

2015

National Parliament of Solomon Islands

Strategy Annual Report



Volume Four

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Preface



Dear Sir,

I am delighted to present to your office the 2015 Strategy Annual Report volume 4. This report outlines achievements of the activities

scheduled in the 2015 Corporate Annual Work Plan and Strategy Implementation Road Map for 2015, plus other activities rolled over from 2014.

The year began with a Parliament meeting starting in March and ended in April. This meeting has 20 sitting days and was the first meeting for the year 2015. The second and final meeting commenced in October and ended in December with 22 sittings. Thus in this reporting period there were two meetings with a total of 42 sitting days.

Another important Parliamentary event occurred in May. From 11-14 May the NPO together with Officers from government ministries and the Judiciary co-hosted the Members induction program. The induction program provides an opportunity for Members of Parliament to look at the roles and functions of the three arms of government namely the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary. The induction also covered the roles of Members of Parliament and inform MPs about the corporate services provided by the National Parliament Office in support of MPs as they perform their duties. These services include; the Hansard services, research services and committees, parliamentary procedures and practices, library services and payroll and ICT services.

One of the milestone achievements made in the course of the year is the inclusion of the administrative autonomy in the ruling government policy document. This signifies the commitment of the government of the day to the autonomy cause. This however is far from the end and is just a starting step in the process and progress of the

desired autonomy plan. This report highlights the progress of the autonomy plan and the efforts made in 2015 to progress the plan in collaboration with the Executive. More work is needed to be done in this front.

Am pleased to report that the Parliamentary Committees have carried out their work well and made inquiries into issues of national interest including the inquiry into the Solomon Islands-Bougainville border issues.

The cooperation of all staff in the course of the year enabled the NPO to make progress. As the strategy is implemented at the departmental level, team work at that level is important and linkage with the admin and availability of resources and tools to enable staff to do their job effectively is important. May I take this opportunity to thank staff of the NPO for their cooperation and spirit of team work.

At this juncture I would like to acknowledge the UNDP Parliamentary Strengthening Project which came to the end of its third and final phase in March 2015. The National Parliament of Solomon Islands has benefitted immensely from the project since 2006. Significant improvements were made to the Parliament processes, scrutiny function and training of staff during the project. Thanks to everyone including Project Managers and all who contributed directly or indirectly beginning from the first phase down to the third phase.

Thanks to the team in the Strategy Support Unit for coordinating the 2015 Strategy implementation program.

Looking forward to the next strategy cycle.

May God Bless and strengthen NPSI and NPO staff to accomplish the NPSI vision and mission

Clezy Rore

Clerk of Parliament

Foreword



I pleasantly accept this 2015 Strategy Annual Report Volume 4 with thanks and admiration for the effort made in implementing the National Parliament of Solomon Islands Strategy 2012-2016. Thank you Clerk and your team of staff for the excellent work done in 2015.

The monthly Management Group meetings enabled me as Speaker to be informed of progress of the implementation of the 2015 Corporate Annual Work plan. It also provided information necessary for decisions making on the operation of Parliament.

The publishing of this volume 4, indicates the continuous commitment of staff of the National Parliament Office to achieve the NPSI strategy objectives. Amidst the limited resources, and sometimes short time duration of delivery of results, often the deliverables are delivered on time and within the quality expected.

I am aware of the end of the UNDP Parliamentary Strengthening Project in March 2015. The National Parliament is grateful for the support rendered since phase 1 of the project in 2004. Significant improvements in Parliament processes, staff training and developments, ICT infrastructure and other resources

were direct results of the UNDP PSP. Thank you UNDP, and those who have managed the Parliament Strengthening Project (PSP) and staff who have once served under the project and have contributed to the success of the PSP. The project support has come to the end of its third and final phase in March of this reporting year and the challenge to sustain the good work done thus far remains a doable outcome the National Parliament Office must overcome. I have all the confidence in the NPO team that they will carry on where the UNDP PSP left with support from the executive.

Ajilon Nasiau
Speaker of Parliament

Executive Summary

This report presents what has and has not been achieved in the implementation of the 2015 Corporate Annual Work Plan (CAWP) of the National Parliament. The 2015 CAWP is a schedule of activities set for implementation in 2015 extracted from the National Parliament of Solomon Islands Strategy 2012-2016. The NPSI Strategy 2012-2016 has four (4) key objectives. A summary of the key achievements of these 4 objectives in 2015 is hereby presented.

Objective 1

Key achievements:

- Completion of all documents related to the parliamentary autonomy plan
- Establishment of the Autonomy Working Group (AWG) that will plan and oversee strive for parliamentary autonomy.
- A workshop was conducted to familiarize the AWG with autonomy working documents.

Challenges:

- Recruitment of manpower was the lowest in 2015 caused by freeze of recruitment

Objective 2

Key Achievements

- Three information workshops about Parliament organised by the Committee Secretariat. The workshops educated government officials, civil society organisations and State Owned Enterprises about Parliament and role citizens can play in the law making process.
- Positive responses from citizens who willingly appear before Committees, when requested to provide evidence during hearings.

Challenges

No records of any dialogue held in 2015 between the Executive and the Legislature on the legislative calendar and the parliamentary calendar.

Objective 3

Key achievements

- All 10 Parliamentary Committees held deliberative meetings on their annual work plans
- Six out of ten Committees actively held inquiries into their respective subject areas in 2015. (Notable ones are the CRC consultation with the Federal Constitution team, PAC and PEC budget inquiry, PNSC Western borderline inquiry, HMSC inquiry into the National Referral Hospital and the BLC inquiry into Bills tabled in Parliament.
- PNSC inquiry into the western borderline brings Parliament to the people.

Challenges

- Committee frequent lack of quorum remain a hindrance to conduct of Committee business
- Less manpower in the Committee Secretariat affect the provision of Committee Support Services by the Secretariat.

Objective 4

Key achievements

- Increase in school visits to schools located in constituencies near Honiara in Guadalcanal.
- Establishment of the Press Gallery in the Media Department (achieved in 2013 ahead of its 2015 schedule)
- Improvement in the quality video productions of Parliament sittings televised by Telekom TV.

Challenges

- Constituency tours scaled down to school visits around nearby constituencies due to lack of funds.
- Since 2013, no further progress recorded on the idea for Parliament to work towards setting up its own television station.

Recommendations.

In the light of observations made regarding

implementation of the strategy in 2015, the SSU recommends that:

1. The Autonomy Working Group to facilitate dialogue between the Executive and the Legislature on the best way forward for Parliament to achieve administrative autonomy.

2. The Autonomy Working Group in 2016 to collaborate with the Office of the Prime Minister and formulate a program of awareness of citizens about the roles and functions of the Legislature, Executive and the Judiciary and the desire of the Legislature to be more autonomous administratively.

3. Parliament organize more workshops for government officials, State owned enterprises, civil society organizations and the general public about the role they can play in the legislative process and improve the quality of laws passed in Parliament.

4. The Committee Secretariat closely work with Committee Chairs and the Speaker and re-activate the Committee Chairs Group to encourage discussion of Committee issues.

The Details of the 2015 Strategy implementation are discussed in this report.

Acronyms

AWG	Autonomy Working Group
BLC	Bills and Legislation Committee
DAWPs	Departmental Annual Work Plans
HODs	Heads of Department
MG	Management Group
MOFT	Ministry of Finance and Treasury
MPs	Members of Parliament
MPS	Ministry of Public Service
NPO	National Parliament Office
NPSI	National Parliament of Solomon Islands
OPMC	Office of the Prime Minister's and Cabinet
PMP	Performance Management Process
PM Form 1	Performance Management Form 1
PSP	Parliamentary Strengthening Project
SSU	Strategy Support Unit
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
SOE	State Owned Enterprises

Guiding Principles

Our Vision

The Vision of the National Parliament of Solomon Islands is:

To be a modern Parliament that fulfils its constitutional duties and effectively serves the people of Solomon Islands

Our Mission

The Mission Statement of the National Parliament of Solomon Islands for the period 2012-2016 is:

As the democratically elected national legislature of Solomon Islands, our mission is to ensure that Parliament exercises its legislative, oversight, representation and outreach duties effectively and that Parliament remains the main forum for national political debate.

