Committee Membership

The members of the Public Accounts Committee (11th Parliament) are:

Hon. Douglas Ete, MP, Chairman
Hon. Matthew C. Wale, MP
Hon. John D. Kuku, MP
Hon. Lilly Maefai, MP
Hon. Rick N. Houenipwela, MP
Hon. John Maneniaru, MP
Hon. Alfred Efona, MP
Hon. Ethel Lency, MP
Hon. Commins Mewa, MP

Secretary: Ms Rachel Mckechnie, Deputy Auditor General
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Chair's Foreword

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Mr. Speaker,

Pursuant to Standing Orders No. 69 (1) [e] and [g] of the National Parliament of Solomon Islands, it is an honour and pleasure for me Sir, to present the Report of the Public Accounts Committee of the Inquiry into the 2021 Appropriation Bill 2021 (No.2 of 2021) for laying before Parliament.

Honourable Douglas Ete, MP
Chairman
Public Accounts Committee

8 April, 2021
# Table of Contents

Committee Membership ........................................................................................................... i
Chair’s Foreword ...................................................................................................................... i
Executive Summary .................................................................................................................. I

Chapter 1: Introduction ........................................................................................................... 1
  Overview .............................................................................................................................. 1
  Inquiry Process ..................................................................................................................... 2

Chapter 2 - Budget Overview ................................................................................................. 3
  Economic Outlook Summary for 2021 .................................................................................. 3
  Review of 2020 Economic Performance and Forecast for 2021 ............................................. 3

Chapter 3 - Committee Deliberations .................................................................................... 5

Chapter 4 - Issues of Concern ............................................................................................... 6
  Central Bank of Solomon Islands .......................................................................................... 6
  Issues of Concern ................................................................................................................. 6
  Solomon Island Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) .............................................. 9
  Commercial Banks and Solomon Island (BSP, ANZ, POB & BREDBANK) .......................... 11
  National Provident Fund ..................................................................................................... 12
  Development Bank of Solomon Islands ............................................................................... 14
  Australian High Commission ............................................................................................. 17
  Asian Development Bank .................................................................................................... 20
  Japanese Embassy ............................................................................................................... 21

Public Accounts Committee Report: April 2021
New Zealand High Commission ..................................................... 22

Solomon Island Broadcasting Corporation (SIBC), Commodities Export Markets Authority (CEMA), and Solomon Islands Postal Corporation (SIPC) ................................................................. 23

68 Solomon Islands Electoral Office .............................................. 25

69 Office of the Ombudsman .......................................................... 27

70 Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development ................ 28

71 Office of the Auditor General .................................................... 32

72 Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development .... 35

73 Ministry of Finance and Treasury ............................................... 40

74 Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade ...................... 46

75 Office of the Governor General ................................................. 49

76 Ministry of Health and Medical Service ................................... 50

77 Ministry of Infrastructure Development .................................... 59

79 National Parliament ................................................................. 62

80 Ministry of Forestry and Research ............................................ 63

81 Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet ................................. 66

84 Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening ........................................................................... 69

83 Ministry of Police, National Security and Correctional Services ... 71

85 Ministry of Lands, Housing and Survey .................................... 74

86 Ministry of National Planning and Development Coordination ... 78

87 Ministry of Culture and Tourism ................................................. 82

88 Ministry of Commerce, Industries, Labour and Immigration ...... 84
Appendices  111

Committee Functions  .................................................................111
Minutes of Proceedings ............................................................112
List of Submissions .................................................................138
Executive Summary

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) had completed its examination of the 2021 Appropriation Bill 2021 (No.2 of 2021) from the 22 to 31 March and 257 witnesses appeared before the Committee.

The Bill seeks to appropriate an expenditure of $3,905,951,360 from the Consolidated Fund for the service of the financial year ending 31 December 2021.

The Bill also seeks to regularise the following:

- **Government borrowing limits** - not exceeding in total of $350,000,000 for the purposes of new borrowing for high priority infrastructure and development initiatives in line with the Government’s development and debt policies as authorised by section 71(3) of the Public Financial Management Act 2013 (PFM Act 2013).

