



PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

NATIONAL PARLIAMENT OF SOLOMON ISLANDS

COMMITTEE TRANSCRIPT

Ministry of Police, National Security and Correctional Services

Thursday 13th March 2007, 4:10pm

CHAIRMAN: Permanent Secretary and your officials welcome. I will now give you the opportunity to brief the Committee on your recurrent and development estimates and for further comments.

PERMANENT SECRETARY: Thank you Chairman, before I start my brief, I would like to give us some handouts.

The first one is my brief presentation on the Ministry's budget. The second document gives you an overview of the Ministry's budget, and which also reflects the allocation of costs to costs centers.

The last two documents are our response to the Audit which was done by the Audit Department.

In general the budget for the Ministry of Police and National Security for 2008 is adequate.

CHAIRMAN: Adequate or inadequate?

PERMANENT SECRETARY: Is adequate in terms of the development budget and I am happy that there has been sufficient allocation for that to get us moving in implementing our projects.

In terms of the recurrent budget, although not all have been included in the draft budget we probably can live with that.

Now in my presentation it is divided into three parts. First part covers the Ministry Headquarters. Second part covers the Prison Service, and the third part covers the Police.

Under the Ministry Headquarters there are six items which I have stated in my presentation which I would like to bring to the attention and they are basically a shortfall in payroll, number one, and our bid for outsourcing, our bid for vehicle for the Ministry, our bid for membership at Interpol, and our bid for outfit allowance.

We have included provision for outfit allowance because it was the decision of the Public Service that Ministries are responsible for their own outfit allowances and not the Public Service. So those six items are not in the recurrent budget.

Under Solomon Islands Prison Service I want to make a strong emphasis to the government that not all the bids that we made were given consideration. It is crucial that sufficient funds are provided to enable SIPS to carry out its operations to the end of the year. And these are the key areas as you can see from the presentation view that we require an additional \$560,030 because as of this year the law and justice program is no longer responsible for payment of fuel. They have been doing that for the last four years.

Payroll – you will see the figure there, \$1.6 million is required. The correct baseline according to SIPS establishment.

Secondly, some of officers are currently paid below their pay level. Provision is required for arrears, and additional funding to cater for housing allowance as a result of the increase in the baselines payroll.

The next item is training in general. The additional funding of \$540,628 is required. Training is a key priority for SIPS in terms of capacity building to place the right people in the right in the right jobs. To develop the capacity and capability of officers, and is also an important component of the Solomon Islands Prison Service exist strategy.

And the last item under Prison is prison industry and prison program. Additional funding of \$462,845 which comprises of prison industry \$102,000 and prison program \$359,602 is required to provide skilled and meaningful work of prisoners as part of rehabilitating them as well as providing vocational training.

I will now come on to the Solomon Islands Police Force. You will notice from the handouts that I presented in terms of the budget that there are number of changes in the 2008 Budget structure. These are:

- Introduction of cost centres in accordance with organization structure and allocation of costs which basically cost centers rather than under one central budget item. For example Police Headquarters is now Police Executive. As most of the cost bundled under Police Headquarters have been allocated for cost centres.
- Police guarding and protection has been allocated to National Response Unit. These changes will ensure improved accountability and transparency in regards to Solomon Islands Police Force spending.

As a result of allocation in cost for centres:

- (a) All fuel, electricity and gas for Honiara base cost centres are under logistics except maritime and electricity and gas of police prosecution and professional standards.
- (b) All staff travel costs are under human resources. That is a new cost centre.

- (c) Maintenance of vehicles, upkeep of station, office expenses and fuel for Honiara City and Provinces are under Provincial Station Supplies.

Additional funding requirements which were submitted but which are not included in the draft budget are as follows:

- Office rent. For Ranadi Warehouse which is occupied by PPC Guadalcanal and also is a storage warehouse for the Police need \$555,000.
- Prosecution and Professional Standard who are renting private premises need \$284,288
- Boarder patrol emolument payments. The Ministry bid was \$600,000 is not in the budget. This funding is required as a final payment to the namely claimants.
- Fuel and maintenance of vehicles. With the increasing price of fuel and spare parts there is an urgent need to increase funding to this expenditure item. An additional of \$920,000 which is made of fuel \$550,000, and maintenance of vehicle \$350,000 is required.
- Police Prosecution. This as you are aware was included in the budget for DPP. This should be transferred back to 83. Electricity and gas for police prosecution were funded by RAMSI are no longer funded by RAMSI and therefore \$120,000 is required for this expenditure, and additional funding of \$400,000 is required for community policing. It is the same situation with the Professional Standard who are renting private premises. Additional funding of \$100,000 is required for gas and electricity and \$48,000 for telephones. These are no longer funded by RAMSI.