Our Core Values

Whilst moving towards achieving the Vision and Mission of the legislature, the Parliament as a whole, both the elected Members and the National Parliament Office staff, must be guided by the Core Values of the Parliament.

As a democratically elected Parliament, we recognize that we are here to serve the people and we must hold and follow the highest ethics and values in order to serve the people of Solomon Islands.



The Parliament's Strategic Objectives for the period 2012-2016

- 1. To develop the general capacity of the Parliament and to enhance the institutional capacity of the National Parliament staff to serve Parliament**
- 2. To improve the legislative process in Parliament to ensure enhanced scrutiny and quality of legislation**
- 3. To improve the capacity of Parliament to provide effective oversight**
- 4. To develop the education and outreach work of Parliament and the representative role of MPs**

Strategic Objective 1:

To develop the general capacity of the Parliament and to enhance the institutional capacity of the National Parliament staff to serve Parliament

1.1 PARLIAMENTARY AUTONOMY

A. Autonomy

A working group called the Autonomy Working Group (AWG) consisting the Parliament Heads of Department was formed in August 2015. The primary function of the AWG was to progress the implementation of activities related to the administrative autonomy cause as specified in the NPSI strategy 2012-2016. On 9th September 2015, the AWG met with a consultant from Oracle (John Taupongi) who had put together the autonomy baseline study report and a comparative study report on the UK, Australian Federal and the New Zealand Parliament. The meeting was purposely to brief the AWG on the content of the reports produced by the consultant.

On September 21, the AWG hold a workshop with Dr John Patterson-former UNDP Parliamentary Strengthening Project Manager in 2011. Participants discussed the progress of the Autonomy plan as scheduled in the Parliament Strategic Plan and what to do next since all working documents and studies pertaining to the autonomy plan were complete.

By consensus, the AWG agreed that the Autonomy plan is a national issue, therefore consultation with all Solomon Islanders at the national level is an essential component of the autonomy plan. Furthermore more consultation and dialogue between the Government especially the Office of the Prime Minister and

Cabinet (OPMC) be made with increasing frequency in meetings.

The Democratic Coalition for Change Government (DCCG) made commitment to the Parliament autonomy cause through its Policy Framework. The policy forms the basis for more dialogue between Parliament and the DCCG who both have interest in making the autonomy plan a reality.

The NPSI Strategy 2012-2016 scheduled the drafting of the relevant autonomy legislations to be completed in 2014. However it was realized in the 21 September workshop, that consulting the people of Solomon Islands in the autonomy plan is an important responsibility both the Parliament and the government must undertake to allow Solomon Islanders have their voice included in the autonomy process. Furthermore, the NPO need to take the initiative in educating Solomon Islanders about the functions of Parliament, roles of MPs, the need for parliament administrative autonomy and its implications on the government, Parliament and Solomon Islanders should Parliament become administratively autonomous.

Thus 2016 is earmarked for Parliament and government national consultation with citizens with drafting of legislations thereafter taking into consideration citizens view.

Finance and Budget 2016

The Finance and Accounts Department in collaboration with the Clerk and the Heads of Department formulate the 2016 budget in August 2015. A recurrent budget bid valued at \$6.4 million was submitted to MOFT before the 19 August deadline. This budget bid exclude development budget. Budget bid provision made for the autonomy plan and the Parliamentary Civic Education Unit were new budget heads included in the 2016 budget. However the bid for the autonomy budget head was unsuccessful.



ICT Officer Sunjay Dhari presenting ICT report to the Management Group.

Development Budget.

The National Parliament Office also made a budget bid for the 2016 Development projects. The total development budget bid submitted as of August 19 was \$15 million. However at passing of the budget in December, Parliament was given \$10 million for its development projects in 2016.

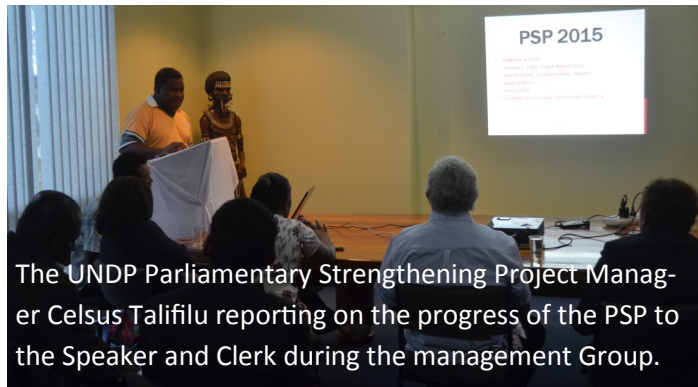
Parliament has three Development Programmes. These include:

1. National Parliament Facilities Refurbishment and Renovation Program
2. Parliament Infrastructure Development program
3. National Parliament Precinct Development program.

Each program has specific projects to achieve.

Presentation to Management Group

In the course of this reporting period, as part of the NPO reporting mechanism, the Management group held five meetings with the Speaker and Clerk. The



The UNDP Parliamentary Strengthening Project Manager Celsus Talifilu reporting on the progress of the PSP to the Speaker and Clerk during the management Group.



Management Group members listening to presentations from other the Heads of Department

Heads of Departments, made presentations to the Speaker and the Clerk, keeping them abreast of departmental progress on executing Departmental Annual Work Plans. This system of accountability ensures the Departments are achieving the results required of them as specified in the Corporate Annual Work plan. The CAWP in turn comes from the NPSI Strategy 2012-2016.

Apart from the 5 MG meetings, the Executive Group conducted 3 meetings in this reporting period.

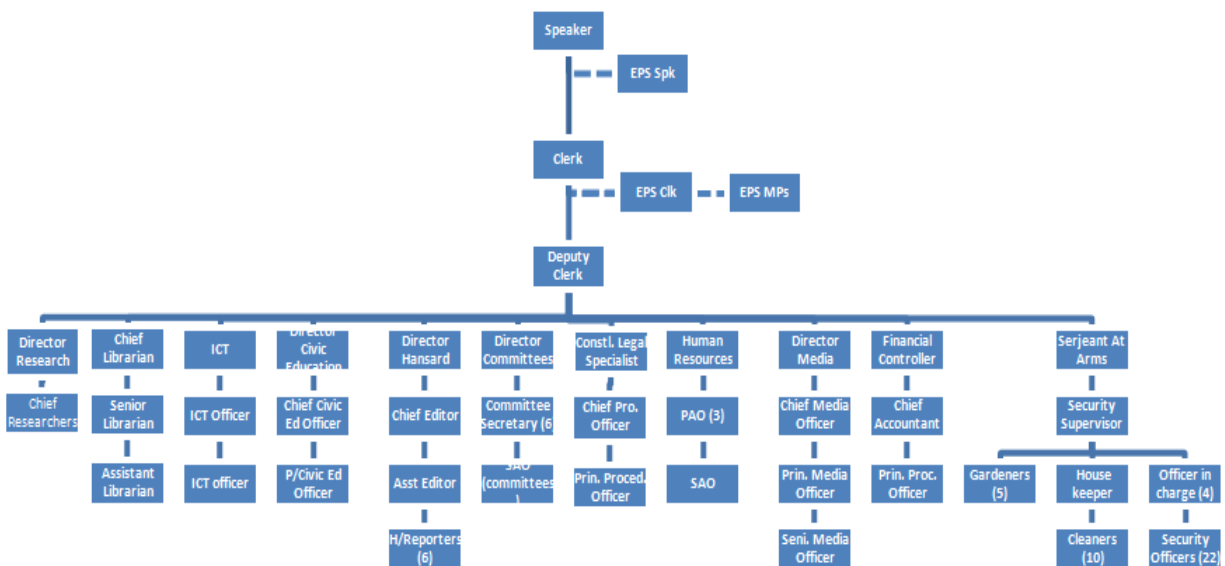
Strategic Objective 1:

To develop the general capacity of the Parliament and to enhance the institutional capacity of the National Parliament staff to serve Parliament

1.2—1.3. Strengthen Corporate Services and Human Resources

Organogram of the National Parliament Office depicting the linkages of Parliament departments.