- Treasury Bills values must not exceed the face value on issue at the beginning of 2021 by more than $100,000,000 for the purposes of necessary borrowing to deal with exceptional circumstance like a major economic shock or a natural disaster as authorised by section 71(4) of the PFM Act 2013.

- **Debt service account** – the Minister must set aside 2.01% of the Government’s own source revenue earned in the financial year ending 31 December 2021 to be transferred into debt service account for the purpose of discharging statutory debt for the purposes of section 69(2) of the PFM Act 2013.

- **Advance warrants** – the Minister must not, at any one time, after deducting repayments and monies on deposit, issue advance warrants to an amount exceeding $150,000,000 during the financial year.

- **Contingency warrants** – the Minister may authorise a contingency warrant for a sum not exceeding $20,000,000 for recurrent and development expenditures for the purposes of section 58 of the PFM Act 2013.

In the backdrop of the global pandemic the Committee noted that the Government under the 2021 Appropriation Bill 2021 had shifted its policy to target two basic objectives. The first was to ensure that this budget facilitates the protection of its citizens and to clamp down any community transmission of the virus. The second is to redirect funding to the productive and resource sectors to keep our domestic economy afloat and accelerate recovery under the theme “Towards a Path to Economic Recovery: Advancing Growth and Service Delivery Through Better Partnerships” with partnership with our development partners. And therefore, having heard evidences from key stakeholders the Committee in its findings makes twenty recommendations to the Government.

This report makes a total of twenty (20) recommendations to the Government:
Recommendation 1

(a) The Committee urges the Central Bank to exercise regular supervisory and prudential oversight of DBSI.

(b) The Committee recommends that the composition of the DBSI Board be reviewed so that Board members are truly independent of both the Government as owner and the Central Bank as regulator and not include political appointees.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that:

(a) The Government provides further capital injection of $50 million to DBSI to enable it to provide further loans to SMEs and rural investors.

(b) The bank enter into international banking arrangements to enable foreign currency transactions to facilitate forestry accounts and transactions.

(c) DBSI develop transparent guidelines to avoid refinancing of non-performing loans from commercial banks.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development prepare a Cabinet paper to seek further assistances to boost the economy through productive sector under the ministry to fund specified crops for processing.

Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends:

(a) That the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock needs to review the Biosecurity Act to enable the ministry to be more effective in controlling our borders against foreign pests.
(b) That the existing threats to Biosecurity of, coconut rhinoceros beetle, Asian bee and giant African snail, are adequately funded to seriously address the need currently experienced in the country.

**Recommendation 5**

The Committee recommends:

a) That the Ministry of Public Service continue to coordinate with the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) to resolve the dire need for functional review of the OAG and allocate to the Office the required manpower.

b) That the Government allocate funds to the OAG to secure the AG’s residence from ongoing encroachments of settlements.

c) Expedite the appointment of the Auditor-General.

**Recommendation 6**

(a) The Committee recommends that the SINU Act be amended and that governance and the relationship of unions and management are clarified.

(b) The Committee urges the expedited appointment of a replacement Vice-Chancellor.

c) The Committee recommends the Government study the option of establishing an institute of technology to take over the trades schools from SINU.

d) The Committee urges MEHRD to seek external quality assurance assessment and accreditation of SINU course offerings.

e) The Committee urges that the terms and conditions of award of scholarships be reviewed for affordability and incentivises and prioritises Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

(f) The Committee urges the Government to commission a study into Education financing.
(g) The Committee recommends the roll out of multilingual education (MLE) in primary schools.

(h) The Committee urges the Government to strengthen the apprenticeship program and give sole responsibility for it to SITESA.

**Recommendation 7**

(a) The Committee urges the Ministry of Finance and Treasury to liaise with the Governor of the Central Bank to collect the uncollected revenues of $300 million identified as “dead money”.

(b) The Committee is concerned at the slow pace of tax reform and urges the Ministry to progress these reforms in a more timely manner.

(c) The Committee recommends that exemptions granted to Mamara development be on capital items only.

(d) The committee recommends that appropriate packages of fiscal incentives are devised to attract quality and sizable investment in strategic sectors.

