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United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office

# National Dialogue

## Sustaining Peace and Stability in Solomon Islands

Venue: Heritage Park Hotel

19 – 20 June 2017

Honiara



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## Foreward

I am honored to host this important and inclusive National Dialogue. It focuses on priority initiatives that are important to achieving and maintaining sustainable peace and stability in our beloved country, Solomon Islands. This was an occasion many of us have been waiting for. I have also been waiting for this occasion for a long time. This is an opportunity for us to reflect on our country's experiences since the civil unrests, and to use that experience to shape the future, especially in establishing sustainable peace and stability.

I take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed, one way or another, to making this National Dialogue possible especially the peacebuilding team, including the United Nations mediation advisor. I also take this opportunity to thank all of you who have availed yourself to attend this two-day dialogue. Your attendance speaks volumes of your desire and commitment to achieving lasting peace and stability for our country.

Peace and stability should be a personal commitment for all Solomon Islanders and our development partners. Your presence here is an affirmation of that commitment. Although the task moving forward is never easy, the dialogue renewed our motivation, gave us hope and facilitated collective ownership and commitment that is documented in the national dialogue communique. My government is committed to putting in place institutional and policy directive to facilitate the implementation of the various recommendations documented in the national dialogue communique. I am calling upon all citizens of this beloved nation and our development partners to support our efforts to implement consensus reached and documented in the national dialogue communique.

.....  
Hon Manasseh Damukana Sogavare, MP  
Prime Minister  
Solomon Islands

## Summary

The Supporting Inclusive and Peaceful Transition in Solomon Islands project was designed to support Solomon Islands government and national stakeholders during a transitional period, to create an inclusive space for dialogue and reconciliation and to strengthen national capacity for implementing the national peace building policy including women's and youth engagement in peacebuilding. This 18-month project began in July 2016, funded by the UN Peace Building Fund (UNPBF) and implemented by UNDP in collaboration with the Ministry of National Unity Reconciliation and Peace (MNURP); Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (OPMC); and the Ministry of Women, Youth, Family and Children Affairs (MWYFCA).

After it was launched in July 2016, the project organized provincial dialogues in Guadalcanal, Malaita and Western Provinces. It organized various youth forums and convened a national summit on women peace and security. The national dialogue brought together issues and recommendations from the provincial dialogues, youth forums and the national women summit on women peace and security into one forum where the national government, opposition group in parliament, parliamentarians, provincial premiers, representatives of women, youth, churches, chiefs and elders discussed and reached consensus on some the long standing critical issues that need to be addressed in order to chart new pathways for sustaining peace and stability in Solomon Islands.

This report documented the background and objective of the national dialogue on sustaining peace and stability. It discusses how the dialogue agenda was designed, the actual conducting of the sessions and a summary of the national dialogue communique.

The national dialogue on sustaining peace and stability had seven dialogue sessions. Three dialogue sessions on day one provided dialogue participants with resolutions from the provincial dialogue, outcomes of various youth forums and the national women's summit organized by the UN Peace Building project in partnership with provincial and national government, youths and NGOs between July 2016 – June 2017. In session 1, participants were briefed on resolutions from Provincial dialogues held in Guadalcanal, Malaita and Western province. The 3 provincial premiers reflected on issues raised, recommendations made and provided updates on progress to date. In addition, the 6 other provincial premiers were given the opportunity to highlight key issues facing their province, what they have been doing to address those issues and highlighted areas requiring national government interventions through enabling legislation and provision of financial and technical resources.

Session 2 discussed resolutions from the National Women's Summit on how to enhance women's participation in development and nation building. This session also heard voices of youths and resolutions from the National Youth Forums. Participants discussed issues raised and resolutions made at the various youth forums held in between 2016 and 2017. Promoting youth's participation in shaping national policies and legislation was discussed in this session. Session 3 on day one discussed key government reform initiatives, progress made to date, gaps, challenges and plans for advancing the national reform agenda.

Day 2 Dialogue 1 was about learning from the country's past for a better future. It provided a summary of the TRC report and highlighted what needs to be done in the short, medium and long term to deal with the causes and consequences of the Solomon Islands conflict. Dialogue 2 was on advancing SIG's fundamental reform agenda aiming at sustaining peace and national unity. The session discussed proposed legislative changes to address corruption through strengthening the role of national integrity and accountability institutions. An update was also provided on the recent parliamentary debate on the

Democratic Coalition for Change Government's (DCCG) proposals to increase women's representation in parliament through the temporary special measures (TSM); and an anti-defection law to addressing political instability. Further, this session discussed national policing and security arrangements after RAMSI's end its operations on 30 June 2017.

Dialogue 3 on day 2 discussed current government's approach to customary land reform, natural resources and financing for local development. The session also briefly discussed natural resources development industries such as logging and mining and the rural constituency development fund as one of the approached for delivering services directly to the people in all 50 parliamentary constituencies. Dialogue 4 was an open dialogue session where a draft communique was projected on a wide screen. Participants provided their comments and feedback directly on the text of the draft communique.

At the end of the session, participants unanimously agreed on the key content of the national dialogue communique which has the following key themes: Sustaining Peace – Sustaining Development; Rural Development; Leadership; Inclusive governance; Women empowerment; Youth empowerment; Land reform and natural resources; Security and the Transition; Education; Reconciliation and peace building. This commitment is a significant step forward as participants pledged to offer their time, resources, knowledge and skills where appropriate to implement the communique.

## Background

The national dialogue on sustaining peace stability in Solomon Islands was hosted by the Honourable Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare, with support from the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Ministry of National Unity Reconciliation and Peace (MNURP) and UNDP through the UN peace building fund (UNBPF) project.

The issues discussed in the 3 provincial peace dialogues, a national women's summit on peace and security and youth forums were elevated and discussed at the national level. It was envisaged that the national dialogue would renew the commitments of community, provincial and national leaders to establish consensus around how to sustain peace and stability and accelerate development in the country. The relationship between economic development and sustainable peace is an important one. It is therefore vital to properly manage the processes and outcomes of development to ensure they produce sustainable peace.

Although provincial peace dialogues and summit were organised at the provincial level, this was the first national peace building dialogue organised in the post-conflict era that brought together representatives from a wide cross-section of society, including national parliamentarians, provincial members, chiefs, elders, academic, church leaders, women leaders and youth leaders. The dialogue was well attend by national leaders including the Honourable Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition who were present to listen and dialogue with participants over the 2 days. This dialogue learned that previous dialogues failed to address implementation. As such the national dialogue developed bipartisan political commitments and called for the national government to establish a dedicated institutional support system to lead the design, implementation and monitoring of the dialogue outcomes. This was captured in this dialogue's communique.

The dialogue agenda was designed by a National Dialogue Task Force Committee with representatives OPMC, MNURP and UNDP. The role of the organising committee was to formulate, advocate for bipartisan support from political groups, finalise the agenda, implement required logistical tasks towards a successful national dialogue. The agenda was finalised following a series of meetings involving the honourable prime minister and senior officials at the OPMC, Permanent Secretary and senior

government official of the MNURP, UNDP and a team comprising of individual Solomon Islanders who have extensive experience and knowledge of national issues such as the causes of the conflict, governance challenges, constitutional reform issues, land reforms and peace building.

## Objectives

The national dialogue presents an opportunity for the recommendations emerging from 3 provincial peace dialogues, as well as studies commissioned to date, to be synthesized and reflected upon, and to allow for stakeholders to come together to discuss solutions to developmental, social cultural, economic and governance challenges facing the country. The National Dialogue will provide an overview of the country's path over the past decade towards peace and stability. It will also highlight issues and recommendations put forward by national stakeholders, including women and youth, to further accelerate socio-economic development, governance, rule of law and reconciliation in the country. As the outcome of this Dialogue, a communique which encapsulate consensus and commitment by leaders and participants for sustaining peace and addressing development challenges was drafted.

## Welcome and Opening

1. The national dialogue program was conducted over 2 days, 19 – 20 June 2017. It was opened with a short morning devotion led by the Most Reverend George Takeli, Archbishop of Anglican Church in Solomon Islands and chair of the Solomon Islands Christian Association (SICA1). This was followed by welcome remarks from the Minister for MNURP that was delivery by Mrs Margaret Qoloni on behalf of the minister. The remarks from the minister highlighted that the challenges and hardships of the past must not divide this nation. Experiences of conflict must be used as learning opportunities to determine the new future that Solomon Islanders would like to have. The Minister firmly believed that from the National Dialogue, participants would be able to build a community of peace advocates to support and advance collaborative effort for peace building in Solomon Islands.



*The Most Reverend George Takeli, blessed the dialogue with an opening devotion*

2. This was followed by remarks from UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji Ms Osnat Lubrani. Ms Lubrani noted that Peacebuilding is like marrying the idea that people need development, but that the development process should unfold in a nonviolent way. Development

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<sup>1</sup> Solomon Islands Christian Association is an umbrella body of all major Christian churches in Solomon Islands including the Roman Catholic, Anglican, South Seas Evangelical, Wesley United, and Seventh Day Adventist.

should unite all segments of society and creates mechanisms where people can settle their differences in participatory and transparent manner. Ms Lubrani went on further and highlighted the concept of dialogue as one of the many tools used in post-conflict countries to solve difference and consolidate peace and stability. Experiences has shown that societies can become stronger and more resilient through listening and taking the time to dialogue or tok stori about issues of concern. This often involves bringing together the diverse parts of society to really understand their interests, concerns and needs Ms Lubrani also acknowledged the leadership and political commitment demonstrated by the provincial premiers from Guadalcanal, Malaita and Western province. She commended the courage of the Premiers of these provinces for providing space to discuss critical issues. The dialogues opened conversations about difficult topics; residual hurts from the past; disappointments; unmet expectations; but also about renewed hope and revitalized their commitment to change. The UN hopes that this Dialogue will help in finding common solutions and in developing broad-based and concrete commitments for real action, at all levels.”



*UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji, Ms Osnat Lubrani, delivered remarks on behalf of the United Nations*

3. The key note speaker was the Prime Minister of Solomon Islands, Hon Manasseh Sogavare who began by thanking the national dialogue participants for their attendance. Prime minister Sogavare stated that their attendance speaks volumes of their desire and commitment to achieving lasting peace and stability for in the country. Peace and stability should be a personal commitment for all Solomon Islanders and our development partners. The presence of various participants was an affirmation of their commitment. Solomon Islanders must develop a sense of appreciation, tolerance and understanding for one another. These are personas essential to finding peace hearts and minds of individuals, families and communities and provinces. The country cannot have peace if peace is absent from individuals, families and communities.
4. Prime minister Sogavare also highlighted the three most important challenges that undermined national development including: (i) the problem of availing customary land for economic development with fair returns to landowners; (ii) the problem of poor governance, in particular corruption, that diverts public resources and inhibits the effective delivery of public services like

education and health; and (iii) the frequency of natural disasters that continuously undermined development progress. In terms of going forward, prime minister Sogavare noted that: “One thing that is common to all of us, even to all of us in Cabinet and in our Parliament; we will never allow our country to slide back to our darkest days of ethnic conflict as we have experienced from 1998-2003.” He called on all government ministries and development partners to closely examine their development policies to ensure they promote peace building and unity rather than division.