NATIONAL PARLIAMENT OFFICE
ORGANOGRAM 2015



Strategic Objective 1:

To develop the general capacity of the Parliament and to enhance the institutional capacity of the National Parliament staff to serve Parliament

1.2—1.3. Strengthen Corporate Services and Human Resources

Strategy Reviews

Preparation of Departmental Annual Work Plans (DAWPs) for 2015 begun in October 2014 with the release of the 2015 Corporate Annual Work Plan. NPO staff met in departments and prepared the first draft of the DAWPs ready for the first strategy review in 2015.

The first strategy review occurred on March 9, 2015. Heads of Departments presented their DAWPs before the Strategy Support Unit team. The second DAWP review was held on July 30 and the final review was held on 27 October 2015.

On 24 November the SSU team released the 2016 Corporate Annual Work Plan giving ample time for the various departments to produce the first draft of their DAWPs for 2016.

During the first and second reviews ten departments presented their DAWPs. In the final review all departments presented reports of their progress.

The following table shows the Strategy Review Program and the level of department participation in the DAWP reviews.

Strategy Interview	Dates	Departments Participated
1	9 March	10 Departments
2	30 July	10 Departments
3	25-26 Sep	12 Departments

NPO Staffing, Recruitment & Selection

Newly added positions approved by the Public Service Commission in this reporting period include:

Senior Media Production Officer (1)

Director Research (1)

Chief Research Officer (2)

The total number of positions under the National Parliament Office Establishment as of December 2015 is 258. This include MPs domestic servants, staff of the Offices of the leader of Opposition and the Independent Group.

Vacant positions

NPO made advertisement of the following vacant positions: 1 Constitutional Legal Specialist; 1 Director Research; 2 Chief Research Officers, 2 Committee Secretaries; 2 Drivers; 6 Security Officers; 5 Gardeners; 1 Senior Media Production Officer; 1 Senior Librarian, 1 library assistant, 1 Executive Personal Secretary; 1 Personal Secretary and 1 Principal Admin Officer. Amongst the submissions made to the Public Service Commission only six positions were successfully filled by the end of the year. This represent 23% of the total advertised positions. A number of factors contribute to the low recruitment rate. This include the freeze of recruitment in the first half of the year as well as the lengthy process of recruitment. There is a need to improve this rate of filling up vacant positions in 2016.

Develop professional development plans for all staff

The Public Service Training Policy is the over-arching policy that governs training of Public Officers. It provides for each ministry and government agencies to form a Ministerial Training Committee (MTC) that made decisions on trainings needs. The NPO Ministerial Committee consist the Heads of Departments.

On February 9 2015 the NPO MTC met and identify staff to undergo long term training through flexible learning in 2015 and full time study in 2016. The MTC made recommendation to the Clerk for endorsement of candidates for flexible and full time study.

For short term trainings offered locally the Heads of Department make the recommendation to the Clerk to permit officers to go on training. Short term trainings held overseas require the approval of the Clerk in consultation with the host organization.

At the MTC meeting, the following staff were recommended for long term training in 2016:

Boniface Supa

Ian Rakafia (Reserve candidate)

NAME	COURSE TITLE	COURSE DATE
Joycelyn K Hevalao	Code of Conduct	26/03/2015
Joycelyn K Hevalao	Human Resource Management Fundamentals	28/04-29/09/2015
Monica Sekonga	Code of Conduct	26/03/2015
Lynette Neleta	Budget and Financial Management	27-28/05/2015
Lynette Neleta	Financial and Legislative Framework	26/05/2015
Monica Sekonga	Knowing Your Public Service	13-24/04/2015
Moffet Maenao	Project Management Course	15-16/07-20/08/2015
Moffet Maenao	Knowing Your Public Service	4-15/05/2015
Rexford Kouto	Leadership Development Program	11/03/-28/04/2015
Linda Marigeni	EPS Course Enhancing Knowledge for quality performance	20-22/4/2015
Monica Sekonga	Basic Computing	30/03-01/04/2015
Ray Sibisobere	Knowing Your Public Service	1st-11th/6/2015
Lawrence Scott	Knowing Your Public Service	1st-11th/6/2015
Boniface Supa	Leadership Development Program	19 March-30 June
Marson Lilopeza	Leadership Development Program	20 March-30 June
Kristina Sogavare	Leadership Development Program	21 March-30 June
Margaret Ruqebatu	Leadership Development Program	22 March-30 June
Rexford Kouto	Leadership Development Program	25 March-30 June
Lawrence Scott	Supervisor Development Course	21-23 July 2015
Davidson Kukutu	Knowing Your Public Service	03-14/8/2015
Marlon Keni	Knowing Your Public Service	03-14/8/2015
Whitmon Tabiru	Knowing Your Public Service	03-14/8/2015
David Maru	Knowing Your Public Service	03-14/8/2015
John Mane	Knowing Your Public Service	03-14/8/2015
Eric Wate	Knowing Your Public Service	03-14/8/2015
Baddley Bopali	Knowing Your Public Service	03-14/8/2015
Alice Tusipua	Knowing Your Public Service	03-14/8/2015
Serah Tangirongo	Knowing Your Public Service	03-14/8/2015
Margaret Sipele	International Computers Drivers	21/09-30/10/2015

1.4 Parliament Infrastructure and Security.

There were three key infrastructure priority projects for 2015 and these include:

- Design of the Committee Office Complex
- Parliament Retention wall
- Parliament landscape design

1. Design of the Committee Office Complex

Design of the Committee Office Complex require input from Ministry of Infrastructure Development (MID) and the National Parliament Office. Toward the end of the year, the MID and NPO met and complete paper work needed to be completed before a design contractor is identified through tender processes. Actual design has been scheduled to proceed in 2016.

2. Parliament Retention Wall

Work on the Parliament retention wall began in early December and is in progress at the time of writing of this report.

3. Parliament Landscape Design

Since 2010 the Parliament engaged Nambawan Architect to create a blueprint of the Parliament Landscape. In December Parliament received the final landscape design from the contractor and budget is needed to implement the landscape plan.

Security

An increase in the number of security duty stations from three to four caused a need to increase the number of securi-

ties from 20 to 24. Four security duty stations are:

1. The Parliament top gate,
2. Parliament bottom gate,
3. the Paul Tovua Complex and
4. the Security Console.

Apart from manning these duty stations another officer need to be on patrol around the perimeter and check on the Opposition and the Independent offices.

The increase in security ensures adequate manpower to meet the Parliament security needs.

The Parliament retention project is part of an effort to improve the security and safety of Parliament properties. The retaining wall provide a stable environment that prevent soil erosion and at the same time forms part of the perimeter security fence that prevents unauthorized persons from illegally entering the Parliament compound by breaking through the mesh wire perimeter fence.

1.5 Creating an e-Parliament

ICT developments:

The Parliament current ICT network (servers and computer infrastructure) was established in 2006/2007 and has served parliament well during those years. The ICT team conduct an assessment of the ICT infrastructure in February and found a critical need to upgrade replace the servers. This finding enabled Parliament to secure government funding through contingency warrant in April 2015.. The ICT team began the process of procuring the servers and other computer network accessories since April. The team also coordinate the re-cabling of the network in preparation for the installation of the new servers in 2016.

The following are three key ICT achievements in 2015:

1. Assessment of Parliament ICT Infrastructure:
2. Procurement of new servers
3. Re-cabling of the Parliament network.

One of the key task under this sub-objective is to facilitate ICT training for Members of Parliament. However during this reporting period there were no ICT training accorded to MPs on computer and network usage.