General comments which I wish to make in terms of house rents. These were lumped together in the Ministry Headquarters, although there are allocations under Police and Prison. The correct allocation should be Ministry Headquarters \$370,000, Solomon Islands Prison Service \$1,745,777 and Solomon Islands Police Force \$2,850,141, a total of \$4,966,718.

There are no critical issues in the development budgets and therefore I have no comments.

Chairman that ends brief presentation to the Public Accounts Committee. I have my two Under Secretaries here and financial adviser and the Chief Admin Officer with me here. They can assist in answering any of your questions. Thank you Mr Chairman.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you Permanent Secretary and officials. Permanent Secretary, on the recurrent estimates under strategy projects account code 283-014-6-6770 – Police Capability Plan. You’ve got a massive \$6.5 million. What is this for?

PERMANENT SECRETARY: The Police Capability Plan was introduced in 2005 if I can remember rightly. And the object of providing this allocation is to strengthen and build the Police to the stage where it will need no outside assistance. That is basically how we object the capability plan. Now the capability plan is flexible and we can use that accounting discretion to reinforce our standing especially in terms of projects that require additional planning.

Having said that, this has already been allocated to certain priority areas within Police and especially in terms of ongoing renovations of police housing. We are flexible to go about it.

CHAIRMAN: You have exposed some shortfalls in your brief and do you think you will be able to use some of that money to try and close the gap, the shortfalls?

PERMANENT SECRETARY: Yes, there is that opportunity for us to explore that. As I said, that funding is flexible although we have already allocated into priority areas we can redirect our priorities where funding is insufficient.

CHAIRMAN: Again, on page 319 under human resources on summary you have total expenditure of \$3.7 million. Apart from salaries and the bottom three, telephone and faxes, accommodation. Is it accommodation for MPs?

PERMANENT SECRETARY: Mr Chairman, that is a mistake. The provision is for officers' local travel not overseas travel.

CHAIRMAN: Still on the same page you have house rent for \$1.3 million. Would you think that would be sufficient to cover all the housing requirements of the Force?

PERMANENT SECRETARY: No Mr Chairman. That is why in my presentation there we were provided with \$4.9 million in rent. If rent is allocated as I stated down there inthat includes the \$1.3 million. The \$4.9 million includes \$1.3 million for Police, \$745,000 for Prison Service and \$370,000 for Ministry Headquarters.

CHAIRMAN: That then brings to my next question into the development budget. You have a lot of capital projects under the old budget. What is the Department's implementation program in terms of spending that money this year?

PERMANENT SECRETARY: As you aware Mr Chairman, the Ministry and other Ministries we work in close cooperation with the Ministry of Infrastructure. And you will be aware that no payment is made to contractors without the recommendation of the quantity surveyor. Now that has been a stumbling block

and honestly I have to say that and that is why when we raised the possibility of outsourcing. Now it is getting someone out there to assist in coordinating and driving the implementation of these projects. That is why I requested on first page there \$500,000 which was not included in the budget. But we have the recruitment which is not local staff so chief infrastructure officer to try and drive this project in collaboration with the Ministry of Infrastructure and Development.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you Permanent Secretary. If most of these housing projects do take off next month but I do not think they will ever. It will alleviate a lot of the shortfalls by police officers in these community buildings. But we have experienced that a lot of the capital projects supervised by the Ministry of Infrastructure are always slow and some were never implemented. And I will be surprised if some of these will fall into that currently by mid this year or even to the end of this year.

Now a lot of SIG funding would be tied down in this whereas if that is diverted into rentals then you could probably provide housing for a lot of you.

PERMANENT SECRETARY: Mr Chairman, I can certainly say that funds allocated to the Prison Service will be spent this year. So far they have a very good track record.

CHAIRMAN: The building projects?

PERMANENT SECRETARY: Yes. And the Tetera Housing Project is now on its second stage. And the other allocation of \$4 million is Naha staff housing. The land has already been secured. We have already got single quarters built there and the additional funding here is to build more houses for prison officers.

In terms of the Solomon Islands Police, funds allocated to Fulikana Bay. We need that \$1 million to complete the building of the station which we hope will be opened later on this year.