*Honourable Manasseh Sogavare, Prime Minister, delivered the key note address*

5. DCC Government’s commitment to address the fundamental challenges is to improve the level of accountability and transparency in the public sector with the introduction of the following bill in parliament: (i) Anti-Corruption Bill; (ii) the Whistle Blower Bill; (iii) The Ombudsman Bill; (iv) The new Leadership Code Bill; (v) the new National Election Bill. In terms of Financing for local development, prime minister Sogavare stated that the issues surrounding financing for local development are contentious and need serious attention. Rural development is lacking or slow, and this might be caused by the lack of sufficient mechanism or capacity or that the Provincial Government System is not working. The country is still searching for proper mechanisms to ensure rural development is realized in its full context. There is a need to “re-think” the Rural Constituency Development Fund or the Provincial Government System so that real development takes place in the rural areas.

## DIALOGUE SESSIONS

6. The dialogue sessions were delivered in English and pidjin. Power Point slides and handouts were in English. All participants understood both English with pidjin and use it during discussions and question time. In each of the 7 sessions, panellist and resources persons were given 15 minutes to highlight the key recommendations and issues for dialogue. After brief interventions by the panellists and resource persons, the session chairpersons took questions, comment and feedback from participants. Noting that men tend to dominate discussions, the session chairpersons and facilitators were given prior guidance to ensure they provided equal opportunities for women, youth and those who have not spoken a chance to be heard. A facilitator and chairperson’s guidance note was prepared by the dialogue organising committee to guide the session chairs and facilitators in each session. Before the first session of the dialogue started, the organisers including the prime



minister Sogavare encouraged participants to be open, frank and honest in their discussions. Personalising issues and personal verbal arguments were not allowed as participants were asked respect each other's opinion.

### DAY ONE: Day 1 – Monday 19 June 2017

7. Day one focused on setting the context for dialogue. Session one was allocated for the provincial premiers from Guadalcanal, Malaita and Western provinces to present resolutions from 3 provincial dialogues. Between November 2016 – May 2017, Guadalcanal, Malaita and Western Provinces held a provincial dialogue. It provided opportunities for the premiers of these provinces to present the key recommendations, status update and implementation challenges. It was also an opportunity for others including parliamentarians, senior government officials, development partners, community leaders, women and other provincial leader to learn about various discussions that took place over the past year. In addition, each provincial premier from the remaining 6 provinces were given time to reflect on the key challenges facing their provinces, what they have been doing to address those challenges and the role of the national government in supporting to address these challenges.

### Session 1: Resolutions from Provincial Dialogues and voices from provinces

8. Guadalcanal Province Premier, Anthony Veke expressed Guadalcanal provincial government's commitment to implement the resolutions of the Guadalcanal provincial dialogue held in November 2016. Guadalcanal provincial dialogue was held from the 22nd to 24th of November 2016. It was attended by representatives of chiefs, elected leaders, women leaders, youth leaders, and others. The theme was unlocking Development Challenges and Investing in Future Aspirations. Participants were urged to look at the challenges facing the province with alternative ways of thinking about problems and solutions. For instance, instead of seeing Honiara as a liability, participants were encouraged to see Honiara as an asset. The dialogue produced 23 Resolutions. Some are specific, others generalized, but it was an inclusive document. The resolutions expressed the voices and wishes of Guadalcanal people.



Honourable Anthony Veke, Premier, Guadalcanal Province, making his presentation.

9. The Provincial Government (GPG) is determine to implement these resolutions despite the challenges it will face in terms of capacity and resources. Unlike previous resolutions, the Guadalcanal provincial Full Assembly adopted the Resolutions in February 2017. The resolutions are owned by the province. The major wishes of the people highlighted in the resolutions included the need to adopt the Federal System of Governance, the call the enactment of a new land legislation to facilitate customary land reform, and the return of all alienated land on Guadalcanal, infrastructure development, and scholarships for young people to pursue further vocational and tertiary studies both in the country and abroad. All other resolutions were clustered into economic, social, infrastructure, cultural, governance, natural resources and peacebuilding. The resolutions have provided a good basis for the province to develop its sectoral policies and plans. Despite challenges, initiatives are taken to implement last year’s resolution included discussions with logging companies operating on Guadalcanal to explore their potential support to build a ring road around Guadalcanal and a proposed land summit to be organized later in 2017. The central question posed by premier Veke was: “how can we ensure that there is peace and stability in Solomon Islands?” The premier saw the national dialogue as an opportunity find answers to the question.
10. Malaita provincial Premier Peter Ramohia acknowledge that Solomon Islands is a post-conflict nation which requires proper support to rehabilitate its people, institutions, and economy. Premier noted that the outcomes of the provincial dialogue held in November 2016 highlighted the need to deliver human restoration, healing, forgiveness and accepting forgiveness because human completeness matters most. He sought genuine and generous support from international donor community, NGOS, FBOs, Private Sector, and Government Institutions. Resolution of the Malaita Provincial dialogue were categorized into the following broad categories: Land & Resources; Peacebuilding & Post-conflict Reconstruction; Leadership & Governance; Education and Youth.



*Honourable Peter Ramohia, (left) Premier, Malaita Province making his presentation.*

11. The 3 most important recommendations were: (i) enactment of a proposed Customary Land Reform Pilot Bills (In alienation laws) as a way forward for anchoring customary land, tribal ownership, security, protection, sustainability and meaningful participation in socio-economic development; (ii)

Called for the design and implementation of a Malaita wide 3 year Peacebuilding program for implementation in 2018 to 2020; (iii) Malaita provincial Government to draft the Malaita Traditional Governance Ordinance (Malaita Tribal Affairs) to strengthen, preserve and promote our worthy cultural values, norms, language, arts, music, dance, folklore, monument, totems and practices. At present, the provincial administration is implementing the following activities: (i) A three year Malaita-wide Strategic Peacebuilding Plan is in its draft stage and requires further wider consultation and negotiations with stakeholders before submission for official endorsement by Malaita Provincial Assembly and Executive for final endorsement approval and funding support. Malaita has a vision to nurture customary land reform.

12. Some of the priority initiative requiring support include: (i) The national government to establish and finance the Malaita subsidiary Land Reform & Recording office in Auki in 2018. (ii) Provide leadership and peacebuilding training for Malaita leaders, technical support team, church leaders, chiefs and tribal elders, women and youth as well as community leaders to begin in 2018. Funding support from the Donor Community is envisaged. (iii) Malaita provincial government to establish a Land Reform Management Committee in 2018 to oversee the implementation of the Malaita Land Reform Pilot project in close collaboration with the Malaita Subsidiary Land Reform Office.
13. The Western Provincial Premier was represented by Deputy Premier Honourable Molloney Lopoto, MPA and Honourable George Solingi Lilo, MPA.



*Honourable Molley Lopoto, Deputy Premier, Western Province.*

14. Their presentation made by Honourable Lilo who begun by sharing inspirational quotes from world leaders including Mahatma Ghandi, Nelson Mandela and Mother Theresa. During the Western provincial peace dialogue, the following were identified as the pathways for promoting peace in the province: (i) The need to ensure public participation is guaranteed in our constitution. At present, public participation has never been guaranteed in the national constitution. For example, traditional and community leaders, inter-faith groups, women and youths and non-elected leaders have no direct role in the provincial and national government decision making process. The way forward to address that is to adopt a federal system of government. Control of resources is currently vested

only in MPs. The present curriculum need to be designed to strengthen Early Childhood Education (ECE). In the first 2 years of ECE, a child need to learn the values & norms of culture in terms of respect. The focus should be on learning how to live with and respect others. Western Province is a province made of so many islands, yet, there is inadequate road connectivity and wharf to facilitate development.

15. National and provincial elections have created conflicts and division between families, communities, and individuals. The present electoral system posed major challenge in respect of whether the country would be able to maintain peaceful and transparent election, whose outcome would be acceptable by all. In terms of Anti-corruption & Whistle-blowers legislations, a lot of public resources are wasted through corrupt deals. This has denied the most needed services to be delivered to the people. Provincial Government System is not conducive to development, leaving 85% of the population not participating in the development process. Women & Youth – Have no place in decision-making or even in determining the development aspiration of the province. Some donor assistance is more focussed on their policies rather than the needs of the communities concerned. Legislated economic trade with PNG's Bougainville Autonomous Government & the promotion of boarder security surveillance management.
16. In terms of moving forward, Honourable Lilo outlined that a framework for maintaining a dialogue process in the 'West will include setting up of a Communication and Coordination Forum in the West. Its core role is to ensure the facilitation of the implementation of the Dialogue outcomes & resolution. Honourable Lilo urged that a follow-up project initiated by UNDP and other development partners to ensure support for the implementation of the Dialogue outcomes. SIG must also provide budgetary support for the establishment and the implementation of the Communication & Coordination Forum. Its responsibility is to ensure peace is sustained in the Western province and in Solomon Islands. Honourable Lilo posed a very important question: "Can we ever have PEACE in an environment that is subjected to continuous change as well as, where most the population is not included in any decision-making process?" "What role (s) do we have as leaders attending this National Dialogue in promoting PEACE in Solomon Islands?"
17. Central Province- Premier Patrick Vasuni, acknowledged the organisers for invitation to attend the national dialogue. He noted that although Central province is not part the provincial dialogue, he was happy to attend the national dialogue. Premier Vasuni stated that his province and people are peace loving and peaceful. But they are also facing emerging issues including lands disputes relating to logging operation in the province. Although chiefs were given the role to settle disputes on customary land, if their decision is challenged, chiefs from other place who have limited understanding of landownership were normally brought in to sit on the Customary Land Appeals Court (CLAC) to judge customary land dispute case. This has resulted in ongoing disputes as disputing parties do not agree with decisions of the CLAC. At present, there are 4 logging companies operating in the province. Customary land disputes are mostly associated with logging operation.



