the request of the National Parliament of PNG, UNDP, in partnership with the New Zealand Parliament, organized the first ever training for the Hansard unit staff.

The sessions allowed participants to gain an insight into how another Hansard unit works, in this case in the Parliament of New Zealand. The sessions were interactive and allowed for free exchange of ideas, information and sharing of experiences between participants and resource people.



*Participants of the Hansard training at the PNG National Parliament.*

A total of 35 parliamentary staff participated in the workshop, of which 14 were Hansard staff and others from the Human Resources, Committees, IT and the Table office. Senior staff of the Hansard unit of the New Zealand Parliament and UNDP staff were the resource people at this training.

Additionally, side meetings with senior Parliament staff and the UNDP country office in PNG enabled to agree on follow-up action plan for 2018.

## Tonga

**16 – 18 October:** At the request of the Legislative Assembly (LA) of Tonga, PPEI supported the attachment of an IT officer at the Ace Training Centre in Auckland. The LA had been looking at upgrading its IT system to meet current demands and this training was identified as relevant to the LA needs. The IT officer has gained the relevant knowledge and skills to plan the development of the Parliament's new database management system.

**16 – 19 October:** PPEI supported a Legislative Assembly Committee and Researcher staff complete her Professional Certificate in the Work of Public Accounts Committees.

**16 – 20 October:** The south-south learning exchange between four staff of the LA of Tonga and those of the Fiji Parliament aimed at sharing knowledge and experiences in their parliamentary

work. Through an interactive format, the exchange covered key areas such as information technology, human resource management experiences, management of parliamentary business, effective servicing of standing committees, effective Parliamentary Committees reporting and Fiji's Parliament education and public outreach programme. An IT officer and member of the delegation specifically studied the development of the mobile application (MobileApp) used by the Fiji Parliament. Amongst other activities, the staff observed one of the Committees meeting and accompanied the staff of Fiji Parliament on a community site visit.

The exchange provided an enriching learning experience for staff of both parliaments.

**6 -10 November:** At the request of the LA, the project provided an expert who supported the review of the existing Rules of Procedure and Standing Orders (SO) and subsequently developed revised provisions for the Rules and SO. The objective was to get the new Standing Orders ready for further review by the new Parliament for its first sitting in early December 2017.



*Staff of the Tongan Legislative Assembly at the welcome meeting with the Fiji Parliament Secretary General*

**6 – 10 November:** The project provided an expert to develop the LA Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework/Plan to assist them in measuring its performance against the approved Annual Corporate Plan.

The expert provided key information relating to baseline data, indicators, performance targets aligned to the approved Annual Corporate Plan for the Assembly. Additionally, the expert provided a set of recommendation of systems and methods on how Assembly could collect, evaluate and measure its performance against targets set out in the Annual Corporate Plan.

**7 – 8 December:** As part of ongoing support to Pacific women and their role in parliamentary democracy, the project supported the attachment of two Tongan women MPs with the New Zealand Parliament. Similar arrangements done in the past have proved useful and enriching for MPs and parliament staff alike.

Amongst others, areas covered during the two-day attachment included the role of an MP, how committees operate, how MPs could work with civil society and interest groups and how MPs



could engage and interact with their constituencies. The lady MPs had the opportunity of interacting with a New Zealand woman MP, observed a Committee meeting and also engaged with, and were briefed by key stakeholders like those from the Office of the Auditor General, Bills Office, Library and Research Services etc.

At the request of the Tongan LA, a Tables Officer was also attached simultaneously to the New Zealand Parliament Tables Office during this period. Like the lady MPs, the officer had interactive sessions with senior Tables Office staff and other relevant units covering a range of topics including: the role and function of a Table Office in Parliament, working relationship with other units and departments, the role of Tables staff in between and during Parliament sitting periods etc.

## Solomon Islands

**1 – 28 October:** Utilising the twinning arrangements, PPEI supported the work attachment of the Principal Procedures Officer of the National Parliament of the Solomon Islands with the New South Wales Parliament. The objective of the attachment was to strengthen the knowledge, skills and confidence of the officer in the core aspects of parliamentary practice and procedure and ultimately put these skills to practice in her home parliament.

**16 – 19 October:** PPEI supported a Member of Parliament (and PAC) in the Solomon Islands complete his Professional Certificate in the Work of Public Accounts Committees.



*Ms. Jean Sahu of the Parliament of Solomon Islands with staff of the New South Wales Procedures Office.*

## Cook Islands

**21 22 November:** At the request of the Parliament of Cook Islands, the project facilitated two workshops to discuss how to better scrutinise and review bills before the House. The first day of the workshop was dedicated to the Crimes Bill 2017 (which was then debated in the Cook Islands Parliament in early December), and the second day focused on other Bills, some of which included the Justice of the Peace Bill, Personal Properties Securities Bill, and the Maritime Zones Bill.

The workshops were designed to get all MPs “on the same page”; and was an opportunity to discuss Bills that were to be presented to parliament so MPs clearly understood their content and implications.

**23 - 30 November:** The project provided an expert to assist the Parliament of the Cook Islands with the review of its Standing Orders. During the Parliament sitting on 27 to 30 November, the expert also provided procedural advise to the Speaker.

