

SPEECH TO LAUNCH THE POLICY FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT OF
THE GRAND COALITION FOR CHANGE GOVERNMENT

By
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PRIME MINISTER

Wednesday 24th May 2006, King Solomon Hotel

The Hon. Speaker of National Parliament, Sir Peter Kenilorea,
the Hon. Chief Justice, Sir Albert Palmer,
Honourable Ministers of Cabinet
Leader of Opposition, Hon. Fred Fono
Honourable Members of Parliament
Special Coordinator of RAMSI
Dean and Members of the Diplomatic Corps
Church Leaders
Distinguished Guests
Chiefs, the Youth, Women
Ladies and Gentlemen

Today, we are gathered to witness an important step taken by your new Grand Coalition for Change Government in leading and directing this nation on a journey that calls for responsible leadership and humble genuine service for our people.

People of Solomon Islands, your Grand Coalition for change Government is serious about creating the necessary level playing field for our active participation and equal sharing of benefits.

In order for us to fully realize this, we are presenting a development process through a bottom-up and holistic approach that encompasses the empowerment of the people through effective rural advancement strategies, the pursuit of the Millennium Development goals, the revitalization of the economy, improving Law and Order, effective service delivery and the devolution of powers, functions and decision making to the periphery

It is essential that in order to bring about genuine economic, political and social transformation, the partnership between stakeholders and development parties has to be of acceptable quality and on an equal footing. We are mindful that the transformation referred to has to be people-centered, growth focused and quality governance orientated.

This policy framework document therefore consists of two major parts. Part 1 consists of pressing and priority issues which the Grand Coalition for Change Government needs to seriously deal with. Such pressing issues include constitutional reform implementation of appropriate economic recovery, fiscal and monetary measures, strengthening of ethical leadership, fair and equitable justice system and a quality governance process characterized by accountability and transparency, a review of the Facilitation Act governing RAMSI, Foreign Policy, Indigenization, the establishment of a Truth & Reconciliation commission, the setting up of a Commission of Inquiry into the recent Honiara riots and Public Service Reform.

Part II of the document comprise eleven strategic themes which also re-emphasizes some of the key areas already highlighted, but including the pursuit of a sustainable and effective Law and Order system, a conducive and secure environment for positive economic growth, a fair and equitable justice system and a quality governance process characterized by accountability and transparency.

I am pleased to submit to you good people of Solomon Islands, your Government's policy framework document which has combined the positions taken by all the political parties represented in the Grand Coalition.

This document contains the serious intentions of your new government on many important issues which we hope should impact on improving the lives of ordinary Solomon Islanders. We want to present to you realistic and achievable plans and policies

From this document, the relevant Ministries headed by their responsible Ministers and aided by their Permanent Secretaries and Senior Officials should translate these policy statements into their Ministerial work programs, taking into account many fortunate ongoing reform exercises carried out under the previous administration.

From this exercise should emerge a workable programme of action for the next four years. We hope to release this action plan at the end of June – coupled with this, we are now working on a successor

plan to the outgoing National Economic Recover, Reform and Development Plan 2003 – 2006.

As the document is soon to be in your hands, we request all stakeholders within and outside of government to take serious note of our genuine intentions. In this regards, we will rely on the best advice and support available to implement these policies. Therefore we hereby request the support and cooperation of our people and development partners as we aspire to create a new and better Solomon Islands.

Ultimately, this policy framework document is a blueprint and road map for a country renewed, a people healed, a nation economically well off, independent, free and complying with the norms and standards that ensures an improved quality of life for all Solomon Islanders.

Finally, it would be remiss of me not to mention that timeless effort of the working committee which comprises of representatives from the different political partners in the Grand – Coalition for Change Government. Thank you for your noble efforts.

It is our hope and prayer that this document will help us all to focus on the huge task ahead rebuilding our beloved Nation Solomon Islands.

May the Almighty God guide and bless Solomon Islands and our people and it is now my humble duty to officially launch (hold a Copy in your hands) the Grand Coalition for Change Government Policy Framework – 2006.

Thank you