*Honourable Patrick Vasuni, (left) Premier, Central Province, making his presentation.*

18. Another major challenge for promoting development in the province is the absence of appropriate infrastructure such as roads and wharves across. With so many small islands making up the province, moving from one place to other requires good roads networks to be complemented by reliable boats and shipping services. A Way forward for the province a stated by Premier Vasuni is to give the province more autonomy. The province does not have power to amend the relevant legislations governing forestry resources and land management at the provincial level. The province is not part of decision to allocate land or to harvest the natural resources. Premier expressed his people's desire to adopt the federal system of government. Premier Vasuni also acknowledged prime minister Manasseh Sogavare for taking the Anti-Corruption and the Whistle Blower Protection bills to parliament. He called on all parliamentarians to support the passage of the anti-corruption bill and other legislations that will address corruption and abuse of public resources. Although we are a small province, we experienced lot of problems during the ethnic tension period. Who is responsible for peace? All of us in this room plus all our people of this country. Let us be one people, one country and one future for Solomon Islands.
  
19. Renbel provincial premier Hon Collin Singamoana, acknowledged invitation from prime minister Manasseh Sogavare to attend National Dialogue and acknowledged the presence of leaders and overseas dignitaries in the dialogue. Premier said that Renbel province is too small but logging and mining activities are taking place in the province. This is creating a lot of disputes and conflicts between different land owning groups and the company. There is a need to find ways to bring peace and stability. Renbel people are peaceful, but when they go out to other province and got involved Pith other people they caused conflicts and problems. Premier Singamoana called on the national government to address increasing disputes particularly in Runnel island where logging and mining



*Honourable Collin Singamoana, Premier Renbel Province making his presentation.*

companies are operating. He also called on government to deal fairly with all province in Solomon Islands. There are some requests by the province that were not accepted by the national government. Premier Singamoana believed that tensions were caused by government no listening to its people. He called for all leaders to listen to the people to ensure peace and stability is sustained.

20. Premier Choiseul Jackson Kiloe started by acknowledging Honourable prime minister Manasseh Sogavare for the national dialogue invitation.



*Honourable Jackson Kiloe, (second from left) Premier Choiseul Province making his presentation.*

21. Premier Kiloe said that all provinces shared similar issues. He was part of all peace talks and negotiation that led to the initial ceasefire agreement, Townsville Peace Agreement (TPA) and PNG/SI border agreement. Premier Kiloe argued that successive governments have not learned lessons. We need to revisit and address the underlying causes of the conflict. It is an economic

tension. Premier Kiloe believed that successive Solomon Islands governments have not learned a lesson from the ethnic tensions. In 2000, the Buala communique called for more decentralization but what is currently happening is recentralization. He called for the involvement of churches and others to be part of the service delivery channel to people in rural areas. Premier Kiloe also called for the establishment of an annual peace award. He highlighted the need to identify Solomon Islander who advocate for peace and recognise them through an annual national peace award. He also noted that need to bring services down to the province. Provinces need to solve their problems at the provincial and community level.

22. Premier Kiloe called on the national government to immediately start devolving powers and resources to the provincial government to provide them with sufficient resources and power to enable provinces to deliver efficient services to their people. He also called for a review of the Rural Constituency Development Fund (RCDF). There is a need to amalgamate the Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening (MPGIS) and the Ministry of Rural Development (MRD). At present the provincial governments are unaware of what is going on due to the absence of coordination and information sharing between the MPGIS, MRD and the nine provincial governments. Premier Kiloe called for well-designed diagnostic study to come up with concrete recommendations on how to strengthen linkages and interface between national government and provincial government. It will be difficult to sustain peace in the country if the provincial governments are neglected. Peace, partnership and participation must be promoted together. There is a need to involve women, children, youth, churches. These stakeholders have a role to play in maintaining peace. Peace is not the absence of guns. Peace is in the desire of all Solomon Islander to do the right thing regardless of their responsibilities.
23. Premier of Temotu province David Maena acknowledged that they already have peace in Temotu but when their youths go to the urban centres, they became in social problems. But they know how to deal with it in accordance with customs and cultures. Premier Maena then called on the national government to release the provincial service grants in a timely manner to the provincial governments. He was concerned about the ongoing delays regarding the allocation of service grants to Temotu province. It seemed as if the national government had forgotten or ignored Temotu as a province. Temotu needs to attract investors to invest the province.



*Honourable David Maena (right) Premier of Temotu Province making his presentation.*

24. Premier Maena raised the need to engage youths in productive and positive activities to keep them away from social problems. Premier Maena appealed to prime minister Manasseh Sogavare to formally establish and activate the trade link between Temotu and Vanuatu as a matter of urgency. It is hoped that this trade link will open new economic opportunities and engage youth in developing Temotu province. In terms of connectivity, there is a monthly shipping service and a weekly flight to the province. Absence of a regular and more frequent shipping service is a major challenge in terms of connectivity and movement of goods from to link Honiara and Lata and vice versa. Premier Maena asked the participants these questions: “are we part of this country or not?” Why can’t the government give us more opportunities and resources to development our province. Our islands are scatted; we need good roads and efficient and regular shipping services. People of Temotu are peace loving peace.”

25. Presentation by Premier of Makira province Stanley Siapu



*Honourable Stanley Siapu, (left) Premier of Makira Province making his presentation*

Premier Siapu said that Makira/Ulawa are peace loving people. Makira province attended the dialogue as its people and leaders wanted unity and peace in Solomon Islands. Makira shared similar concerns as those raised by other provincial premiers. The capacity of provincial assembly need to be strengthened. Peace, stability and harmony can only come if there are good leaders and good decision makers. There is a need to develop the capacity of executive government, chiefs, church and community leaders. In 2006, Makira province passed a Community Governance aimed at strengthening the capacity of community leaders and those in the community to promote local development, manage disputes and to sustain peace and stability at the community level. There is a need to empower and capacitate village chiefs to maintain peace and order in the communities and villages. Premier Siapu was concerned that about the gradual weakening of Makira Kastom and culture and urged that is must be revived. There is also a need to invest in productive and social sectors including a review of the education system. Empowerment of women and youth is an



important element of peace building. When women have access to money there will be good food and clothing in the homes.

26. Unemployed youths could threaten peace and stability in the country if they are not engaged in productive and meaningful activities. Youths need properly packaged and targeted assistance not lip service and one-off projects. Churches are present with our people and need to be recognised as part of the community governance. Infrastructure needed in the province in addition to assistance to boost tourism activities. Premier Siapu called for an increase by 300% to the current amount of service grants given to the provinces. He also called for permanent deployment, realignment and reposting of technical positions from the national ministries to the provinces to support the delivery of services at the provincial level. Premier stressed that where there is satisfaction there will be peace. Leaders need to seriously make good decisions. It is important that leaders and citizens of this country sustain peace and stability.
27. Immediately after the provincial premier made their presentations, the Leader of Opposition Honourable Jeremiah Manele was given an opportunity to make some brief remarks.



*Honourable Jeremiah Manele, (left) Leader of the Opposition group in Parliament.*

Honourable Manele acknowledged and supported the calls made by the provincial premiers. He said that the link between peace and development is obvious and cannot be separated. There is a need to address long-term peacebuilding by investing in children and in infrastructure. There were similarities in challenges faced by provinces. Sustaining peace is everybody's business to ensure long term stability and sustainability of the country.

28. Speaker of Parliament Honourable Ajilon Nasiu also expressed the need for government to take note of the concerns raised by the provincial premiers for increase in resources through equitable revenue sharing. Satisfaction of services by the people is a good indicator for building peace in Solomon Islands.
29. Prime Minister Honourable Manasseh Sogavare thanked all premiers for all their frank and honest presentations. He hoped the national dialogue will address peace and development in this country. After 39 years, we have not learned and addressed much the underlying issues that have been

threatening peace and stability in the country. At independence in 1978, we were already faced with a difficult issue of the need to find ways to effectively deliver services. This was echoed again by the provincial premiers in their presentation. The structure and system of government needs to be reviewed. The provincial government system that we have since independence was not allowed to function properly. Successive governments failed to take heed of that call since independence and this had led to the crisis experienced in 2000. But the country's leaders have not learned any lesson on how to ensure services are effectively delivered to the province. That was a fundamental function of the government and what government supposed to do. Failure to address the issues of development, we will have difficulties in sustaining peace and stability in the country.

### Views and comments from participants

30. Margaret Maelaua, women representative from Malaita province was the first participant to respond to the presentation from the provincial premiers.



*Mrs Margaret Maelaua, Women Representative from Malaita Province dialoging with the leaders*

31. Margaret Maelaua who was a retired public servant, appreciated the invitation to attend the national peace dialogue. Mrs Maelaua noted the sad reality relating to poor state of services in rural areas, an issue unaddressed by government successive governments since the country gained independence in 1978. She expressed that the current system of government handicapped 90 percent of people. Mothers, for instance, have been left out of all decision made at national level. Rural people were left out. It is so sad as children are not receiving the basic health and education service they should be getting. In Honiara, children and youths are all over the place. She alluded that the federal system might be the solution. It was so sad to see how health and education services declined since 1978 and the rising settlements in Honiara and other provinces. Provincial governments do not have the power to find money to look after their people. Provinces and their people have resources but lacked powers and capacity to develop them. There is a need to strengthen kastom, church, and state to work together to address the complex challenges facing our country.

32. Delma nori, a women representative believed that the system is not wrong but leaders are not honest and transparent. Some elected leaders are corrupt and do all sorts of bad things. There is a need to change the way we govern to make the right decisions. Ruth Liloqula, from Transparency International Solomon Islands said that this country has leadership crisis. Even if we have good policies in place, we still need leaders to be champions of change to address the leadership crisis and many other issues in our country. Christina Ora, female youth representative noted that youths from provinces who came to Honiara are involved in violence and all sorts of negative anti-social behaviours. She called on responsible authorities to engage young people and use their energy to make positive changes in their communities. There is a need to engage them by working with the current youth mechanisms such as the national youth council and provincial youth desks.