1.6 Instituting a Parliamentary calendar.

A report produced by a local consultant Law Corp firm in 2014 regarding instituting a Parliamentary Calendar recommends a consultation between Parliament and the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in 2015. However there were no progress made in this activity during this reporting period.

1.7 Effective Reporting of Parliamentary Proceedings.

Hansard department made a bid submission for the procurement of a Hansard Production Software (HPS) to enhance production of hansard transcripts and bound volumes. The HPS was procured from Oconics (Australia) and is due to be installed in 2016 after the installation of the new computer servers.

1.8 Developing the capacity and professional skills of MPs

Parliament, in collaboration with the Judiciary and the Executive (selected government ministries) conducted a four day induction program for the Members of

Parliament from 11-14 May 2015. The induction provide Members of Parliament with information about the roles of Members of Parliament as representatives of their constituents, the constitutional functions of Parliament, Parliament's roles in providing scrutiny and keeping the government to accountable as well as Parliament's role in the budget process.

The induction program was hosted by the National Parliament Office, with presentations from the OPMC, the Chief Justice, the Leadership Code Commission, the Parliamentary Entitlement Commission, Office of the Auditor General, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade, Ombudsman, Ministry of Development and Aid Coordination and the Ministry of Rural Development.

Through the Committee Secretariat, the National Parliament Office provided a mini induction program for the Members of the Public Accounts Committee and the Public Expenditure Committee. Details of this can be found in section 3.1 on pages 26 and 27.

The following MPs attended international conferences held in 2015.

1. Hon Silas Tausinga- ACP/EU, Suva.
2. Hon Andrew Manepora'a- TSM, PNG
3. Hon Rick Hou- PAC, NZ
4. Hon Culwick Togamana- ACP Brussels
5. Hon Matthew Wale- Regional Pacific Islands Green Growth Coalition Meeting- Fiji
6. Hon Freda Tuki- PWPP Forum - Fiji
7. Hon Jimson Tanangada- PWPP Forum – Fiji

1.9 Developing and Sustaining International links

As reported in the 2014 Annual Report Volume 3, the Foreign Relations Committee (FRC) is yet to report to the House on its findings on advantages and disadvantages of joining the IPU. There were no further progress made in this activity in 2015.

1.10 Code of Ethical Conduct

Although the code of conduct for Members of Parliament was developed in 2008, it has never been tabled in Parliament for implementation.

1.11 Developing new Standing Orders

During this reporting period, there were no amendments made to the Standing Orders. The Procedures office team is working with the Parliamentary House Committee to identify grey areas in the Standing Orders that need to be amended and improved and make amendments on a piece meal basis.

1.12 Mainstreaming gender

Under this sub objective, the main activity scheduled for 2014-2015 was to develop a parliament gender policy and train the Members of Parliament to contribute to the implementation of the policy. There were no progress made in this area. However, the Young Women Parliamentary Group (YWPG) have initiated activities supported by the NPO in the following areas on mainstreaming gender.

1. Launching of the *“Report on voter behaviour towards women Candidates before and after the 2014 SI National General Elections”*. The report was based on a survey funded by UNDP and conducted by members of the YWPG led by Ms Karlyn Roughan. The purpose of the survey and report was to identify voters behaviour towards women candidates in the National General Election which resulted in only 1 female candidate winning a seat in Parliament. The report was finally launched on 30 January 2015
2. YWPG Annual Planning Workshop held on 20 Feb 2015, enabled the YWPG to appoint the executive officers for the next two years and set plans and activities for the rest of the year.
3. Campaign to End Violence against Women and Girls (EVAWG) which began on 25 August 2015 and ended in November.



The Deputy Prime Minister Hon Douglas Ete, Speaker of National Parliament Mr Ajilon Nasiu, the Deputy Speaker the Hon Moffat Fugui and Members of the YWPG during the launching of the Report on Voters behaviour towards women

Strategic Objective 2

To improve the legislative process in Parliament to ensure enhanced scrutiny and quality of legislation

This chapter focuses on the NPSI strategic activities that help to enhance and improve the Parliament legislative process.

2.1 TIMETABLE FOR THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

A. Develop Options paper on how Parliament can work with the government to develop a legislative timetable.

Options paper developed by a consultant from Law Corp firm in October 2014 recommends Parliament to closely work with the government to scrutinize the legislative process and collaborate on the formulation of a Parliamentary calendar. The Report recommends that “[a] motion should be moved in the next House to establish a special select committee to inquire into the whole legislative process. It is important that Members of Parliament are involved in any reforms that Parliament proposes to do” (*Legislative Process Baseline Report p.32*).

There was no progress made on this recommendation in this reporting period. From the NPO’s perspective, the legislative timetable and Parliamentary Calendar are part of the autonomy package. However the Legislative Process Report implied that both issues can be detached from the autonomy plan and be dealt with separately through dialogue with the government. NPO need to proactively follow up on this in 2016.

B. Hold seminars for Civil Servants on the legislative process in Parliament

Under this sub-objective, one of the requirements is for NPO to hold seminars

aimed at educating civil servants on the legislative process, increase awareness and point out the role citizens play in the legislative process. Both the Parliamentary Civic Education Department and the Committee Secretariat have actively involved in the education of public officers about the legislative process.

The Committee Secretariat spearheaded the three workshops with details as follows:

- Workshop 1: involve Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and was held on 6 March 2015
- Workshop 2: participants from the Public Service and was held on 26 June 2015
- Workshop 3: State Owned Enterprises and was held in September 2015.

The PCEU-IPAM sessions mentioned in Section 4.1 also covered a presentation on the legislative process. A total of 337 public officers attended these presentations from the period of January to November 2015.

2.2 PROCEDURES OFFICE

A. Provide training for the staff in the Procedures Office.

The Chief Procedures Officer (Jean Resana) took up courses at the University of the South Pacific Solomon Islands campus via flexible learning mode. At the time of writing of this report the Procedures Department has only one staff. The Legal Constitutional Specialist position became vacant since September 2014. Submission for recruitment of the recommended candidate was made in mid 2015 and the formal appointment is yet to be made by the Public Service Commission at the time of writing of this report.

Implement the annual work-plans for the Bills Committee.

The Bills and Legislative Committee has an annual work plan. Based on the BLC terms of reference, the BLC workload often dependent on the number of Bills tabled in Parliament. In 2015, 4 Bills were tabled in Parliament. Two Bills were scrutinized by the BLC's and the other two scrutinized by the PAC and PEC. Section 3.1 C on page **25** of this report provide details of the Parliamentary Committee activities in 2015.

2.2 PROCEDURES OFFICE

A. Provide training for the staff in the Procedures Office.

The Chief Procedures Officer (Jean Resana) took up courses at the University of the South Pacific Solomon Islands campus via flexible learning mode. At the time of writing of this report the Procedures department has only one staff. The Legal constitutional Specialist position became vacant since September 2014. Submission for recruitment of the recommended candidate was made in mid 2015 and the formal appointment is yet to be made at the time of writing of this report.

Manpower bid submission made in August 2015 include a bid for a Principal Procedures position for the Procedures Department. The 2016 draft establishment passed during the Parliament budget meeting in December 2015 records the granting and thus the existence of the position, which means the bid has been approved. This brings the number of position in the Procedures Office to three positions. Recruitment against the current vacant position must be done in early 2016 to fill up these two vacant positions in order to have adequate manpower in the Procedures Office.

Records of Tenth Parliament 2015 meetings and 2015 sittings.

There were two Parliament meetings held during this reporting period. The March-April meeting have 20 sitting days and the October to December meeting with 22 days. This totaled up to 42 Parliament sitting days in this reporting period 2015.

Bills enacted

A total of 4 Bills were enacted during this reporting period. These include:

- i) The 2015 Appropriation Bill 2015
- ii) The Fisheries Management Bill 2015,
- iii) 2015 Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2015;
- iv) 2016 Appropriation Bill 2016.

