



LOCAL NEWS

PM hails UN peacebuilding efforts in SI

PRIME Minister Rick Hou has hailed the United Nation's (UN) peacebuilding programme in the country.

In his speech to officially launch the new peacebuilding programme supported by the UN Peacebuilding Fund, Mr Hou said the UN peacebuilding programme is important for a lot of reasons.

Firstly, the Prime Minister said

RAMSI left Solomon Islands last year and there is a need to sustain the many gains and achievements in the country, as well as deepening of the peacebuilding efforts through accelerating development and reform.

Secondly, he said as the country prepares for the national general elections next year, it is important to ensure the integrity of the process and

for a clean and peaceful election outcome.

But equally important, Hou said the UN peacebuilding programme is also about accelerating development, inclusive participation, and nation building.

He said the current UN programme design should allow for open dialogues on key development issues connecting

to peace and stability in the country. "This is also my Government's commitment, but all of us have to work harder to deliver development and peace in our communities," he said.

Hou said development of the Solomon Islands as a whole is essential to building long lasting peace in our communities.

"We surely cannot have peace at the national level if some

of our communities are left behind. Nobody should be left behind. This is our international commitment and it is our government's commitment," he said. Meanwhile, the Prime Minister also commended the role of the UN Peacebuilding Fund, and Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) which are firm supporters of our efforts to building peace globally.

"I am very encouraged by the

strong partnership the Solomon Islands has with the UN family of agencies, more especially the UNDP and the UN Women.

To that end I would like to take this opportunity to thank the UN peacebuilding team in Solomon Islands who have worked very hard to provide support under the first peacebuilding programme."

—OPMC PRESS

Sustaining peace and stability is our priority: Prime Minister Hou

PRIME Minister Rick Hou says sustaining peace and stability is a priority of the SIDCC Government.

Mr Hou made these remarks during the launching of the new peacebuilding programme supported by the UN Peacebuilding Fund.

The Prime Minister highlighted that his Government's efforts to sustaining peace are on four broad categories.

Firstly, he said that the Government ought to have an explicit and deliberate peace building policy for all its citizens irrespective of where they reside, and whether or not they are affected by conflict.

"Our development agenda is in terms of public investments in the productive sector, initiatives to improve the quality of governance, and taking initiatives to hasten development in the rural areas. These

at the heart of attaining lasting peace and it is for that reason that our development policies must be geared towards benefiting everybody."

Secondly, the Prime Minister said the Government firmly believes that peace building initiatives must be continuous and well-grounded in Government existing capacities for peace development.

"To this end let me state clearly that my Government endorses the communique from the national dialogue last year. We also support the resolutions from the provincial dialogue, Women Summit and Youth forums. This is in addition to the TRC recommendations. We are adopting key resolutions from the communique in the SIDCCG policy programme, especially in the interest of accelerating inclusive development and maintaining stability."

Hou added that the development

critical for purposes of implementing our peace building initiatives.

Thirdly, he said the SIDCCG wants the peace building agenda to be an endogenous process. The Prime Minister said this requires strong and inclusive national ownership and leadership.

"Needless to say, Solomon Islands is one of a few countries that have a ministry dedicated for peacebuilding and reconciliation," he said.

And fourthly, the Prime Minister said SIDCCG is cognisant of the fact that peace policy is a multi-sectoral, all-encompassing policy deserving attention at the highest levels of national government.

"In this respect I am sure I will be speaking for all of us to say that we will never allow our country to slide back to our darkest days of ethnic conflict we have experienced between 1998-2003," he said.