Gizo as you know is a priority of the government as the result of the tsunami. And we allocated \$1 million to start to rebuild and renovate. Although that may not be sufficient but will have to start somewhere. That is what we are doing.

For Police housing we got \$1.9 million. Some of that will be spent on Lata. That is an ongoing project.

King George Police Post we have talked about this for quite some time. This will be the first time that funds are allocated for us to build the Polic Post at the old KGV market

CHAIRMAN: Closer to Burns Creek?

PERMANENT SECRETARY: Yes. But Chairman we know we have to spend this money and are doing are best to ensure that the funds are spent.

CHAIRMAN: What did you say about the progress on the Naha Prison officers' housing project of \$4.2 million?

PERMANENT SECRETARY: That is a new funding.

CHAIRMAN: What is the progress so far in terms of securing land and building funds?

PERMANENT SECRETARY: The land is already secured and registered under the Superintendent of Prison Services.

CHAIRMAN: So what is left for the Department?

PERMANENT SECRETARY: To start building. Just waiting for the funds to be approved.

SOGAVARE: Mr Chairman, this Department has been the primary target of the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands. The amount of resources that is put into this Ministry is very high. It is an issue that we have always talked about and since that the Ministry is struggling with additional request of \$4.9 million. That is the total shortfall. Is \$ 4.9 million the total shortfall you requested? Or adding everything together you need additional resources?

PERMANENT SECRETARY: Mr Chairman, that \$4.9 million is rents for housing.

SOGAVARE: plus additional fuel request, request for shortages of payroll there, request for training and when you add these together probably it will turn to maybe \$8 to \$9 million shortfalls.

PERMANENT SECRETARY: Mr Chairman, that \$4.9 million is already in. We are not asking for additional funding in terms of house rent. We are only asking if they be allocated appropriately as stated here.

SOGAVARE: No problem that is okay. But you are also requesting additional funding for some other things?

PERMANENT SECRETARY: Yes.

SOGAVARE: That is my point. It is not that this Ministry does not have money. I just want to raise this question Mr Chairman, and I think it is very important. This year the non appropriated assistance is up to \$847.2 million. It is a very big assistance indeed for that Ministry. So my point is what is this additional request

compared with the amount of resources that is poured into to target that Ministry? We really need some understanding with our friends. At some point in time this Force must start to be independent. All these resources that we see when we talk about police capability plan and the objective of that is eventually at some point in time. Now the Force should stand independent from our friends. Right now Mr Chairman, that the Force is a force that exists only because it depends on outside assistance. Then the small requests to make against the Solomon Islands component of the Solomon Islands Police Force effective in its work, we did not receive a positive response from this Ministry or Finance. I think sometimes they are overwhelmed with this thinking because a lot of funds come from our friends and it goes into this place and we forget it.

I just want to raise this because I think the government must start to put down its foot and provide the resource from Solomon Islands own sources or its revenue. Start to take on some responsibility to fund this force. The way that we are going Mr Chairman, is not clear. You talked about exit strategy and that it self is not clear too. The way every one sees it is that as it goes on suddenly it will stop before we do that and that is going to be a big gapping hole that will exist in the Force and we are going to really struggle to make the Force, a truly independent force that is capable of looking after the security interest of Solomon Islands.

You need additional resources and finance and government does not look favorably or agree. That request is more responsible thing to do by government. We need to demonstrate because we are capable of financing this force for certain aspects to the force or certain aspects of the functions and operations of the force. So I just want to raise it. And this request that the Ministries are asking must be given Mr Chairman. Governments must demonstrate that. We cannot rely all the time on this one. This is not straight. We are complacent because other people are funding this force and we are saying that it is their work, and we become careless. We are not worried because there is somebody else but how long is that going to happen?

When people talk about exit strategy, I am not really seeing it. There has to be some positive decision taken by government and staffs start taking responsibility over funding on those areas. This area that the Ministry is asking is not big but they have not given them. This is not straight. \$500,000 and \$280,000 here. I just want to register that Mr Chairman, and I think that point is relayed to the government. You don't be complacent because somebody else is funding the operation of the force. If it is like that then that force will continue to be dependent force forever. We need to start to demonstrate that we are taking responsibility. I do not see any reason why government should not provide 20 vehicles for the force from its own sources, resources in the rural areas for example. Even human resources figures at police stations at provincial police posts. At one point in time the whole rural area was only 312 officers manning the entire province outside, more than 1,000 will cost and maybe this is why crime happens most so we put a lot of police officers there. But I think we can't

depend forever with the good hearts of the chiefs and the people in rural area to continue to maintain law and order right in the rural area as well.