(e) The Committee urges CBSI to review the effectiveness and relevance of current monetary policy tools and consider options to strengthen the effectiveness of transmission of consequences of monetary policy to consumers.

(f) The Committee urges the Ministries of Finance and Planning to ensure that there is full disclosure in budget documents of donor funding through non-appropriated expenditures.

**Recommendation 8**

The Committee urges the expedited appointment of the Ambassador to the United Nations.
Recommendation 9
The Committee recommends that the Government support the roles and functions of the Governor-General by allowing it to make budgetary bids for its Other Charges and Development budgets.

Recommendation 10
The Committee recommends to the Ministry of Health and Medical Services that any improvements to the current National Referral Hospital (NRH) and the proposed development of the new NRH must take into consideration the population growth and the aging population for the next 30 years so that structural designs are intended to last longer and can cater for the growing and aging population.

Recommendation 11
The Committee recommends:
(a) That Government takes control of vaccine procurement and rollout.

(b) That the Ministry of Health and Medical Services work with other government agencies, networks and stakeholders such as churches to help with educating our people about the vaccine and its roll out program to convince our people to get vaccinated.

Recommendation 12
The Committee recommends that the Government commission a review of National Referral Hospital to look at clinical governance and corporate governance with a view to the possibility of establishing an independent hospital board and urge the government to consider procuring technical assistance to undertake such a review.

Recommendation 13
The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Health and Medical Service carry out a Cost of Health and Medicals Services study in the Solomon Islands that is similar to the Cost of
Policing done by RAMSI. This is so that an overall report on cost of delivering health and medical services can inform on the appropriate budget allocation.

**Recommendation 14**

(a) The Committee urges the Government to implement the forestry sustainability policy.

(b) The Committee urges the Government to strictly enforce the prohibition of logging beyond 400 meters above sea-level.

**Recommendation 15**

(a) The Committee urges the Government to review the arms capability of the RSIPF appropriate to border management.

(b) The Committee recommends that the Commissioner of Corrections consider options for community service by inmates.

(c) The Committee recommends the Ministry of Police, National Security and Correctional Service undertake a peer review of the quality of police training.

**Recommendation 16**

(a) The Committee recommends that the Land Registry be reallocated to the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Survey under the management of the Commissioner of Lands.

(b) The Committee urges the Government to expedite identification and acquisition of land for the resettlement of climate vulnerable communities.

**Recommendation 17**

The Committee urges:

(a) The Government to continue with the Henderson runway reseal/overlay and to seek additional funding for its completion.
(b) The Committee urges the Government to review the Telecommunications Act to further strengthen competition, improve quality, and reduce cost of services.

**Recommendation 18**

The Committee urges the Government to adequately fund the National Judiciary and its support services and to expedite reforms to strengthen the independence of the judiciary.

**Recommendation 19**

The Committee strongly urges the Government to allocate adequate funding for safe houses and support services for victims of domestic and gender based violence.

**Recommendation 20**

The Committee recommends:

(a) That the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology liaise with HCC to ensure that appropriate development consent was obtained in the developments encroaching the Mataniko riverside and appropriate remedial action is taken to enforce the law.

(b) That a project to be undertaken to clean up the Mataniko river.

(c) That the Government commission a study on the need to establish a climate fund.

(d) That the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology devise a plan and protocols for the relocation of communities vulnerable to sea level rise.

(e) That the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology propose amendments to relevant laws to clarify governance for tubi.
Chapter 1: Introduction

This Chapter provides an introduction to the Inquiry including information on the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) and the inquiry process.

Overview

1.1 The National Parliament is the independent law making arm of government to which the Executive is accountable to. The Parliament is also the only institution vested with the power to authorize the allocation of public monies through the Annual Appropriation or Supplementary Appropriation Acts. The Parliament also performs many of its oversight functions through its Standing Committees. The Public Accounts Committee (the “Committee”) is one of the committees and is given the power to examine the annual Draft Estimates budgets prior to their tabling before Parliament.

1.2 The 2021 Appropriation Bill 2021 was received by the Speaker and certified on Tuesday 16 March, 2021. The Committee began its deliberations after that, and held public hearings to examine the bill that seeks to appropriate $3,905,951,360 for the service of the year ending 31 December 2021.