2.3 Increased and improved legislative scrutiny by Committee

Two activities scheduled for this reporting period under this objective are:

1. Develop a roster of experts in different fields to assist Bills Committee when scrutinizing legislations
2. Hire experts to assist Bills Committees in scrutiny of Bills.

With regards to the first sub-objective, the Committee Secretariat developed a list of experts in different fields. During Committee inquiries, experts in the relevant field related to Bill are invited to make submission to Committees expressing their view on the Bill. These experts are often invited rather than hired. This arrangement has worked well through the years and is commonly used in Committee Hearings.

Fisheries Management Bill 2015. The other 3 Bills were Appropriation and Supplementary Appropriation bills which fall under the jurisdiction of the PAC for scrutiny.

2.4 CONSULTATION DURING THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS.

During the legislative process of enacting a Bill, consulting important stakeholders such as Community Service Organizations, State Owned Enterprises and government ministries is an essential part of the law making process.



Committee Hearing role play enabling participants to understand the role of Committees and importance of Committee Hearings in collecting evidence and scrutiny of Bills.

The key focus under this objective in this reporting period is to provide for attendance of selected staff at courses to build skills to assist MPs during the legislative process, including legislative drafting skills. Two staff from the Committee Secretariat (Vanessa Rodie and Jasmine Waleafea) and one Procedure Office staff (Jean Resana) undertook courses at the University of the South Pacific through flexible learning mode.

The Committee Secretariat ensured these key stakeholders are educated and informed about the important role stakeholders play in the law making process. As alluded to in section 2.1B p19 three workshops held in 2015 provide participants with important information concerning the formal processes used to scrutinize proposed laws and the process of holding public hearings where stakeholders contribute to the law making process.

2.5 Clarity on the potential impact of draft legislation.

The Committee Secretariat exchange email with the Office of the Attorney General raising the issue of the need to develop a practical framework for Regulatory Impact Assessments for draft legislation. Apart from these email exchanges no further progress on this were made in 2015

2.6 INCREASE MPs CAPACITY TO ENGAGE IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS.

1. Vanessa Rodie-
2. Jasmine Waleafea
3. Jean Resana
 - LW110 Law and Society
 - LW112 - Legislation

There were no staff training on legislative drafting during this reporting period.

Section 3.1B on page 23 detailed the induction training accorded to Members of Parliament on the basic function of Parliament and the duties of Members of Parliament and the roles and functions of Parliamentary Committees in scrutinising government actions.

Strategic Objective 3

To improve the capacity of Parliament to provide effective oversight of the Executive Branch

This section discusses the oversight activities conducted by Parliament and Parliamentary Committees in 2015. It highlights capacity building activities Committees engaged in 2015. It also record Parliament scrutiny activities done within the period of January to December 2015. This is mainly in terms of Parliamentary Committee scrutinizing the executive branch on issues such as government budget plans, scrutiny of public expenditure, and overseeing the impact and effectiveness of the implementation of government policies and legislations.

3.1 STRENGTHENING PARLIAMENT COMMITTEES

Four priority areas of focus in this objective for 2015 include:

- A. Development and implementation of work-plans
- B. Training of Committee staff and MPs
- C. Conduct field visits and public hearings
- D. Provide training courses for MPs on oversight through Committees and the new manual

A. Develop Committee Work Plans

All Parliamentary Standing Committees developed their work plans in the beginning of 2015. After the formation of the Democratic Coalition for Change Government and appointment of Committee Chairs, each Chair met with their respective Secretaries and map out plans for the

year 2015. All Committees implemented at least a portion of their work plans.

There were significant improvements in Committees in terms of holding meetings. For the first time since the increase of Committees from five to ten in 2010, all Committees managed to hold at least a deliberative meeting in 2015 and discuss their annual work plans. In previous years some Committees never had even deliberative meeting, however, in this reporting period, there has been a slight improvement in committees. This reflect the desire of Parliament to get its Committees working and contribute to the improvement of the oversight and scrutiny function of Parliament.

Despite this improvement and achievement, Committees need to move from deliberative meetings to conducting inquiries on issues that fall under their terms of references, make field visits, produce reports and make recommendations' on how best Parliament can address issues of national interest.

Lack of quorum in committees has always been an impeding factor making committees unable to execute their annual work plans. As also reported and recommended in the 2014 Annual Report, a close collaboration between the chairman of each committee and the committee secretariat is needed. The Committee Chairs Group meeting need to be revived and meet regularly.

B. Committee Trainings /Workshops.

Training of Members of Parliament, Parliamentary Committee members and the Committee Secretariat staff is an essential element in strengthening Parliamentary Committees. The priority training in 2015 was the Induction program conducted for Members of Parliament after the November 2014 National General Elections. Out of the fifty members of Parliament, thirty five retained their seats in Parliament and fifteen new members entered Parliament. The Induction program thus provide an introductory training on the roles of a Member of Parliament as democratic representatives of their constituents. It also inform MPs about the functions and the relationship of the Legislature with the Judiciary and the Executive branches of the government.

The Induction program was hosted by Parliament and co-facilitated by staff of the National Parliament, Chief Justice from the Judiciary, The Auditor General's Office, Parliamentary Entitlement Commission, staff from the ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Planning and Aid Coordination and various other government ministry officials.

Mr. Jonathan Richard O'Dea Vice President of the New South Wales Legislative Council and Member of Parliament was the Induction program Guest Speaker. The Hon O'Dea shared his experience as a Member of Parliament of New South Wales, and the importance of the roles of Members of Parliament as representative of the people.

Another important feature of the induction program directly related to the oversight

role of Parliament was the presentation on Parliamentary Committees. Members of Parliament were introduced to the Committee system and learn about the importance of Parliamentary Committees in scrutinizing proposed legislations, Appropriation bills and conduct inquiries into issues of national interest.

A wide range of topics were discussed in the induction program. This include the Parliamentary Procedures and the Standing Orders; the principle of Separation of Powers between the Legislature, Executive and the Judiciary; the Parliament Strategic Plan and the roles of the various Parliament Departments in supporting the MPs and the operations of Parliament.

Apart from the main general induction, it was desired by Committees that mini inductions be facilitated by the Committee Secretariat for each Standing Committee, entailing their specific roles and functions. Under this arrangement, members of four Parliamentary Standing Committees (BLC, PAC, PEC and PHC) participated in induction workshops held on 5 August 2015. The induction focused on their terms of reference of the respective Committees, effective ways of fulfilling Committee mandate as Parliamentary Standing Committees as well as a look at the Financial Management Act and its provision for PAC/PEC as a Committee that provide oversight and scrutiny of the budget..



Induction Program Guest Speaker, the Hon Richard Odea Vice President of the NSW Legislative Council presenting the roles of Members of Parliament in a Parliamentary setting.



The Chief Justice Sir Albert Palmer making a presentation on the functions of the Judiciary in relations to the three arms of government (Legislature, Executive and the Judiciary) during the MPs Induction Program.



Speaker of Parliament Mr. Ajilon Nasiru with some of the MPs who attended the Induction program, with the Induction Guest Speaker Hon. Jonathan Richard O'dea (NSW Parliament) and Simon Johnston the Twinning Coordinator posing for a group photo in the Parliament Chamber



Mr Derick Futaiasi from the Office of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet making a presentation on the roles of the Executive.



Mr. Albert Kabui conducting a presentation on the Parliamentary Privileges and Immunities .