And the report you are receiving from friends who went and set them up in the provinces did not really work with our police officers. Logistics are there to support their operations. When they ask our police officers to go and help out in some arrests or things like that they did not want to give them support, so you begin to question that, and why does Solomon Islands Government come in? You cannot continue to be irresponsible. You must start to fund logistics in rural areas. Give them to police officers. Give canoes and outboard motors to them so that they do their work independently from our friends who are posted there. If you receive reports Mr Chairman for your information and Permanent Secretary, there is no working together in the provincial police headquarters. Our friends work different and our police officers struggle with the normal resources in logistics. So when you ask for these resources and the government does not respond positively this does not make sense at all. This is very insulting to the integrity of the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force.

Now I just want to emphasize that the Solomon Islands Government must start to take responsibility to start now and do something while our friends are still here yet. Thank you Mr Chairman.

PERMANENT SECRETARY: Those points raised are taken. I just want to make clarification. When mentioned exit strategy I was referring to the Prison Service not the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force.

We will be reducing the number of SIPS advisers in the Prison Service by 10. We will be reducing them by 10 at the end of May. So that will reduce the number SIPS adviser to 13.

Most of the funding Mr Chairman for the PPF program for the law and justice program is not as big a funding as that for PPF

The law and justice program are mainly for the courts, magistrates under Prison Service. Talking about Prison Service we are starting to construct a new prison in Auki and hopefully will be commissioned at the end of this year or early January. Gizo will proceed probably in the middle year. But the reason why I mentioned this is because housing for Prison Service is also covered under the project for law and justice project, and the plan that we have for our Police. You have the prison and the residence surrounding the prison as buffer. That will also apply to Kira Kira under the law and justice program in terms of correctional services for prison officers.

The Police housing so far is basically sourcing from SIG funding.

SOGAVARE: Mr Chairman, this is appropriately where I think assistance from our friends should be given to, we should start to talk about starting to get our forces just some of the things that help our bosses to stand.

Now from our discussions with the Commissioner of Police this is one of the hindrances on effective recruitment by the Force. They cannot do the

recruitment here to fill up the posts because they cannot house them. Now if you are really interested and serious about really establishing this Force and at some point in time we should be independent from our friends. I think some investment from our friends on areas like housing because its cost is so big for building staff housing for the Force. Not only here in Honiara but throughout the provinces. So I think let us see this thing more clearly in the interest of getting this Force effective and at a point in time independent from our friends. For right now of course we need them to establish. But we really need to work on some strategies that will lead to some serious outcome.

We have not really seeing that and it brings a lot of questions as to what are there real agendas are. And I'm not talking to you, to Permanent Secretaries, these comments probably should be directed to the political masters. But I think it is a concern that since this report will be read by politicians I think it needs to be made. We think with this structure, these things more strategically. We cannot stay to just sit here, it is five years now going to after the arrival of our friends. That is one reason that concerns me very much Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN: Do officials want to comment or any comments?

SOALAOI: Thank you Chairman, I just want to know if there's any work, I haven't seen anything on what used to be called the Police training school, Police Academy.

PERMANENT SECRETARY: Mr. Chairman it's under learning and Development- Recurrent.

CHAIRMAN: It is there. Is there any particular concern here why you raised this?

SOALAOI: Following from that Mr Chairman, I think it is good for our information in terms of training our human resource from the Police Force. Is it still happening? Are we training our Police Force somewhere else? And do you think the allocation there is enough to train officers to fill in manpower needs in the Police Force?

PERMANENT SECRETARY: Mr Chairman, nothing is enough but that is it, the \$1.6 million allocated for what used to be the Police Academy. The training basically involves new recruits and leadership training. By leadership training I mean potential police officers are selected to undergo training overseas under the leadership objective to get leaders up to the higher level to be able to run the Force. That is for that. As I said the bulk of the training is mainly for new recruits which are done under training and development.

SOALAOI: Chairman, the recruitment of police officers will be very much determined by the availability of accommodation. Maybe with what has been said earlier on. If development projects in the Ministry can be targeted towards areas where we want to really something in place or something tangible to remain after all the assistance will be coming from our friends in the Regional Assistance mission. I think we have been given a wonderful opportunity for us to make ourselves ready to look after our Police Force. As we all know this is the Force that is tasked to enforce our laws.