*Mrs Mary Tuhaika, Honiara City Council Youth Representative dialoguing with leaders*

33. Mary Tuhaika, a female youth representative said that Honiara has 22,000 young people aged between 15-29 years. Currently public services provided by the Honiara City Council (HCC) is inadequate to provide for the increasing urban population. Schools and clinics are overcrowded. Honiara City council is not able to deliver quality services as the number of people in Honiara is currently beyond the services made available through the HCC's schools and clinics. It is important to start resourcing provincial governments and HCC with adequate capacity and resources through existing service delivery mechanisms. Ms Tuhaika called on the national government and the provincial premiers to address youth issues through the newly formulated 3-tiers national youth policy to be launched soon.
34. Bobby Siarandi, HCC youth representative expressed that young people in Solomon Islands are very talented, but if youths are empowered in a negative way they can do negative things. Youths need to be empowered in positive ways to help sustain peace and promote socio-economic development in the country. Youths have talent in sports and music. Mr Siarandi called on all on leaders to empower youths and enable them to realise their potential. Authorities need to see youths as assets rather than a liability for the country. Honourable Roselyn, a provincial member from Temotu said the root cause of problems facing this country is within ourselves, leaders of this country Leaders

need to change their attitudes and behaviours. Leaders are role models. There is need to decentralise powers and resources to the provinces. She argued that the rural constituency development fund is creating divisions and conflicts amongst people in the constituencies across the country.



*Mr Bobby Siarandi, a male youth representative dialoguing with leaders*

35. Joe Billy Oge, said the national constitution, national anthem, national flag, positions of prime minister and the governor general are newly introduced items and positions at independence. But these are symbols of national unity and all efforts should be taken to continue to introduce regular flag raising and singing of national anthem in schools and communities. The most Reverend George Takeli posed the following important questions. “What have we learned from the beginning to now?” Have we learnt anything from tensions, and the many peace dialogue forums, summits and reports? Reverend Takeli said that one of the key findings of his doctoral study on reconciliation in Solomon Islands from independence in 1978 to the ethnic tensions in 1999 was poor governance. It is a major obstacle to promoting reconciliation and sustaining peace in the country. He called on those in authority to be strategic and articulate in the quest to find new pathways forward for this country. Reverend Takeli proposed that good governance, ethical and responsible leadership is required to take this country forward. As the chair of the Solomon Islands Christian Association (SICA) and head of Anglican Church, he appealed to all MPs to support the anti-corruption bill and other bills to strengthen good governance in the country.

## Session 2: Voices of Women and resolutions from the National Women’s Summit

36. Pauline Soaki presented the key issues and resolutions adopted during the National Women’s Summit on Women Peace and Security in Solomon Islands. Women must be included in all peace building programs and activities. The Truth and Reconciliation Report (TRC) report recognized women as peace builders. In 2016, a national women’s summit organised by UNWOMEN and the

Ministry of Women Youth, Children and Family Affairs (MWYCFA) brought together women representatives from 9 provinces. The summit discussed barriers preventing women's participation in peacebuilding. It also highlighted problems facing women during the ethnic tensions including sexual violence, trauma, loss of property and loved ones. Women's combined voices were excluded from formal peace negotiation table including the Townsville Peace Agreement. At present, there is low rate of women's participation in decision making at all levels.



*Mrs Pauline Soaki, Director of Women Development Division, MWYCFA presented resolutions from national women summit*

37. The summit recommended that Solomon Islands be committed to enhancing women's participation in decision making including the establishment of quotas for women's representation at the provincial assembly and national parliament. The adoption of affirmative actions to provide participation of women in all reforms and regular dialogues will also be pursued. The summit also called for steps to be taken to sensitise leaders at all levels to advocate and promote human rights at all level. In terms of addressing women's need in time of disasters, it was recommended that steps must be taken to prevent the reoccurrence of major conflicts as women and children are usually the primary victims in any major conflict. The Ministry of Women is taking steps to provide supportive resources to women's groups at all levels. For instance, with the Ministry of Women's support, the Guadalcanal provincial government developed and launched its provincial women's policy in 2016. Budgetary constraints in MWCFA is a major challenge for implementing the proposed plans and therefore the support from other development partners is required.

### Voices of Youths and resolutions from the National Youth Forums

38. Christiana Ora, a youth representative said the national peace dialogue is pathway for finding solutions to numerous challenges facing youths in Honiara and other provinces. Present statistics on the country's recent population projections indicated that Solomon Islands population is rapidly increasing with youths making up for a huge percentage of the population. There is increasing demands for services by youth and others. Ms Ora called on the responsible national and provincial authorities to empower youths and help them to realise their full potential. Youths require training in basic education, empowerment, entrepreneurship and expansion and accessibility of the technical vocational training institute. The implementation of youth employment strategies including business incubator program will greatly assist youths develop their entrepreneurship

potentials. Youths needs to be educated about teenage pregnancy. The government is called upon to support and promote youth empowerment, utilizing existing youth mechanisms. A unified framework that enhances the quality of life for youths in Solomon Islands must be pursued.



*Ms Christina Ora, Female Youth Representative dialoguing with leaders*

### Views and comments from participants

39. Delma Nori, a women representative said that in most homes, women still do not experience peace. An example of this were recent cases in 2017 where 2 women died because of domestic violence. Peace must start at home. She applauded prime minister Sogavare for passing the Family Protection Act in 2016 but is concerned about the difficulties to pass the anti-corruption bill and TSM bill to address corruption and include women in parliament. Men and women need to work together. Peace needs to start at home. She recommended that 5-10% of the Ministry of Women's budget should be allocated to women and youth organizations to support peace building efforts in their respective communities. It is important put more money to support youth employment and empowerment as youth make up the largest proportion of Solomon Islands population.
40. A Youth representative who live in Honiara said that to experience peace, justice must prevail across all sectors and works of life. Youth need educational empowerment. At present, there is a high failure rate in many urban and rural schools where only 40% passed the form 5 national examination whilst 60% failed. Sometimes we thought of youths as uneducated but this is not necessarily true. A lot of youths received basic education. But they are pushed out of the current higher education system. To make matter worse for them, spaces at the technical and vocational training institutes are inadequate to provide for all school dropout. Youth need basis skills to sustain them through self-employment and technical/trades skills. There are more community high schools across the country compared to vocational training institutes. But more vocational training institute is required to train and equip school drop outs with useful life and work ready skills.

41. Hon Bradley Tovosia, MP for East Guadalcanal called on NGOs, churches, and people across the nation to work together with their elected leaders to address development and peacebuilding issues at the provincial and constituency level. He encouraged women who want to become a parliamentarian to contest national elections. He also urged MPs to pass the anticorruption bill. He encouraged NGOs and constituents to properly engage with their MPs to develop their constituencies. Hon Andrew Maneporaa, MP for East Are Are said that when people talk about peace, they must also us talk about how peace can be sustained in the country. Some of the problems we are experiencing today were inherited from the British protectorate. We must find a new way forward. If the current system of government is not working, it must be changed to improve our governance system. If we thought that current land law is bad, what can we do about it? If the current decentralisation system not working, then we need to ensure more resources and man power is assigned to the provinces. If this should be the last dialogue, then we need to be constructive and find a new way forward.
42. Leader of Opposition, Hon Jeremiah Manele, emphasized that the national dialogue must be about getting rhetoric into action. The arguments on how to sustain peace and stability are clear. He fully supported the potential for women and youth to participate in decision making at the provincial and national levels. Most of these require resourcing. Hon Manele acknowledged sentiment expressed by the provincial premiers on the need to relook at the revenue sharing formulae. Hon Manele called on the government to start devolving powers and resources to the provinces right now, well ahead of country's plan to adopt a federal system of government. In addition, Hon Manele suggested that we need to encourage peace champions. There is a need to identify provincial peace ambassador to implement the resolutions from this dialogue. In terms of youth, there is a need to establish some youth volunteers' schemes who can be mobilised in times of natural disasters to support relief and rehabilitation efforts. Hon Manele encouraged the national government to take bold step to implement the new pathways ways forward for the country.

### Session 3: Key Government Reform Initiative

43. Session three discussions key sectoral and fundamental government reform initiative. In terms of policing, Police Commissioner, Mr Mathew Varley said that preparation of RSIPF and its readiness for assuming full responsibility for maintaining law and order after RAMSI's departure was well on track. The RSIPF is strong and capable. Although RAMSI would concluded its operations on 30 June 2017, RSIPF's job is continuing. There will be additional 90 new police recruited by 30 September 2017. The capability of police is very strong. The RSIPF had invested heavily in the following functional areas of policing: investigation, public order management, traffic management, infrastructure, training, established task force Janus, and limited rearmament. Current infrastructure needs of RSIPF is to construct police posts around the country. Mr Varley said that by end of June 2017, the RSIPF will open its new Forensic lab located at its headquarters in Rove. More than two thirds of the force are new. The executive team is strong and has demonstrate accountability and professionalism. More than 1300 police officers have completed a new training program on accountability, authority and responsibility (AAR).
44. The force had deployed 5 RSIPF officers to the UN mission in Sudan which was very successful and new officers are will deployed later in 2017. At present, all trainings have been delivered by RSIPF officers themselves, including training of police response team (PRT) and the close personal protection (CPP) officers. RSIPF is also providing training to other pacific island countries including Vanuatu and Samoa. In terms of infrastructure, there is a new fire station in Honiara and an upgrade of Armory and prison cell in Gizo is currently underway. A new online case management program

called JIMS that connects arrests and prosecutions is being used in the police force. RSIPF will soon install GPS tracking system on all police vehicles to ensure quick response to calls for assistance. RSIPF developed a costed capability plan 2016-2020, which sets out RSIPF strategic focus. In terms of community engagement, the crime prevention strategy focuses on prevention, being proactive and engage with the community. The crime prevention strategy aims to build trust and partnership with communities. The program will be engaging with the following partners: communities, churches, chiefs, and local councils. RSIPF is well trained and worked hard. After RAMSI's departure, Australia will provide up to 44 advisors and New Zealand will provide 8 advisors.