1.3 The Committee considered evidence provided by government ministries, financial institutions, development partners, and the private sector and sought advice from the Auditor General.

1.4 This Report outlines the findings of the Committee’s examination of 2021 Draft Estimates (Budget) that comprises the Recurrent and Development Estimates, the proposed recurrent Establishments Register and the related documents supporting the formulation of the Estimates.

1.5 The Committee thanks the Permanent Secretaries (PSs), Under-Secretaries (USs) and senior officials of various Ministries and SOEs who came before the Committee and provided valuable information. Given the unprecedented nature of the impact of COVID-19, many wider stakeholders also appeared before the Committee for the first time. The Committee is also very grateful to have positive response from our development partners and financial institutions who have responded kindly to the invitation to provide written submissions and attending the public hearings. The Committee benefited immensely from the Office of the Auditor General, the Committee Secretariat and the National Parliamentary Budget Team through administrative, logistical, technical and analytical support. The Central Bank of Solomon Islands (CBSI), Asian Development Bank and the Ministry of Finance and Treasury provided insight and projection of economic performance for 2020 and 2021.
Inquiry Process

1.6 In accordance with its mandate under Standing Orders 69 of the National Parliament, the Committee resolved at its meeting on 18 March 2021 to commence the examination of the Bill from 22 to 31 March 2021. The full terms of reference are included on the Appendices of this report.

1.7 The scope of the inquiry was expanded on 18 March 2021 to invite key development partners and financial institutions to provide the Committee with insights on their activities in the country and projections of economic performance.

1.8 The inquiry process included inviting key financial institutions, development partners and government ministries to make written submissions and appearing at public hearings.

1.9 The Committee examined 37 responsible agencies and received 95 submissions from these agencies. A list of submissions can be found at the Appendices of this report and copies of the submissions are available at the Committee Secretariat.

1.10 Transcripts of the hearings are available at Hansard.

1.11 Minutes of the hearing can be found in the Appendices of this report.
Chapter 2 - Budget Overview

Economic Outlook Summary for 2021

This chapter summarises the projected economic outlook as per the presentations by both the Ministry of Finance and Treasury and the Central Bank of Solomon Islands.

Review of 2020 Economic Performance and Forecast for 2021

2.1 A global economy crisis was witnessed in 2020 stemming from the COVID-19 global pandemic. The crisis caused economic fallout in all economies through disruptions in production and global supply chains. This has affected the Solomon Islands with a contraction to the local economy at minus 4.3%.

2.2 Solomon Islands external trade (exports and imports) deteriorated in line with weak domestic and foreign demand as well as the impact of the border closures on tourism and infrastructure projects. Exports dropped by 17% driven largely by a fall in round logs and canned tuna exports. Imports fell by 18%.

2.3 Economic Growth is expected to return in 2021 with a forecast rate of 1.5% in line with the global growth and expected recoveries in fisheries and construction sectors and key national projects in the pipeline. In the medium term (2022-2025) growth is forecast to increase to 3.5% on average. Growth is expected to be highest at 5-6% in 2022-2023 resulting from the expected construction activities. Post the Pacific Games, growth could be more challenging with rates dropping to 1%.

2.4 Inflation remained muted in 2020 falling to minus 1.8% by December 2020 despite some rises in the middle of the year. The pass through effect from lower world price for crude oil combined with weak demand in the economy amid the COVID-19 pandemic had been key determinants of the negative inflation. The outlook for inflation remains low at minus 1.6% in the first half of 2021, improving to 3% by the end of 2021.

2.5 The fiscal position in 2020 recorded a deficit of $308 million (2.5% of GDP) driven by lower domestic revenue collections and higher COVID-19 related expenditure.

2.6 Revenue Projections for 2021 is around $3,009 million, a decline of around 12% on the 2020 revised budget.

2.7 Overall Taxes are expected to increase by 4%. The main growth areas are in Company Taxes receipts (7.2%) and withholding tax (16.5%) although neither are expected to return to pre-COVID-19 levels.
2.8 **Customs Revenue Collection** are projected to decline overall by 7.7% for 2021.