## Vanuatu

**16 – 17 November:** In 2017, the Parliament of Vanuatu and UNDP agreed to give a new impetus to parliamentary strengthening activities in Vanuatu, in the general framework of UNDP regional activities in the Pacific – and in the perspective of Vanuatu’s future inclusion as one of the PPEI’s focus countries. In this light, a two-day workshop focused on the National Development Plan (NDP) and the budget was convened for Vanuatu MPs to assist them fulfil their role with increased efficiency and effectiveness during the budget cycle, especially regarding their capacity to analyze and adopt the annual Appropriation Bill and connect their work on budget with national priorities laid down in the National Sustainable Development Plan.

Presenters included line ministries (DSPPAC and Finance) and the Office of the Auditor General, generating productive interactions and discussions with MPs.

## Regional Activities

**12 – 13 December:** As part of UNDP’s commitment to working with Pacific parliaments to support their law-making, oversight and representative functions as well as strengthening the general capacity of Parliament Secretariats, the project convened a seminar to support the work of Public Account Committees through the capacity building of their leadership (chair and deputy chair) and support staff (committee clerk). The seminar

was attended by fifteen (15) PAC Committee members and staff under the Pacific Parliamentary Effectiveness Initiative (PPEI) Project countries: Cook Islands, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga. Delegations from the parliaments of Samoa and Fiji also participated under the Fiji Parliament Support Project (FPSP) and the regional parliamentary support project (DFAT regional).



*Participants at the Pacific PAC seminar in Wellington.*

Discussions over the one and a half days of the workshop focused on how PAC committees currently work in the seven countries and where Members and Secretariat staff in each country thought they needed targeted assistance to strengthen the Committees so that they are better able to carry out their roles with increased efficiency and effectiveness. Consequently, PAC would be better able to contribute to the budget and Public Financial Management (PFM) cycles in their respective countries, especially enhancing their capacity to contribute to the national budget process and link their work on the budget with national priorities and policies. The seminar provided a peer to peer learning platform for sharing of best practices and exchange of information on the status of each Committee and identification of areas for support to strengthen PACs.

The group also visited the New Zealand Parliament for introductory briefings on Select Committees and the role and functions of the Auditor General, observed two Committee meetings; the Health and Finance and Expenditure Committees and Parliament Question Time where Members of Parliament (MPs) ask Ministers and other MPs oral questions.

## Project Management and Implementation

The National Parliament of PNG has appointed a senior officer as UNDP focal point; the decision should be able to provide a new impetus to the implementation of activities in the near future. There are a number of activities planned for PNG in the first quarter and the project will continue to pursue discussions with the officer as he is the key counterpart on the ground.

The project's work in Tonga, Cook Islands and Solomon Islands have progressed well. With the strong leadership at the helm of their respective parliaments, it is envisaged that these parliaments will continue to take advantage of UNDP support. However, as mentioned in the last quarter's report, work in these countries remains intrinsically linked to the political situation and implementation challenges remain because neither Parliament has a sitting calendar, making activity planning difficult.

## Annex 1: Financial Summary of Expenditure for the PPEI project for the period 01 October – 31 December 2017

INTENDED OUTPUTS	RESULTS	EXPENDITURE (USD\$)
Output 2.1. Parliaments, constitution making bodies and electoral institutions enabled to perform core functions for improved accountability, participation and representation, including for peaceful transitions	<b>Result 2.1.A:</b> Members of parliament are supported more effectively by the parliamentary secretariat through the provision of induction training for first time members, research and briefing materials	\$98,774.75
	<b>Result 2.1.B:</b> Cross-cutting development issues mainstreamed in Pacific parliaments	\$10,865.99
	<b>Result 2.1.C:</b> Development of a participatory and transparent National planning and budget process	\$29,731.26
Output 2.6. Measures in place to increase women's participation in decision-making	<b>Result 2.6.A:</b> Capacity of potential women candidates increased through provision of training and capacity building activities	\$105.96
	<b>Result 2.6.B:</b> Increased number of women candidates selected by political parties in selected Pacific countries.	\$6597.43
<b>TOTAL (USD)</b>		<b>\$146,075.39</b>

### Breakdown by Country

INTENDED OUTPUTS	RESULTS	EXPENDITURE (USD\$)			
		Cook Islands	Tonga	PNG	Solomon Islands
Output 2.1.	<b>Result 2.1. A</b>	\$21,260.12	\$38,762.89	\$17,014.13	\$21,737.61
	<b>Result 2.1. B</b>	\$10,208.00	\$575.51	\$0	\$82.48
	<b>Result 2.1. C</b>	\$3,341.79	\$12,104.64	\$0	\$14,284.83
Output 2.6.	<b>Result 2.6. A</b>	0	0	\$105.96	\$0
	<b>Result 2.6. B</b>	0	0	\$5,114.35	\$1,483.08
<b>TOTAL (USD)</b>		<b>\$34,809.91</b>	<b>\$51,443.04</b>	<b>\$22,234.44</b>	<b>\$37,588.00</b>