45. John Wasi, PS RAMSI revealed that SIG will sign a security treaty with Australia. If there will be a crisis of significant magnitude, Australia will respond. A third state support is built into the treaty to ensure timely responses to call for assistance. Bilateral program between AFP and RSIPF will continue in the justice and police sectors. New Zealand will support community policing and crime prevention strategy of RSIPF. MoU will be signed between PNG and SIG on border security and border management. SIG is currently working on a National Security Strategy involving law enforcement agencies and community working towards national security. National security is a whole of nation approach. Security starts with us. A report on the true cost of policing was endorsed by Cabinet and Government in 2017. This report provided as assessment of the cost involved in providing policing services across the country.
46. Reuben Lilo, Director, Peace and reconciliation, MNURP began by stating that in order sustain peace and stability, it is important to reflect on the following questions: what happened in the past? what is the current situation? and where do we want to be in the future? Restorative justice with support of traditional leaders and churches is an important component of any long-term peace building program. Relationships is very important for MNURP. Conflict and peace analysis is currently absent from the work of national ministries. Mainstreaming conflict sensitive across whole of government must be rolled out to ensure the work of ministries does not create additional conflicts. Bougainville spill over effects from 1988 -1998 also created instability and conflict in Western and Choiseul Provinces.
47. Some of the challenges for sustaining peace and stability in the country include: (i) Absence of Peace, Conflict Development Analysis (PCDA) & Peace and Conflict, Impact Assessment (PCIA) indicators in the SIG development programs. (ii) Unresolved issues prior and post tension periods (internal migration, unemployment, unequal distribution of opportunities, attitude and behaviour, squatting on disaster prone areas. (iii) Fragilities of current peace and stability – currently local government institutions lacked the capability to take the place of RAMSI. (iv) Restorative justice (formal and informal) lack support compared to retributive justice (formal justice system). (v) National development programs must be holistically designed towards tension reduction in areas of partnership, networking, mainstreaming.
48. In terms of the way forward, Mr Lilo suggested that following: (i) Implementation of TRC Report with findings and recommendations as part of Reparation Program in the country. (ii) Shift of focus from ethnic tension reconciliation to peace, conflict and development issues. (iii) Empowerment and strengthening of community and local governance structures (inclusion of women and youth). (iv) Capacity building and Partnership arrangements in peacebuilding related to issues such as trauma counselling and healing. (v) Launching of National Peacebuilding Policy –networking. (vi) Relevant government forums be establishing to consider or factor their discussions on the issue of fragility of peace and stability in the country.



49. Reginal Teatao, Consultant Lawyer presented the national government's ongoing fundamental reform programs. Mr Teatao said that the call for the review and reform to the institution and legal framework that would facilitate increased participation of the provinces started at independence in 1978. When Solomon Islands gained independence from British in 1978, a unity system of government was adopted. History told us that no inputs were solicited from Solomon Islands on unitary system that was handed to the leaders of this country by colonial administrators. In 1978, there was resistance from Western district but in 1979, they came on board. The Provincial Government Act (PGA) 1997 gave very limited space for the provincial government to raise sufficient revenue to run the provincial administration and deliver services. The provinces barely survive financially, they run into all sort of financial difficulties and are highly dependent on the national government for funding.
50. The first review of the 1978 constitution was undertaken in 1987. The following recommendations emerged from that review: (i) to change from the unitary to a federal system; and (ii) to improve the current unitary system. The 1987 constitutional review committee recommended that Solomon Islands should adopt a federal system of government. But this was not actioned by successive governments. In 1988, the immediate adoption of a federal system of government was one of the demands presented by the Guadalcanal provincial government in a form of a petition to the Solomon Islands government. Nothing was done by the government back then. On 5 October 1998, the civil unrest known as ethnic tensions started. On 15 October 2000, the then Sogavare government with support from Australia and New Zealand negotiated and signed Townsville Peace Agreement (TPA) with warring groups, bringing an end to the conflict. One of the clauses in the TPA called for more autonomy either through amendment of current constitution or through the adoption of a new federal constitution. Work on the new federal constitution started in 2003. The key salient feature of the proposed new federal constitution is the 3 spheres of government including a central, state, community government. All three will be established by the new federal constitution and their powers are equally distributed with more financial powers to raise revenue to govern states.
51. Prime Minister, Sogavare acknowledged that the government has a challenging task to consolidate the peace process. Prime minister Sogavare called on all citizens and leaders to have common ground on some fundamental issue, one of which is proposed federal system of government. The prime minister said that one must be a prime minister in 2000 to understand this. He highlighted that he worked hard to convince 3 provinces that wanted to break away from the country in 2000. There is a need to for all elected leaders to reach consensus on this proposed federal system of government. This message started in 2000 until today and we need to agree and move along the path to federalism. Prime encouraged all participants to be frank in their discussions.

## National Dialogue on Sustaining Peace and Stability Day 2

### Dialogue 1: Learning from the Past for a better future

52. The Solomon Islands Government Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) consultant Dr Tarcisius Kabutaulaka said that although the TRC was established in 2008, it was not until 2010 that it began to carry out hearings with different organisations, groups and individuals on the ethnic tensions. The TRC report was delivered in 2012. The entire report had 5 volumes. The victims included different

groups and individuals who were affected in different ways or had experienced various forms of human rights abuses and violations during the ethnic tensions.



*Dr Tarcisius Tara Kabutaulaka, SIG TRC consultant making his presentation*

53. Among other issues, the TRC recommended reparations for victims of the ethnic tensions. SIG is also obligated under TPA to develop reparation program for victims. But what is reparation? The term reparation means to repair or in pidjin it is called stretem. TRC report recommended the formulation and passage a reparation bill into an Act of Parliament. The Reparation Act will establish a reparation commission. The reparation commission will develop a comprehensive reparation plan for implementation of the TRC recommendations. The SIG in partnership with the International Centre for Transitional Justice (ICTJ), UNDP and other development partners could support the government-led efforts to design the reparation plan.
54. Another important issue highlighted in the TRC report is Exhumation. It was started by RAMSI but not completed. The TRC report recommended that Parliament pass an Exhumation Bill into an act of parliament. The Exhumation Act will provide the legal basis for the establishment of an exhumation committee to administer exhumation. There is also a need to train our law enforcement and medical officers to exhume remains of loved ones in a proper way. Another issue that came out in TRC report is on vulnerable population. After TRC report was published, the family protection act (FPA) and Child Protection Act (CPA) was passed by parliament. Another issue is education including a call to review school curriculum to include peace education in the curriculum. A lot of these discussions have implications for broader economic development in the country and the need to create more jobs opportunities for youth.
55. The TRC report also looked at places badly affected such the Weather coast on Guadalcanal and recommended the paving of roads across Guadalcanal. Important reconciliation and customary ceremonies including Solovisu and Rasi have already been undertaken. the RC also recommended the rehabilitation of former combatants. At present, former militants are much more organized in post conflict period compared to victims. For instance, the former combatants have formed the SIPCRA which was active in past 2 years. The focus should be on training, creation of employment opportunities and counselling services. Institutional reform such as changes in the constitution to

provide for unity and decentralisation, free and equal participation of women is important. In terms of land, the TRC looked at land on Guadalcanal and other provinces. Return of all unused alienated land and passage of anti-corruption strategy and bill. In term of education, TRC report recommended inter cultural education between Guadalcanal and Malaita provinces. Mental health issues were also highlighted in the TRC report. A national mental health policy was developed in 2009 but requires resources and capacity to be implemented. Outstanding historical issues including the spill over effects of the Bougainville crisis at the PNG/SIG and East Kwaio massacre of 1927 were also highlighted in the TRC report and needs to be addressed.

56. In summary, Dr Kabutaulaka proposed that SIG should seek further support from the ICTJ to assist SIG in the development of a Reparation Policy Framework which will inform drafting of reparation bill. The reparation bill will provide for the establishment of the reparation commission. The reparation commission will then come up with comprehensive reparation framework. The development and passage of an exhumation bill will be required to govern the process of exhumation and returning of remains of those who died during conflict. There is also a need for more coordination between MNURP, MWYCFA, Police, Justice, courts, churches and NGOs.

### Views and comments from participants

57. Dr Jack Maebuta asked if participants knew the meaning of peace in their own languages. He suggested the need for Solomon Islanders to always refer to their cultural viewpoint for the meaning of peace. There is a need to contextualise peace in the cultural context before it can become meaningful for ourselves. He stressed that TRC Recommendations must be implemented with urgency. This nation cannot afford to wait and sit on the TRC recommendations. Although it will be very difficult to include peace education in school curriculum there is a need to looking at ways for doing this now. We need to have a peace world view. At present, our children still learn cold war, world war 1 and 2 and other foreign history. By this, we are instilling conflict and war mentality in our children. To instil peace for future we must begin with peace curriculum. We need to stop the teaching of cold war secondary schools.
58. Honourable Jeremiah Manele, Leader of Opposition said that in terms of the final communique, there is a need to have a peace curriculum. But he cautioned against the use of the TRC report as an educational material in schools. There is a need to include peace, tolerance, respect and peace education in the curriculum. Peace education must be included in the final communique. Establishment of a separation bill should be included in the communique to encourage government to take this bill forward. It is important to be updated on steps taken to come up with reparation bill to ensure outstanding issues raised in the TRC recommendations are holistically addressed. Legal framework must come first in form of Reparation Bill. Honourable Manele, was looking forward to having the reparation bill and exhumation bills in parliament soon. Responding to Honourable Manele's comments, Direct of Peace and Reconciliation at the MNURP, Mr Reuben Lilo said that a reparation committee was established and will be visiting all provinces to talk to people about the rehabilitation and reparation plan.
59. Delma Nori, a women representative asked if the government was sure that the limited rearmament of the police force is best for the country? She also asked if the proposed federal system of government is affordable, and if it will unite or divide the country. Reginal Teatao, consultant lawyer explained that based on their nationwide consultation, Solomon Islanders have differing views on federalism. Some wanted to break away, asserting that if the country does not adopt the federal system of government, the country will split up. In November 2016, all premiers agreed to have a

federal system government. Although the federal constitution was developed only after the ethnic tensions, calls for autonomy and more resources to be given to the provinces was there since independence.

60. Mr Teatao said there is a chapter on land in federal constitution which provided the basis for the return of all alienated land where the perpetual estate title is with the commissioner of lands to original land owners, regardless of whether it is developed or undeveloped. The only exception to this provision is land for public purposes including road and infrastructure, customary land belongs to tribe and clans, registration of land in the name of tribes and clan. Cultural way of recognition and transferring of rights such as patrilineal and matrilineal will be adopted. Mineral and natural resources will be vested in people. Under the unitary system resources belong to the people, but when resources were harvested, bulk of the money is taken by SIG and investors. Money given to the province is very small. Sharing of funds will be in the proposed new federal constitution. Another important issue is whether the federal system is expensive or cheap? Federalism is expensive. But as a country, Solomon Islanders must decide on whether they want to continue with the current system that does not serve the people well or a new system that will serve our people better.
61. Alice Hou, a women representative raised an important issue about how to deal with traumatic sickness. She said that some children are now traumatized as result of the violations, abuses and fears experienced during the ethnic tensions. While she acknowledged the Solovisu program, Ms Hou argued that it does not include trauma counselling. There is a need to provide for children, women, youths and adult, psycho socio rehabilitation and counselling services. Premier Veke called for inclusion of how we will coordinate implementation of TRC recommendation. A participant called for the recognition of culture and kastom in reparation programs. For instance, in Malaita, red money has red cloth. It means no more bloodshed. We need to come-up with appropriate and relevant ways to address reparation between victims and perpetrators that is affordable and culturally acceptable to all parties involved. SIG Reparation consultant Dr Kabutaulaka clarified that reparations will involve individuals and communities. There is a need to consider individual experiences and culturally appropriate and affordable means of reparations
62. Ms Ruth Liloqula, the from Transparency International Solomon Islands highlighted the need to strike a delicate balance between reparations, decentralisation, employment creation and economic investment opportunities. If infrastructure is provided in the provinces with economic opportunities and social infrastructure, development will spread to all other provinces. Honourable Mathew Wale, MP, said that if we are looking towards 50 years from now, what kind of Solomon Islands society do we want to have? There is a need to have a rule based society. Honourable Wale argued that the federal constitution is wrong. The country must be careful about keeping all its hopes in federal system. Honourable Wale argued that 50 years from now, we might be having a fractured country with rising tensions. It is incumbent on government to provide jobs opportunities so that citizens can get employed or become self-employed. There is a need to get rid of RCDF. Government must be able to enforce its will. At present, government is very weak and cannot even enforce its decisions or make right and just decisions. For instance, the issue of illegal squatter settlements, the government need to enforce its decision over those who illegally occupy these lands. Any compensation/reparations must include restitution. We need to do it properly to include compensation. Ms Afu Billy, a women representative called for the removal of RCDF and called on parliamentarians to lead with honesty and integrity.