Statistics from the 10th Parliament 2015 as at 7th December

Committees	Deliberative Meetings	Hearings	Joint Deliberations	Committee Mini Induction	TOTAL
Public Accounts Committee (SO.69) Chaired by the MP for Small Malaita, Hon. Rick Hou	15	74	3	1	93
Parliamentary House Committee (SO.70) Chaired by the MP for West Makira, Hon. Derrick Manu'ari.	13	0	0	1	14
Bills and Legislation Committee (SO.71) Chaired by the MP for North West Choiseul, Hon. Connolly Sandakabatu.	8	4	0	1	13
Constitutional Review Committee (SO.71A) Chaired by the MP for Aoke/ Langalanga, Hon. Matthew Wale.	14	7	0	0	23
Foreign Relations Committee (SO.71B) Chaired by the MP for West New Georgia & Vonavona, Hon. Silas Vaqara Tausinga.	1	0	0	0	1
Education and Human Resources Training Committee (SO.71C) Chaired by the MP for Central Makira, Hon. Nestor Giro	6	0	0	0	6
Health and Medical Services Committee (SO.71D) Chaired by the MP for Ranogga/Simbo, Hon. Charles Sigoto.	4	6	0	0	15
Police, National Security and Correctional Services Committee (SO.71E) Chaired by the MP for West Kwara'ae, Hon. Sam Shemuel Iduri	11	24	0	0	37
Public Expenditure Committee (SO.71F) Chaired by the MP for East Central Makira, Hon. Ishmael Avui	5	0	3	1	9
Environment and Conservation Committee (SO.71G) Chaired by the MP for Maringe/ Kokota, Hon. Dr. Culwick Togamana.	3	6 Consultation	0	0	9

C. Undertake Field Visits and Public Hearings

Conducting inquiries, undertaking field visits and holding Public Hearings are important functions of Parliamentary Committees. Amongst the ten existing Standing Committees, six held inquiries and conduct field visits and produced reports entailing their findings and recommendations on issues these committees inquired into.

An important aspect presented in the committee statistics table above is the comparative increase in committee engagement in inquiries and Public Hearings during this reporting period. Sixty per cent (60%) of committees conduct inquiries into is-

suess within their Terms of Reference (TOR) in the Standing Orders. Compared with 2014, where only two committees held inquiries/ Public Hearings; there were significant improvement in committee engagement in 2015.



The Health and Medical Services Committee making enquiry into the state of the National Referral Hospital (NRH)

Moreover, as shown in the table above, all committees held deliberative meetings in 2015. In comparison with 2014 where a few committees never held any deliberative meetings at all for the entire year; in 2015 all committees actively participated in meetings. Some though to a greater degree than others, but all made attempt to implement portions of their annual work plans.



Members of the Environment and Conservation Committee during one of their a consultative meeting



The Constitutional Review Committee consultative meeting with Federal Constitution Reform unit team



The Health and Medical Services Committee conducting inquiry into the state of the National Referral Hospital



Members of the Police and National Security and Correctional Services committee at a Public Hearing



Members of the Police and National Security and Correctional Services Committee during the Munda Hearing into the Border issue.



Witnesses before Police and National Security Committee inquiry into the Western border issue during a hearing held in Munda.



Police and National Security and Correctional Service Committee hearing into the Western Border issue at a hearing held in Taro



Witnesses from Shortlands presenting their evidence before the Police and National Security and Correctional Services Committee during the PNSCSC inquiry into the Western Border issue



Members of the Health and Medical Services Committee in a Hearing Inquiry into the National Referral Hospital



Medical workers from the National Referral Hospital presenting their evidence before the Health and Medical Services Committee



Some of the Members of the Constitutional Review Committee during a consultative meeting with the team from PMO responsible for the Federal Draft Constitution.



Members of the Federal Draft Constitution Team in a consultative meeting with the members of the Constitutional Review Committee.



Members of the Environment Conservation Committee (left) in a consultative meeting with officials from the Ministry of Mines and Energy



The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) inquiring into the 2016 Appropriation Bill 2015

3.2 EFFECTIVE FINANCIAL SCRUTINY

Two key inputs under this plan for effective financial scrutiny activity are:

1. Annual work-plans for the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) drafted which include regular meetings and regular visits to the Office of the Auditor General and Ministry of Finance
2. Programme of training for PAC Members and staff on the latest issues in the field

1. PAC Annual Work Plan and Regular Meetings

When compared to other committees, the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) holds the highest record of deliberative meetings, public hearings and inquiries conducted in 2015 (See records of committee work on page 26). Under Section 69 of the Standing Orders of the National Parliament of Solomon Islands, the PAC is mandated to consider in detail the Draft Estimates prepared by the government in support of the Annual Appropriation Bill. It is also responsible for making report to Parliament regarding the backgrounds of Draft Estimates as well as make recommendations as the Committees see fit and subsequently receive comments and reports on such recommendation from the government.

2. Programme of training for PAC Members and staff on the latest issues in the field.

Financial Management Act Workshop

On August 5 2015 members of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) and the Public Expenditure Committee (PEC) attended a Financial Management Act Workshop. The workshop enlightened PAC and PEC members on the processes used to manage and control the use of the government budget as stipulated in the Public Financial Manage-

ment Act. The workshop was initiated by both the PAC and PEC members who desired to see the linkage of the PAC and PEC roles in scrutiny of the budget as mandated by the established legal framework— the Financial Management Act which govern the management and control of the budget. This important workshop greatly assist members in understanding their budget scrutiny role.



Members of the Public Accounts Committee in a Public Hearing



Witnesses appearing before the Public Accounts Committee



The Public Accounts Committee making inquiry into the 2016 Appropriation Bill



Pacific Association of Supreme Audit (PASAI) team leader (left) with Auditor General Robert Cohen making a presentation before the Public Accounts Committee regarding the importance of auditing.



The PAC conducting a Hearing into the 2016 Appropriation Bill

3.3 INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF PARLIAMENT THROUGH IMPROVED LIBRARY AND RESEARCH SERVICES

One of the input planned for this reporting period under this sub-objective is to procure additional resource materials for the library. Work on the refurbishment of the Parliamentary Library began in November 2015. This important development increased the library spacing providing sufficient room for set up of two computers where MPs can access internet and the Parliamentary library digital resources. The provision of these computers increased MPs accessibility to the global world wide network and library materials from other Parliament libraries where the National Parliament of Solomon Islands has linkages.

Another important development evolved since 2014 and progressed through 2015 is the establishment of the Parliamentary Research Unit (PRU). The PRU was established in 2014, with bid submission made to the Public Service Commission for creation of vacant research position under the Parliament Establishment in 2015. The bid for a vacant position was not successful and the Clerk made further submission in June 2015 seeking creation of three research positions in the NPO establishment. This submission indicated the great need for Research Officers to meet the rising demand of MPs for access to thoroughly researched information in a timely

manner. Parliament was granted 3 vacant research positions and is in the process of recruiting as of the writing of this report.

With the provision of three research positions, the PRU should have enough manpower to provide research services both for MPs, Parliamentary Committees the Committee Secretariat and Parliament as a whole.

3.4 INCREASED DIALOGUE WITH STAKEHOLDERS

Two inputs under sub-objective 3.4 are:

1. Develop and implement a programme of MPs Stakeholders forum events
2. Develop and implement a programme of expert briefing sessions for MPs on specific subject areas

The Committee Secretariat held 3 information dissemination workshops for government officials from various government ministries. These workshops enlightened government officials on the important role they perform in the legislative process.

From time to time government officials appear before Parliament committees during budget and other inquiries into bills initiated



Participants from government ministries who attended the Parliamentary information workshop



Participants of the PASAI workshop about the importance of auditing.

3.5 Interaction with Independent Oversight Institutions

PASAI workshop

In conjunction with the Office of the Auditor General, the Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI) conducted a training workshop for Public Accounts Committee (PAC) and Public Expenditure Committee (PEC) on the 16th July 2015. The workshop emphasized the importance of public budget scrutiny as an important function performed by Parliamentary Committees particularly PAC and PEC.

The PASAI workshop also linked the role of PAC and PEC with the functions of the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) as oversight institutions. This also bolstered working relationship between PAC, PEC and the OAG all of which have a common purpose of using high standard auditing practices and existing financial management laws to improve budgetary processes, curb corruption.