Mr Chairman, the long term implication of having to rely on somebody else to look after this Force is the trust and confidence people will develop in somebody rather than ourselves. I believe the last thing we would want to see is Solomon Islanders not having confidence in their own people to look after the security. And I think while we are still with our friends I think it is a good opportunity that we start to think about what we can do to get ourselves into a position where we can take control of our own security.

It looks like there is a lot of money going in and through the Ministry of Police and National Security. I think the best thing we can do is we are the Ministry responsible, we take charge in directing where development should be happening and balance it in a way that at the end of the day we see something in person as an asset to the Ministry. But we still have a problem with housing and we also still haven't got any substitute to housing or community police post and in the rural areas. Like also what the Leader of the Opposition said earlier on, our local officers do not really have the logistics to do their work. The point Mr Chairman, the only way we can take control of this is if we are funding. There is no way you can have control of it without funding it. Chairman, I guess that is the point that is worth impressing on the Ministry to start.

PERMANENT SECRETARY: I appreciate your comments. Housing is the biggest constraint in capacity building, and in Solomon Islands Police Force and in Prison Service as well. We are doing what we can in trying to address that area but it will continue to be a constraint until we have sufficient housings especially in the provinces so that we can post those who have passed their initial trainings to the provinces. We are very much aware of that. We want to do as much as we can to address this situation.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. On your notes you have a shortfall on fuel under Prison for more than half a million dollars. Additional funding required for fuel on your explanatory notes – a shortfall of \$567,000 is more than half a million. Now given the limited resource in the recurrent, do you think you will be able to rush in that up until middle of this year when there is further supplementary? That is for Tetere Prison, farm generator and transport. Do you think the limited allocation of fuel in Prison will be able to carry you to June/July?

PERMANENT SECRETARY: Mr Chairman, we will be trying our best to try and control our expenditures. But we must have the generator going everyday because it is for Prison. We must have the trucks with fuel to run up and down to do various tasks. But as I said in here the program has been funding a lot for the last four years and they have stopped, and therefore we have to take them.

SOGAVARE: Mr Chairman that is exactly what we are concerned about, now that funding is stopped there is a gaping big hole.

CHAIRMAN: The reason why I'm asking this is because I would not be worried one bit if this is a house in the village if this is a resort or whatever. This is Prison and people do problems in darkness. You don't have lights problems will come up. Now this again shows the lack of seriousness by the government or the laxity by our partners to continue on funding these programs. And I think we ought to be very open in our consultation and dialogue in terms of how we should be able to support these programs. The point that was raised by the Leader of the Opposition is a very genuine concern, and I think we should take stock of what was raised. But the shortage of fuel for more than half a million dollars is a real concern, Permanent Secretary and officials.

SOGAVARE: Mr Chairman, these are very essential areas to continue. Government should never stop working. I'm seeing a lot of laws that will break out in terms of finance. The Auditor General is here but this is encouraging Ministries to spend illegally because they will continue to raise requisitions once we have blackouts in prison to stop escapees, prisoners escaping. You have to spend because that is the only legal way to do this thing is to create contingency warrant and then spend within that and then formalize it in Parliament. But then this is not about contingent. This is something you know. I am strictly speaking if you wanted additional funds you cannot spend before you have to get Parliamentary approval first. So we are actually encouraging illegal spending because nothing must stop government from working, government must continue to spend and it is our duty as officials to advice the political leadership and tell them this is the way to legally spend money for the government and get services going. And not only this, it is under provision of the budget involve very essential areas have cut across Ministries. And if it just stays like that that budget is not presentable in Parliament, it just does not make sense to present that budget in Parliament.

CHAIRMAN: That is just on fuel. You look at the main one, the payroll, you have shortfall of \$1.6 million and these people are the very ones who will be guiding these prisons. You don't pay them right. I mean they can just get up and go, walk away.

SOGAVARE: The Committee is only raising the concerns.

CHAIRMAN: We are raising the concerns here. That is the best we can do. Raise the concerns here and it is up to the political government to take stock of these comments. Will see as we move along PS and officials but what you said. You are very confident with your \$6.7 million here which is at your discretion. You may use some of that to cover these gaps but we live that with you.

CHAIRMAN: Anyway members and officials, I really enjoyed these discussions because there are more serious issues to be raised and discussed here and I would like to stay on longer. I would like us to stay until seven or eight o'clock to continue to look at each individual items, seeing the recurrent and also to look at the development, but seems that some of you are starting to weaken down. But seriously I want to stay until nine or ten o'clock for us to seriously look at the end of the briefs but unless you have further comments members.