63. Mr Peter Kenilorea junior, noted the need to allow chiefs to participate in dispute resolution, the need to establish a database to monitor peace making activities and record types of conflict and how disputes are solved. Data is important for predictability. Mr Kenilorea junior supported the proposal to establish a reparation commission. In terms of federal system, he emphasised that some issues can be addressed without the federal system of government. Solomon Islands should not be held in ransom for a system of government. There is a need to move forward. Honourable John Moffatt Fugui, minister for education, agreed that peace education must be led by the Solomon Islands National University (SINU). At present SINU is proposing to develop an academic program on peace studies and leadership studies, and about knowing who are as Solomon Islanders. Honourable Fugui agreed with the calls for inclusive education and revealed reforms in the curriculum to reflect our national context will tie in with new education bill for which nationwide consultations are currently being undertaken. Minister Fugui also noted the need for Solomon Islanders to be educated about how to use money well including windfall from natural resources, land sales and land rentals. Honourable Rhoda Sikilabu, MPA, from Isabel province called on all leaders to work with women, chief and churches.
64. Deputy Secretary to the Prime Minister, Mr Derek Futaiasi presented on the nexus between peace, development and anti-corruption. Me Futaiasi noted that when there is peace there will be development and vice versa. Corruption is an impediment to development. Corruption diverts resources into unproductive spending and impose high taxes on our economy and people. Solomon Islands is ranked 72 out of the 176 countries surveyed in 2016. A 2014 World Bank Business Survey estimated that 80% of Solomon Islanders pay a bribe to get things done. In Asia-Pacific the average is 42%, world average is 26%. There are more than 150 recommendations by the Auditor General about mismanagement that have yet to be fully implemented by public agencies. In 2012, Solomon Islands acceded to United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC). Current SIG initiatives to address corruption include: (i) strengthening laws against corruption; (ii) harmonising efforts across the whole public sector; (iii) fighting corruption in the Forestry and Mining sectors; (iv) Strengthening public procurement and financial management; (v) improving conditions in the Public Service, and eliminating political pressures.



*Mr Derek Futaiasi, Deputy Secretary OPMC making his presentation*

65. In terms of the specific reforms to address corruption and strengthen accountability institutions, the DCCG is finalising the following items to be presented to parliament before the 10th parliament dissolves in December 2018: (i) Anti-Corruption Bill; (ii) Whistle blower Protection Bill ; (iii) New Ombudsman Bill; (iv) New Leadership Code Bill; and (v) new Freedom of Information Bill; (vi) New National Electoral Bill including a new election system; (vii) Forestry & Mining Act review; (viii) Establishment of a Standing Committee of Parliament on anticorruption. The government is also putting in place mechanisms to harmonise anti-corruption efforts across the public sector including a new requirement where all public offices must have plans to prevent corruption. Assistance will be provided to different public offices to help conduct corruption risk assessment.
66. Because of frequent allegations of endemic corruption in the forestry and mining sectors the DCCG is putting in place compliance requirement for transparency in the following processes: (i) the award of logging and mining licenses; (ii) the assessment and payment of taxes and royalties on production; (iii) how local landowners and communities' share of the profits is calculated; (iv) enforcement of environmental regulations. In addition, it is accepted that there is an inverse relationship between the level of salary & wages and corruption. Improving conditions in the Public Service will be prioritised as part of efforts to address corruption. A review will be conducted on the overall terms and conditions of employment in the public sector. The new New Leadership Code Bill; and Whistle-blower Protection Bill are designed to eliminate political pressure on public officials and the citizens for reporting corruption. Furthermore, the temporary special measure (TSM) and anti-defection law was also discussed in parliament through a white paper presented by the prime minister in parliament for discussion in May 2017. On TSM, out of the 27 MPs who were presented when this was discussed, only 3 MPs including the prime minister supported TSM. The idea of introducing anti-defection into the electoral laws of the country was supported by 25 MPs out of the 27 present when this was discussed.

### Views and comments from participants

67. Prime Minister Sogavare highlighted that all these reforms need the support for all MPs to pass in parliament. He called on CSOs to help parliamentarians to pass bills instead of discouraging them with all sort of unfounded fears and rumours. Existing laws can be used to penalize corrupt dealings under penal code. Anti-corruption bill is about organizing the way corruption issues are addressed. Corruption is a nationwide issue. Participants also called on the office of the prime minister to address misunderstanding amongst parliamentarians and the public on the anti-corruption bill. People need to understand anti-corruption bill. Participants also called on all MPs to support anti-corruption bill as it will be good for the nation. Premier Veke supported calls to encourage all MPs to pass the important bills in Parliament. He reiterated the need to respect our leaders rather than creating fears amongst. Minister for education Hon Fugui also suggested the need to have an overarching good governance bill to complement anti-corruption and other bills.

### Land reforms Initiatives

68. Permanent Secretary for the ministry of lands, housing and survey (MLHS) Mr Stanley Waleneanesia, began by stating that customary land reform has been happening since the later part of 1800s. Back then the colonial administration registered land only to make plantations to raise revenue to administer the protectorate. In 1914 a waste land regulation was introduced to repeal freehold sale of land. In 1921, Burns Philip, introduced primary and secondary rights concept of land ownership. In 1959, land titles ordinance was introduced with the concept of having 5 people as land trustee. Land is an important issue for the government to deal with. It was mentioned in the Bonafide

demands of Guadalcanal provinces. Land is at the core of our identity in Melanesia. In 1959, idea of land trust board was introduced but was not accepted. Instead, commissioner of Lands was introduced as custodian of land titles on public land. In 2014, as result of amendments to the Lands and Title Act, a Land Board was established. The land board is responsible for making decision regarding public land allocation. Due to the wisdom of leaders, in 1994, a customary land recording act was introduced to deal with customary land. But to-date nothing happened, except the Auluta basin land where land recording was undertaken to identify land and land rightful owners to ensure the perpetual estate title is held by rightful customary land owners.



*Mr Stanley Waleanesia, PS, Ministry of Lands, Housing and Survey making his presentation.*

69. PS Waleanesia stated the two underlying assumptions underpinning successive governments customary land reform initiatives. First, it is assumed that the registration of customary will reduce land dispute. But the experiences of Bina harbour land and the Tina River Hydro land proved this assumption wrong. Although land in these two place were registered, land disputes is still happening. Second is the assumption that by registering customary land, it will create opportunities for development. The Auluta and Mamara/Tasivarongo land were registered many years ago, but they failed to attract investments and development projects. The question that we need to answer is how can we address registration of customary land and attract development in the country. Customary land is a very complex issue to address. In terms of the current activities, the MLHS is embarking on customary land recording pilot projects in Malaita, Guadalcanal, Temotu, and Choiseul provinces. Provinces should develop/establish the customary land recording processes and supported by national government, using existing laws. The ministry of land is also pursuing the return of unused alienated land to original rightful land owners. MHLS now reviews the Town and country planning Act, especially urban areas, to ensure it become an engine of growth and urban development.

### **Views and comments expressed by participants**

70. Participants expressed the need to be careful and to consult properly with land owners on any proposed customary land reform initiative. Returning of all alienated land returned to land owners will make it even more difficult for the government and investors to access land for development.

When land is with provincial government it is easier to access. Therefore, if land is already with government, it may be wise to keep it with the government. A participant argued that the two assumptions advanced by the PS must not be used as intellectual impediment to registering all land. Auluta land is a good example of land recording. The issue is how are we going to advance and promote development and attract investment in Auluta. We have a sense of urgency to address development in remote and difficult places. There was a call for the government to build good cities through properly planned and implemented urbanization strategy. Relocation of people affected by rising sea level due to climate change needs to be prioritised. There is a need to build city in Malaita province. There was a call for the issue of customary land rights for women who married outside of their province and cultural groups to be addressed in the proposed customary land reforms. At present, there is no mechanisms to connect customary land to development. Land owners need support and advice to make informed and wise decisions about the types of investments that should be happening on their land.

71. In response, all queries, and comments, the PS Mr Waleanesia said that at present, there are only 2 ways to acquire customary land for development. First is through compulsory acquisition of land and the second is through the customary land recording. In terms of climate change related population displacement, the Minister for Environment Honourable Samuel Magnetotail said that his ministry is working with the MLHS on relocation. The minister suggested that land owners should come together, resolve any disputes on their land first before approaching investors. There is a need to develop provinces and provide incentives for people to go back to develop their provinces.
72. Dr Tarcisius Kabutaulaka noted that one of the problems associated with access to land is not only with the nature customary land tenure, but the way we organize development. In GPPOL for instance, land owners own 20% share, they receive rents, dividends and hold equity shares in the company. There is also a need in these discussions to look at benefit sharing. Land tenure changes and clan and tribe are not a unified and single entity. In addition, one of the issues that need to be solved is the different land identification process. At present, the identification of land owners is done through the Land and Titles Act, Land Recording Act, and the Timber rights hearing process specific under the Forest and Timber Utilization Act. The country need to have just one land identification process. Choiseul province has a mechanism in place to identify and record customary land with tribes and clans using local knowledge and process. Other provinces should learn from the experiences of Choiseul province and see if they could learn from the process and come up with their own system for doing the same
73. Solomon Islands should be cautious about learning and adopting from Fiji's experience. Fiji took 59 years to develop their land tenure system. In Fiji, although right of land is held by indigenous Fijians, the right to manage land development is managed by the Itaukei Land Trust Board. There was also a call to use land to develop farm and gardens to feed and sustain a healthy population. In addition, there is a need to strengthen the house of chiefs who knows how to identify real land owners. A youth representative recommends the empowerment of young people in: (i) peace building training for young people; and (ii) trauma counselling training and support for young. He emphasized that the current trend in education does not serve the needs of youths today.
74. Financing for local development was a subtopic for discussion in the national dialogue. Prime minister Sogavare highlighted the need for the public to understand the policy rationale for this. The prime minister noted that the government still looking for a better way to deliver services to our people and RCDF is one of the ways to deliver services directly to people in the constituencies.