Strategic Objective 4

To develop the education and outreach work of Parliament and the representative role of Members of Parliament

Parliament has an important civic role in reaching out to citizens and educate Solomon Islanders about:

- the role and functions of the Parliament,
- duties of Members of Parliament as representatives of their constituents
- the role citizens perform in contributing to the legislative process.

This chapter outlines the Parliamentary Civic Education activities conducted by NPO in its effort to bring Parliament to the people and stay connected to the Solomon Islanders.

4.1 Increased Outreach and Community Engagement.

There are three sub-goals under this objective:

- I. Develop and implement an annual programme of Community outreach activities that focus on all areas of the country
- II. Develop and implement an annual Programme of Speaker Constituency visits
- III. Develop a programme of events for a “Parliament week” and implement

I. Community Outreach activities

Three main outreach programs used by the Parliamentary Civic Education Unit to reach out to citizens are:

1. Presentation with the Institute of Public Administration and management (IPAM) program “Know Your Public Service”.
2. Arranged tours to Parliament
3. School outreach program

Institute of Public Administration and management (IPAM)

In association with the Institute of Public Administration and Management (IPAM), the Parliamentary Civic Education Unit conduct monthly sessions on “Parliamentary Processes”. These sessions coincide with the IPAM course “Know Your Public Service” where government officials attending the course learn about the government Public Services. Presentations of the Parliamentary processes often cover the separation of powers between the Legislature, Executive and the Judiciary, the five main functions of parliament, and roles Public servants play in contributing to the legislative process. The table below shows the number of government officials who attended the Parliament Processes sessions conducted by the IPAM and the Parliamentary Civic Education Unit in 2015.

Date	Schools	Number of Students
Jan to Apr	WoodFord International school	107
	USP (Honiara Campus) Politics Students	
	Vura Grade 6	
May to July	Honiara Integrated Primary School	204
	Harvest Academy High Schools	
	Visale Community High School	
	Numbu Community High School	
	Perch Christian School	
Aug to Oct	St Nicholas Secondary School	264
	Visale Primary	
	Nguvia Community High School	
	Pitukoli Primary School	
	TOTAL	575



Students from Nguvia Community High School visited Parliament on October 2015

In this reporting period, the community outreach program was significantly low. Budget constraint and lack of Parliamentary calendar makes it difficult to plan and execute outreach programs. During Parliament recess period Committees also hold inquiries. This require pooling of limited resources to ensure Committees complete their inquiries. Priority was also given to the Police and National Security Committee which conduct its inquiry into the Western Solomon Islands Border with Bougainville and Papua New Guinea. Thus Parliament outreach focus was limited to school visits within Guadalcanal province.

2. Arranged Tours to Parliament

The Parliamentary Civic Education Unit (PCEU) also conducts Parliament tours for locals and international visitors. The PCEU closely liaise with local tourist agencies in Honiara by arranging visits for international and local tourists interested in visiting the Parliament House.

During this reporting period 703 international visitors visited the National Parliament through arranged tours. Most of the visitors are from Australia, United Kingdom, Japan , Thailand and a few from Switzerland, Poland and Germany.

II. Speaker Constituency visits

There were no constituency visit programs arranged for the Speaker of Parliament during this reporting period.

III. Parliament open week

Parliament Open Week is an annual program that see Parliament open its doors permitting members of the public to visit the Parliament. Parliament was unable to conduct a Parliament Open Week during this reporting period.

4.2 ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE WORK OF PARLIAMENT

3. School Outreach

Two types of school outreach programs always conducted by the PCEU are:

- School visits to Parliament.
- Parliament visits to schools.

I. School visits to Parliament

Students who visit Parliament always have the opportunity to see the Parliament Chamber seating arrangement. In the Chamber, MPs sit according to the three Parliamentary groupings namely Government, Opposition and the Independent group. Visiting students also have the chance to visit parliament departments and learn about the important functions each department performs in contributing to the smooth conduct of the business of the House. In this reporting period, twelve (12) schools visited Parliament under this school outreach program and records of schools who visited Parliament and the number of students are as given in the table below.

Date	Schools	Number of Students
Jan - Apr	WoodFord	107
Jan - Apr	USP Politics Students	
Jan - Apr	Vura Grade 6	
May - July	Honiara Integrated Primary School	204
May - July	Harvest Academy High Schools	
May - July	Visale CHS	
May - July	Numbu CHS	
May - July	Perch Christian School	264
Aug - Oct	St Nicholas	
Aug - Oct	Visale Primary	
Aug - Oct	Nguvia CHS	
Aug - Oct	Pitukoli Primary School	
	TOTAL	575

Table showing records of schools that visited Parliament in 2015.

Part of the outreach and community engagement program involving schools is where Parliament took the initiative to visit schools in the communities. Under this arrangement, Parliament team visited 10 schools within the reporting period. Due to financial constraints, these school visits focus mainly on schools within Guadalcanal. The table below shows the schools visited and the total number of students involved in this program.

Date	School	Number of Students
May to July	Selwyn College	700
	Visale P.S.	45
	Tamboko CHS	50
	Marara CHS	180
August to September	Lunga CHS	120
	Nguvia CHS	215
	Gaobata CHS	80
	Betivatu	177
	Burns Creek	400
	SINU(Natural resources)	44
Total	12 schools	2011 students

4.3 ENSURING A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PARLIAMENT AND THE MEDIA

There were four inputs scheduled to be accomplished in this reporting period under objective 4.3 and these include

1. Develop a press gallery and accreditation system for the media and keep under review
2. Develop public information programmes for the media on the way in which Parliament operates
3. Develop a strategy and timed plan for the introduction of a Parliament TV Channel
4. Develop a strategy and timed plan for the introduction of a Parliament Radio station

1. Develop a press gallery and accreditation system for the media and keep under review

The Press Gallery Development began in 2013 and was reported in section 4.3 b of the “*2013 National Parliament of Solomon Islands Strategy Annual Report Volume Two*”. This input was achieved ahead of its schedule duration. As a result of development of the press gallery, the External media personnel have access to the Press Gallery during Parliament meetings since 2013.

2. Develop public information programmes for the media on the way in which Parliament operates.

Parliament ventured into disseminating public information through radio and television programmes since 2013. On a fortnightly basis, Parliament broadcast on

the Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation (SIBC) radio a 15 minutes radio program about Parliament.

3. Develop a strategy and timed plan for the introduction of a Parliament TV Channel.

Parliament signed a contract with Telekom Television (TTV) in 2013 for live broadcast of Parliament sittings. Parliament Media director also held discussions with TTV, for improvement of TV quality. The focus was on improving the quality of the internal closed circuit TV (CCTV) to meet the TTV quality requirements. There were no further pursue of the plan for Parliament to own a TV channel as the cost of running a TV station is very high and furthermore would require more specialised training. Despite this, Parliament continued to improve its CCTV up to the standard that meets TTV standards.

3. Develop a strategy and timed plan for the introduction of a Parliament Radio station

This input was raised in a discussion between the Media unit and the NPO administration in 2013. The team concluded that it would not be viable to establish a radio station as there will be a need to install radio transmitters in all provinces to provide access to the radio station. This plan was thus relinquished after that discussion.

4.4 USER FRIENDLY PUBLICATIONS ON PARLIAMENT

Since 2012 the Parliamentary Civic Education Unit developed pamphlets about the functions and processes of Parliament, the law making process, Parliamentary Committees and their role each department plays in supporting the business of Parliament.

4.5 INVESTIGATE OPTIONS TO INCREASE THE REPRESENTATIVE NATURE OF PARLIAMENT

Develop and Implement a work-plan on the activities of the Young Women's Discussion Forum.

During this reporting period, the Young Women Parliamentary Group (YWPG) strategically divided their activities into three main thematic areas. These thematic areas are:

1. Women in Politics (WIP);
2. Policy and legislation (PL) and
3. Communication.

All activities done during the 2015 reporting period fall under one of the thematic areas.