SOALAOI: Mr Chairman, this is the last. We talked about the shortfalls, and I think the point that is worth noting for the Committee is whilst there are mechanisms to move funds around we want as much as possible, people to respect and spend wisely in the spirit of the budget. When it is passed it becomes a law. We want that to be respect after it is passed. That is why it is important for it to be reflected in the budget and spend according to the budget.

SOGAVARE: The point raised is the way this is presented now. It encourages legal spending. The pressure is put on all the Ministries now.

CHAIRMAN: Especially when you are locking up. Twenty five or fifteen million is recurrent, contingency warrant and another same amount in the development; I think there is really room for us to.

SOGAVARE: Chairman, contingency warrant is for contingency. Things that you do not expect will happen and it happened. But fuel you know that you need fuel. Today you need fuel tomorrow fuel so it really goes down and if the Ministry needs additional resource then it has to get Parliamentary approval first before you spend and that will stop the flow. Again this is government you know, it must deliver, it must continue to work so it will let its muscle to move so it really encourages you breaking the law in illegal spending.

MARK KEMAKEZA: The question is on community policing. There is an allocation of \$3 million in the development estimates. Can I have further comment on that whether there has been any construction on those community policing?

CHAIRMAN: In the development budget yes.

PERMANENT SECRETARY: Mr Chairman, there is no allocation.

MARK KEMAKEZA: In 2007 there was an allocation.

PERMANENT SECRETARY: In 2007, yes.

MARK KEMAKEZA: Was there any community policing being constructed in the provinces?

PERMANENT SECRETARY: Mr Chairman, there have been surveys made to look at strategic areas in which community policing posts could be established. Now I do not have any further information on that. That is all I can divulge to the Committee.

CHAIRMAN: I am just thinking out loud here, PS that in order for any rural advancement to progress and to advance for any real advancement to be seen tangible in communities, law and order must be present. And the absence of any allocation in community policing really raises the issue as to whether the government is serious in its policies and programs and plans because where there is law and order the rural communities cannot advance. There is a missing link between law and order and rural advancement. How does the government reconcile that gap?

SOGAVARE: The PS is only the implementer of government policies

CHAIRMAN: The PS is also the senior adviser to the Minister and the officials.

SOALAOI: Mr Chairman, if that was a project then I think the Committee would like to see a report on how funds were expended. Whether the public fund is used up that is a concern to the Committee.

PERMANENT SECRETARY: Mr Chairman, I can get a report from the Commissioner of Police.

CHAIRMAN: This government is called the Government of National Unity, that is one pillar, and Rural Advancement, that is the other pillar. And that is why I was raising the issue of rural advancement. This is very important public policy to advance lives in the rural areas, development or whatever people in the rural areas would want to advance. But in the absence of law and order or security the lives of people investing then there is not going to be any real rural advancement. The lack of any commitment in terms of funding for community policy in rural areas speaks louder of itself.

PERMANENT SECRETARY: As I said Mr Chairman, I can get the report from the Police Commissioner on the progress they made in establishing community policing. As you are aware there is no provision in the development budget for community policing. But there is a token amount in the recurrent budget of \$292,000 for community policing.

CHAIRMAN: Any further comments from members? Officials want to make any further comments? Are you happy with the comments?

PERMANENT SECRETARY: I think they are happy.

CHAIRMAN: Permanent Secretary, it looks like the members are very satisfied with your presentation today but they do pity with you on the shortfalls that you raised but there is some consolation. The comments you raised in the shortfalls is almost uniformed to all the government departments that there are shortfalls in payroll, shortfalls in other charges and this seems to be the case in almost all the other departments that have presented themselves before the Committee. What this Committee does is to produce a report to Parliament and it is up to Members of Parliament to look at and read the report and to make very informed debates on how this budget has been presented. But according to the officials from the Ministry of Finance this budget according to them is a very credible budget but will see at the end of the day when the report is produced whether this is really a credible budget or not. But on that note, Permanent Secretary and the Officials, on behalf of the members who are present here, I would like to thank you very much once again for your presence and your presentation this afternoon.

The Committee will meet again tomorrow at 9.00 o'clock here to slash these hearing on the remaining Ministries but seeing that we only have one lady in the team this afternoon, as usual it is ceremonial and that we always close our time with a word of prayer, I will give her the honor, give this lady the honor to close our time this afternoon.