Guadalcanal provincial premier Veke called for an increase in the provincial capital development fund (PCDF) currently administered by the Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening (MPGIS) to address infrastructure needs as highlighted by the provincial premiers.

## Conclusion and Recommendations

75. At the end of the session, participants unanimously agreed on the key content of the national dialogue communique with the following themes: Sustaining Peace – Sustaining Development; Rural Development; Leadership; Inclusive governance; Women empowerment; Youth empowerment; Land reform and natural resources; Security and the Transition; Education; Reconciliation and peace building. This commitment is a significant step forward as participants pledged to offer their time, resources, knowledge and skills where appropriate to implement the communique.



*National dialogue participants reviewing and providing feedback on the draft communique*

76. The national dialogue on sustaining peace and stability provided a unique opportunity for the Honourable prime minister, leader of opposition, provincial premiers, parliamentarians, representatives of church, women and youth leaders, village elders, an equal opportunity and safe space for dialogue with a common voice and commitment for sustaining peace and stability in the country. Participants renewed their calls for the national government to provide the enabling environment and provide resources to address the many challenges facing the country. The national dialogue provided the opportunity for provincial premiers to highlight key issues facing their provinces, outlined provincial government's strategies for addressing them and highlighted area needing immediate national government's support. The national dialogue renewed the hopes of participants that many of the consensus and recommendation emanating from this dialogue could be addressed if the national government is committed, honest and provide the budgetary resources to support their implementation.

77. The impact of the national dialogue on the national government is both catalytic and innovative. For the first in the post conflict era, a bipartisan peace building dialogue was convened with high level participation and high level political commitment made. It is the first time that a peace building and development communique was drafted in an inclusive manner and broadly agreed upon by the

government, opposition, parliamentarians, provincial premiers and representatives of women, youth, chiefs, victims, churches and senior government officials. The communique proposed that a national peace building taskforce be established to coordinate and implement the national dialogue outcomes. A major weakness of previous dialogues was their failure to address implementation. This dialogue went beyond just agreeing on a communique but putting in place implementation mechanisms to deliver tangible results through consistent action. Furthermore, unlike previous dialogue where the national government was expected to implement all the follow-up actions, this dialogue is different since all participants made a collective committed to support the implementation of the communique. There is a general desire by all actors to taking ownership and action for sustaining peace and stability in the country after RAMSI's departure on 30 June 2017. There were generally expressions of positive energy and attitudes to ensure peace and stability is maintained. But it requires strong leadership from any ruling Solomon Islands government to drive the implementation of the national dialogue communiqués forward.

### The Way Forward

78. At the end of the national dialogue, the prime minister, leaders of opposition, parliamentarians, provincial premiers and all participants reaffirm their strong commitment to implement the outcomes of the dialogue to be led by the office of the prime minister and cabinet. Participants acknowledged that implementing the resolutions will not be easy considering the many limiting factors including insufficient financial resources, lack of political will to consistently deal with complex issues such as customary land, federal system of government, corruption, and the recommendations of TRC report. Unlike other forms of conversations, dialogue stresses long-term perspectives. Finding sustainable solutions requires time, resources, political will, cooperation and patience. The process can be painstakingly slow and incremental, lasting from ten minutes to ten years. One-off interventions very often do not work to address deeply-rooted causes of conflict or to fully deal with complex issues. Previous dialogues failed to address implementation. As a first step, the dialogue communique recommended that the office of the prime minister and cabinet to establish a national peace building taskforce to lead the implementing of the national dialogue outcomes and report to the national parliament through the office of the prime minister. One of the first tasks of the office of the prime minister and cabinet is to agree on how to take the communique forward. Further actions will be done under the institutional arrangements to be established between the office of the prime minister and cabinet with the MNURP.

## Annex I: Communique

National Dialogue on Sustaining Peace and Stability  
Solomon Islands  
19-20 June 2017

The Prime Minister;  
The Leader of the Opposition;  
Speaker to the National Parliament  
Members of Parliament;  
Premiers of the Provinces of Solomon Islands;  
Women leaders;  
Youth leaders;  
Representatives of church-based communities;  
Representatives of civil society

solemnly state:

In a summit meeting of the National Dialogue on Sustaining Peace and Stability in Solomon Islands in Honiara on 19 and 20 June 2017, leaders and representatives from all the provinces and the central government have come together to reflect on the peacebuilding issues and recommendations by national stakeholders of Solomon Islands and to chart a course towards a sustainable and peaceful future for the country.

We, the participants of the National Dialogue on Sustaining Peace and Stability in Solomon Islands, *acknowledge* and *celebrate* that we are one people, one country, with one future. We *welcome* the opportunity to join together in constructive discussions about charting a peacebuilding course for the country.

*We commit* to continuing dialogues that create understanding and sustains peace in Solomon Islands.

### Sustaining Peace – Sustaining Development

*We reaffirm* our commitment to inclusive development for our nation to ensure an economically, socially, spiritually and environmentally sustainable future for our present and future generations;

*We acknowledge* that the basis for sustainable and inclusive development is peace and stability. Economic development and peace are interconnected; development programmes and projects should contribute to peaceful co-existence, because peace is a public good;

*We strive* to achieve National Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals by promoting equitable economic growth, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living and accelerating human development;

*We seek* ways at all levels of Government to construct roads to connect remote parts of the country's many islands; invest in new infrastructures such as airstrips and wharfs, as well as basic social service infrastructure to support the process of effective peacebuilding and connectivity.

*We acknowledge* in the future; urban centers will grow as more of our people migrate from rural areas to towns and cities. *We commit* to develop urban centers in different parts of the country and link them to the development of industries;

#### Rural Development

*We acknowledge* a majority of our people presently live in rural areas, on customary land inherited from their ancestors, and whose every day livelihood is regulated by *kastom* and faith-based organizations;

*We commit* to improving their livelihood by providing them with adequate and quality services and opportunities; *We acknowledge* the importance of rural development to sustainable peace in Solomon Islands;

*We commit* to a transparent, accountable and participatory management of funds allocated for rural development to ensure it contributes to tangible improvements in the livelihoods of rural people; *We recommend* that rural development funds be administered collaboratively by the Ministry of Provincial Government and the Ministry of Rural Development.

#### Leadership

*We acknowledge* the importance of responsible, ethical, accountable, transparent and visionary leadership in enhancing development and peace in Solomon Islands.

*We commit* to improving the quality of leadership at all levels of our society by holding our leaders accountable to laws and values that contribute to development and sustainable peace;

#### Inclusive governance

*We encourage* further deliberations on achieving inclusive governance at all levels, including exploring constitutional reform to create a decentralised system of government that empowers the Solomon Islands people at all decision-making levels with more authority and resources to make informed decisions about their future;\_

*We commit* to inclusive consultations with provincial governments, faith-based organizations, and communities when developing and implementing policies and all reform initiatives.

*We encourage* the Government to find mechanisms for revenue sharing by using existing systems of governance while awaiting the outcomes of proposed constitutional reform;

*We recognize* Provincial Governments as the focal point for channeling development initiatives, resources, and services from the Central Government and nongovernment organization to communities; *We propose* that the Government establishes information offices at the provincial level to educate and disseminate information about the Government's fundamental reforms; *We commit* to informing and collaborating with Provincial Governments in all development and peacebuilding initiatives.

#### Women empowerment

*We are concerned* about the state of representation of women in decision-making in our country, including at the national and provincial levels. *We are committed* to engaging and empowering women, youth and people with special needs in all governance and development processes in the country;

*We recognize* that chiefs, church leaders, women leaders and youth leaders have important roles to play in the governance of local communities; their roles need to be acknowledged and strengthened. *We pledge* to develop existing mechanisms to link women, youth, church and community leaders with provincial and national governments;

*We commend* Guadalcanal and Western Provinces for their efforts to strengthen women's participation and representation in decision-making processes and *we encourage* other provinces and the national institutions to follow these first steps;

*We acknowledge* that we need to press forward ensuring that more youth are trained, engaged and empowered to actively participate in decision-making and contribute to inclusive socio-economic development. Our collective investment should be in young people. *We commit* to review national and provincial budgets to allocate more dedicated resources for youth;

*We recommend* the proposed constitutional reform use gender sensitive language that is inclusive of all genders.

#### Youth empowerment

*We acknowledge* that a majority of Solomon Islands population are youths, with the potential to contribute to economic development and in maintaining peace in our country;

*We commit* to giving our young people the opportunity to education, to participate in decision-making, contribute to and benefit from economic development, and the freedom to dream for and achieve a better future.

*We commit* to the implementation of the National Youth Policy.

#### Land reform and natural resources

*We recognise* that the issue of land is central to our collective well-being; but it is also one of the most complex issues to address. *We commit* to working together in a bipartisan and inclusive manner to introduce mechanisms and pass new land legislation to make customary land accessible for investment while safeguarding our indigenous peoples' rights to land.

*We pledge* to explore options for an equitable, transparent and efficient system of land recording and land management. To this end, *we will establish* a bipartisan policy options on land reform to come up with joint proposals for next steps;

*We acknowledge* that equitable access to land is a social justice issue. *We acknowledge* that the increasing competition for and increasing price of public land has pushed most Solomon Islanders out of the land market. *We commit* to address land speculations that marginalizes most Solomon Islanders from the land market for public land.

*We acknowledge* the growth of squatter settlements on public and customary land, especially in and around urban centers, and *recognize* that it is a potential driver for conflicts. *We commit* to addressing squatter settlements and improving the lives of people who live in these settlements.

*We are proud* that our country is endowed with abundant natural resources. *We commit* to promoting the sustainable utilisation and consultative management of our natural resources as the basis for sustainable economic and social development;

*We commit* to working together in a bipartisan and inclusive manner to introduce mechanisms and pass legislation to regulate the access, extraction and development of natural resources; *We commit* to establish mechanisms to ensure that landowners and resource owners benefit equitably from natural resource development.