Group/Team	Activity	Summary	Date
Women in Leadership Team (Thematic Area)	1. Leadership Workshop	• Team leader attended Leadership Workshop arranged by US Embassy-PNG program at HP and Lime Lounge	14 & 15 Mar
	2. Women and Leadership School Awareness program	• Team undertook a pilot program with over 20 <u>Burnscreek</u> High School female students; did a 40min Leadership awareness session	12 Oct
Policy & Legislation Team (Thematic Area)	1. CSO CEDAW Committee Meeting	• Conducted by NCW and WRAM to report on the "CEDAW Concluding Observations" for Solomon Islands	29 Apr
	2. Website Launch for Ministry of Women	• Team leader attended; as a MWYCA is a key stakeholder for YWPG	13 May
	3. GEWD National Policy Review Consultation	• Feedback presentation from GEWD consultant; Team leader attended	30 Jul
	4. Land Reform Conference at FFA Conference	• Team members were assigned.	26 Aug
Communications Team (Thematic Area)	1. Coverage of Women and Leadership School Awareness program	• Team member accompanied WIL team to cover event at <u>Burnscreek</u> High School	12 Oct
	2. 16 Days of Activism to end violence against women and girls / gender-based	• Covered events with photos; Updates on FB Page; YWPG <u>Comms</u> team member also involved in the LOC.	25 Nov-10 Dec

The table above shows the summary of the YWPG activities done under the 3 thematic areas. Source: YWPG Executive Report EMPOWERED page 12

B. MPs Spouse Program and Speaker's Reflection Group.

There were no activities done under this objective in 2015.

4.6 Building Links with Provincial Legislatures

Provincial Speakers and Clerks Conference

The Speaker and Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Choiseul Province visited Parliament and observed the Parliament Proceedings from 18-22 August. The visitation is part of an arrangement done with the Provincial government for Speakers and Clerks of provincial assemblies to visit and observe proceedings of Parliament and Committees.

There is a need to strengthen the link and improve the cooperation between the National Parliament of Solomon Islands and Provincial Legislative Assemblies in order to improve governance and legislative work at the National and Provincial level.

Implementation, Monitoring, Evaluation and Resource Mobilization

Implementation

This reporting period covers January to December 2015. The activities implemented in this period are those stated in the 2015 Corporate Annual Work Plan.

Strategy Objective 1 aims at developing the general capacity of the Parliament and to enhance the institutional capacity of the National Parliament staff to serve Parliament. Activities supporting this objective include implementation of the activities that will lead to parliamentary administrative Autonomy, recruitment of staff with the right kind of skill for the right kind of job and the skills training for parliament staff.

The working documents for the parliamentary autonomy plan were made ready and available by end of December 2014. These documents includes the (1) Baseline study (2) Comparative research on other Parliaments (3) Options paper/Road map (4) draft legislations. The autonomy working group agreed in its September 2015 workshop to work closely with the government in 2016 for the best way forward to progress the parliament autonomy work-plan and educate and involve citizens on the affairs of Parliament particularly the need for Parliament to become autonomous in administering its budget and staffing.

Recruitment of new staff for 2015 has been very low during this reporting period. There were no new positions granted in 2015. Furthermore there was a freeze in recruitment for new positions in the first half of the year. New positions were only granted at the second half of the year and recruitment processes began very late. NPO was only able

to fill in 23% of vacancies existed as of July 2015. The granting of three research positions in late 2015 was a positive development in the building up the the capacity of Parliament in the provision of research services to the Members of Parliament.

In terms of training of staff, most of the trainings accorded to staff were done locally through IPAM. Nevertheless, generally, the rate of implementing objective 1 in 2015 was relatively good as each department focused on delivering their results and provide support services continually to MPs. This happened for the first time without the UNDP PSP support.

In accordance with section 59(1) of the National Constitution, "Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, Parliament may make laws for the peace, order and good government of Solomon Islands". The second key objective in the NPSI strategy 2012-2016 is to improve the legislative process. Significant improvement made in 2015 include the enlightening of important stakeholders-such as government officials, state owned enterprises officials and Civil Society Organizations (CSO), on how they can involve in the legislative process and scrutiny of laws passed in parliament. Three workshops held in 2015 targeting the aforementioned groups contributed to participation and education of citizens in the law making process. During Committee Hearings individuals and organizations invited to make submission to committees willingly participated in Hearings and provide evidence to respective committees. This involvement of citizens helped improve the law making process as the public involved in the law making process.

Under objective three, the key focus in 2015 is to improve the capacity of Parliament to provide effective oversight of the Executive Branch. This include the improvement of Parliament and Committees to effectively conduct budget scrutiny, public expenditure and oversee the impact of implementation of government policies.

As mentioned in chapter 3 of this report, relevant Committees scrutinized the 4 Bills tabled in Parliament in 2015. During this reporting period, all parliament Committees conduct meetings and discussed their annual work plans for the year 2015. This is a significant improvement in parliament committees performing scrutiny work. Sixty percent of Committees hold inquiries into various issues under their terms of reference. The Public Accounts Committee scrutinized the 2016 Appropriations Bill 2015 and supplementary Appropriation

A further improvement in this objective is the initiative taken by some Committees to conduct inquiries to see the impact of implementation of government policies. Apart from the PAC/PEC inquiry into the Appropriation Bills, the following Committees made significant inquiries into their subject areas.

- Health and Medical Services Committee inquiry into the National Referral Hospital
- Police and National Security Committee inquiry into the Western Borderline between Solomon Islands, Bougainville and Papua New Guinea
- Constitutional Review Committee consultation meeting with the Federal Constitution working Committee

These inquiries and consultative meetings bring Parliament to the people and provide a check on the impact of implementation of government policies in Honiara and the prov-

inces. It is recommended that Committees need more inquiry into government policy impact and produce reports of how policies and service delivery can be improved.

Objective 4 aims to develop the education and outreach work of Parliament and the representative role of MPs. The Parliamentary Civic Education Department (PCED) and Media Unit play an important role in the outreach work of parliament.

There was a slow down in constituency tours in 2015, due to the cessation of funding support from the UNDP Parliamentary Strengthening project when it ended in March 2015. Nevertheless there was a slide increase in school outreach programs to make up for the lack of constituency tours. The PCED conducted school visits around constituencies near Honiara and did a good job in brining Parliament to the people as well as educating students about the role of Parliament.

The development of the Media and Press Gallery in 2013 was an advanced progress on the implementation of the objective 4 scheduled for 2015, but achieved in 2013. Parliament improved the ability of NPO to do video production in preparation for a possible establishment of its own TV station.

A. Monitoring

The Strategy Support Unit (SSU) conducted three reviews in accordance with the Review cycle. The reviews occurred on 9th March, 30 July and 27 October 2015 respectively.

From general observations, there is a need to improve the accountability mechanism and the reporting lines between the departments, the SSU and admin linked with performance management process. There has been a general view amongst NPO staff that there is

a lack of linkage between the strategy objectives, the job description of each staff and Performance Management process. Although there is a provision in each DAWP to continuously update job descriptions to match strategy activity performed by each individual staff, there was generally, little attention paid to the need for such alignment at the departmental level. This brings the point that training of HODs on administration skills is important to enable them to review job descriptions, conduct staff performance, linked with key results expected of staff.

Furthermore the linkage between HODs, SSU and the admin need to be strengthened and how HODs are to be accountable to the SSU/Admin on the results their department produce in the implementation of the strategy. This must also be linked with the performance of the HODs.

Lack of data recording and keeping is another area that needs improvement. During annual report writing, it takes a tremendous effort to look for information that should have been easily available from departments.

Finally there is a need for a strong administrative support and monitoring of the implementation of the Strategy. Most critical is the role of the Deputy Clerk in overseeing the operation of the Strategy Support Unit and the implementation of the NPSI strategy. This is important to ensure problems observed quickly fixed and obstacles faced by departments are cleared allowing them to focus on implementation.