*We acknowledge* that natural resource developments can be drivers to conflicts. *We propose* that the Government requires that conflict assessments be a pre-requisite to natural resource developments.

#### Security and the Transition

*We salute* the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands – RAMSI – for helping to bring peace and stability back to the country and for accompanying us for many years in support of our security. Now that RAMSI is about to depart, we will need concerted and collective efforts to maintain peace, safety and security in our country;

*We commit* at all levels – whether at the national level, in the provinces and in the communities – to work closely with all stakeholders as a matter of urgency to address law and order, security and unemployment. *We pledge* to fostering a close relationship between communities and the police. *We will continuously strengthen* our police. *We acknowledge* the special situation of our border areas and *we commit* to develop, with our regional partners, a plan to strengthen the protection and policing of our border areas;

*We acknowledge* the need to end and prevent violence in our communities, especially against women, and *we pledge* to ensure that the *Family Protection Act* and the *Child and Family Welfare Act* are implemented and actively supported by the police, authorised local justices and community policing committees.

*We recognize* the importance of community policing, the role of chief and community leaders – including women leaders – and community bylaws in maintaining community order, sustainability and peace both in rural areas and urban centers. *We commit* to improving community policing, empowering chiefs and community leaders, including women leaders.

#### Education

*We acknowledge* the importance of education that inculcates values important to peaceful co-existence in our communities and country. *We commit* to develop curriculum that focuses on peace education at the primary, secondary and tertiary institutions.

*We commit* to an education system that includes the teaching and learning of our cultures and the values that create peaceful co-existence in our communities and country.

*We commit* to an education system that prepares our people to contribute positively to the development and wellbeing of our communities and country.

*We acknowledge* the role of education in facilitating inter-cultural interactions and in building national consciousness. *We commit* to building schools that provide opportunities for children to interact and have inter-cultural experiences.

#### Reconciliation and peace building

*We acknowledge* that the Tensions and violence of our recent past have had a long-lasting effect on many people and communities, and that these effects are still impacting our lives. *We recognise* that peacebuilding and healing are crucial for development and progress. *We understand* that healing must take place at the community level and at the same time at the provincial and at the national level. *We commit* to continuing our dialogues among national and provincial leaders, chiefs, youth groups, women, and churches to resolve various matters at hand and to help determine ways forward for a peaceful future;

*We recognize* the contributions of individual Solomon Islanders, faith-based organizations, women's organizations, and nongovernment organizations who have contributed to the peace process and who continue to contribute to sustaining peace in our country. *We propose* that the Government selects and recognizes Solomon Islander peace ambassadors;

*We recognize* the power of kastom, culture and faith in helping to solve disputes. *We pledge* to develop a programme to build the capacity of community leaders, including women and youth leaders, to prevent conflicts, creating dispute resolution mechanisms at the community level; *we commit* to promote positive social behavior and develop a new peace curriculum and training programmes for teachers at the primary, secondary and tertiary level;

*We acknowledge* the report of the Solomon Islands Truth and Reconciliation Commission and its recommendations. *We pledge* to continue working on their implementation. As an important and urgent next step in our reconciliation and healing process, *we commit* to adopt and implement a national peacebuilding policy and a peacebuilding framework and to establish a commission to administer the implementation of the TRC recommendations;

*We recommend* that the Government partners with faith-based organizations, nongovernment organization, and the private sector in implementing the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

#### Follow-up

*We applaud* the open spirit of this National Dialogue on Sustaining Peace and Stability in Solomon Islands. *We have come together* as "many People, one Country, one Future". *We commit* to continue our conversations with the aim to help build a peaceful and prosperous future for our beautiful country.

*We commit* to create peacebuilding focal points in the provincial governments and build dialogue teams in each province that will work towards regular exchanges with provincial women, men, youth, church, elders and chief leaders;

*We resolve* to establish a National Peacebuilding Task Force (NPTF) to coordinate the implementation of our commitments made today. The National Peacebuilding Task Force will consist of a representative each from the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Peace, the Ministry of Women and Youth, the Parliament, the Police, a women's representative, a youth representative, a church representative, a chief representative and a representative of the international and diplomatic community. The NPTF will meet regularly, at the minimum once a month, to follow up on the implementation of the commitments, to discuss outstanding issues and to regularly report to the Parliament through the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet;

*Finally, we will continue* our dialogue and *we remain committed* to working together in support of sustainable peace and inclusive development of Solomon Islands.

END



## Annex II

### Power point presentations

# MALAITA PROVINCIAL DIALOGUE PRESENTATION

PRESENTED AT THE NATIONAL DIALOGUE  
HERITAGE PARK HOTEL  
HONIARA, 19-20 JUNE 2017  
BY  
**HON. PETER RAMOHIA**  
PREMIER  
MALAITA PROVINCE

## PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- i. Introductory Remarks
- ii. Malaita Dialogue Outcomes
- iii. What has been done to date?
- iv. What still needs to be done?
- v. Final Remarks & Conclusion/Questions

### I: INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

- And so during this National Dialogue Malaita Provincial Government and people seek this outcome – we seek genuine and generous support from INTERNATIONAL DONOR COMMUNITY, International and local NGOS, FBOs, Private Sector, Government Institutions/Departments and Community Governance Policy. We seek that together *“we set our house in order & leave no man, woman or child behind”*
- We believe this is realistic thinking and a strategy for achieving not only the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) but the realization of the notion of *“government of the people, by the people & for the people”*.
- Finally thank you Prime Minister & UNDP for this invitation and time to participate on behalf of my Government and people of Malaita in this important NATIONAL DIALOGUE.

### I: INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

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- Finally thank you Prime Minister & UNDP for this invitation and time to participate on behalf of my Government and people of Malaita in this important NATIONAL DIALOGUE.

## II: MALAITA PROVINCIAL LEADERS DIALOGUE (AUKI, 23-25 NOVEMBER 2016) RESOLUTIONS & OUTCOMES

### Summary of DIALOGUE Resolutions & Outcomes

#### Broad categories of Resolutions

- I. Land & Resources
- II. Peacebuilding & Post-conflict Reconstruction
- III. Leadership & Governance
- IV. Education
- V. Youth

### III: WHAT THE DIALOGUE AGREED ON

#### LAND & RESOURCES: REFORM/REGISTRATION

1: The adoption of the proposed Customary Land Reform Pilot Bills (*In alienation laws*) is a way forward for anchoring customary land tribal ownership, security, protection, sustainability and meaningful participation in socio-economic development now and in the future....(compare current system)  
[Action by: MPG/OPMC]

2: Malaita Members of National Parliament and Provincial Assembly to render mutual political support for the adoption of the proposed Pilot Bills (*In alienation laws*) and other relevant ORDINANCES developed as part of the Customary Land Reform.  
[Action by: MPG/MGCC]

3: The National Government to declare Malaita as Customary Land Recording Zone under the proposed Land Reform but this will be purposely for *In alienation* (as opposed to *alienation*)  
[Action by: MPG/Land Reform Unit of OPMC]

4: The Malaita Great Council of Chiefs, Tribal House of Chiefs, Elders and Leaders to be armed in Law and responsible to lead and carry out the customary land recording process in their respective Tribal lands for anchoring in the new land reform law.

[Action by: MPG/MGCC/Land Reform OPMC]

5: A subsidiary Land Reform Office to be established in early 2018 in Malaita Province with funding from the National Government to oversee the management and effective implementation of the land recording and registration (anchoring of customary land ownership title in new land reform law).

[Action by: MPG/Land Reform Unit of the OPMC]

6: Establish a Management Team charged with the responsibility for overseeing the implementation of the land recording and registration process in Malaita Province....(upgrade to Commission later)

[Action by: MPG/MGCC/MNURP]

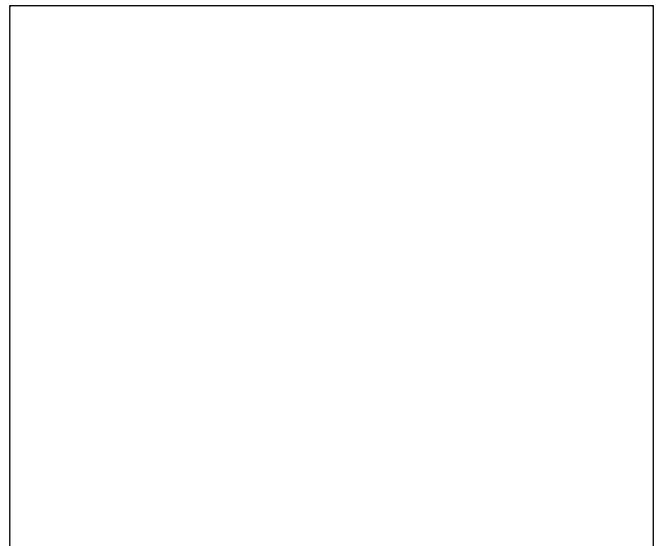
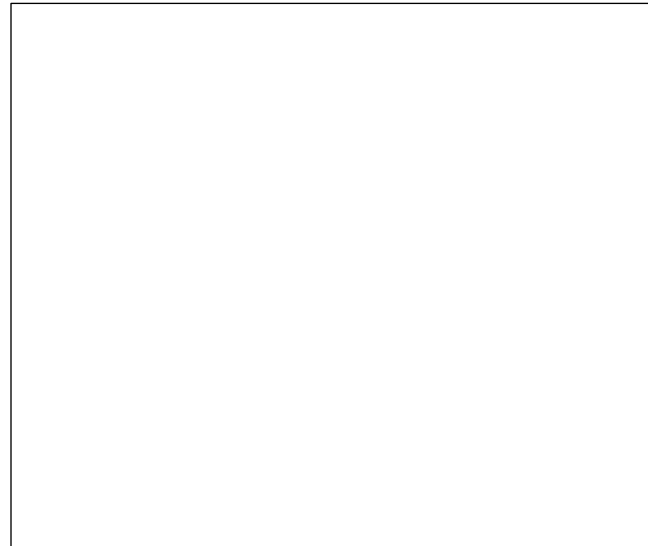
7: The National Government of Solomon Islands to fully support the implementation of this land reform process by ensuring funding and financing is available from relevant Government Ministries and Agencies and other International Donor Partners.

[Action by: MPG/ MNURP/Land Reform Unit OPMC]

**PEACEBUILDING & POST-CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION**

8: We recognise and value the importance of Healing, Reconciliation and forgiveness for development and progress. We therefore call for the design and implementation of a Malaita wide 3 year Peacebuilding programme for implementation in 2018 to 2020.

[Action by: MPG/MNURP – Malaita Peace Office/Donor support required].



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