2.9 **Export Duties** on logs continues to account for half of the annual customs total revenue collection. This is forecast to reduce by 11% in 2021.

2.10 **Import Duty** is projected to decrease by 4.4% in 2021.


Chapter 3 - Committee Deliberations

Overview of 2021 Budget

The 2021 Appropriation Bill 2021 is required to appropriate monies for the services of the Government in 2021.

The amounts to be appropriated are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURES</th>
<th>AMOUNT ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RECURRENT EXPENDITURE</td>
<td>2,709,355,046</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUDGET SUPPORT EXPENDITURE</td>
<td>258,547,314</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE</td>
<td>938,049,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL APPROPRIATED EXPENDITURES</td>
<td>3,905,951,360</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE**: In addition to the amount authorised by the 2021 Appropriation Bill 2021, a further $113,129,385 is forecast to be expended through statutory charges on the Consolidated Fund, including $84,861,561 to be expended on National Debt Repayments. These Statutory Appropriations are explained in the Budget Strategy and Outlook (Budget Paper 1) and the Recurrent Estimates Document (Budget Paper 2) and are appropriated by existing legislation or the Constitution.
Chapter 4 - Issues of Concern

Central Bank of Solomon Islands

Issues of Concern

Matters raised by the Committee include the following:

4.1 Monetary policy – The Committee was concerned about whether new monetary policy tools were required as the current ones are either no longer useful or out of date. There is a requirement for clear cut influence on the financial system to address fiscal policy.

4.2 The Governor stated the challenge in monetary policy was more in the transmission of policy mechanism. Normally markets would take up Central Bank announcements immediately, but this was not occurring. The Central Bank is exploring more directive ways, rather than using the market platform but this can risk having unintended side effects. The bank is also restricted by the CBSI Act in how it implements monetary policy. The bank could use some non-traditional tools such as the purchase of bonds up to $400 million but there is a limit to that space.

4.3 Budget deficit of $300 million – The Committee was concerned that the Government was not transparent with the financing option for the planned deficit of $300 million in the 2021 budget. The Committee was not aware if the bank was consulted on the deficit financing.

4.4 The bank confirmed that this is an expansionary policy by the Government but was not consulted. The bank can purchase bonds up to the value of $120 million to support export financing arrangements for companies but cannot lend money directly to the Government.

4.5 Arrears of revenue $300 million – The Committee requested the bank to provide details of arrears of revenue of $300 million.

4.6 The Governor spoke of $300 million “dead money” which was due to the Government. This was thought to be in the areas of forestry, excise on tobacco, company taxes and duties. A robust system would enable the government to collect the estimated amount which could finance the 2021 budget deficit.

4.7 The Committee was concerned about what impact future projects would have on the domestic debt. The Governor explained that domestic debt is very low when compared to international levels.

4.8 **Employment data** – The Committee was concerned that employment data continued to be unavailable. The employment baseline data for 2019 and data for 2020 are required so that an analysis can be made to determine the impact of COVID-19 on employment during 2020 and the projection for 2021 and future years.

4.9 The bank stated that employment for 2020 was definitely down but is unable to provide any statistical data on employment for the two years. It will provide the data when it is available.

4.10 **Cash reserve** – The Committee was concerned with the low level of cash reserve of SIG which greatly affects the working capital for various businesses and individuals doing business with the government.

4.11 The bank admits that the cash reserve level is low. It is important to ensure the cash reserves are built up over years and a cash buffer is maintained at all time to meet the obligations of the SIG in a timely manner.

4.12 **Inflation** – Currently, the Solomon Islands is experiencing deflation. This can be as harmful to an economy as high rates of inflation. For good economic growth, inflation should rise in line with the state of the economy. The Governor expected that deflation would be temporary.

4.13 In Solomon Islands, inflation is mainly driven by the supply side. Although fuel prices have decreased through 2020, they are again now increasing which may result in inflation spikes in the coming months. However, currently there are greater impacts driven by the domestic side e.g. betel nut.

4.14 Inflation is calculated based on the basket of goods. The Governor noted that this basket may require an update which would be the responsibility of Statistics. By the end of 2021, it is expected that the inflation rate will be 3.3%.

4.15 **Budget support** – In 2020, there was an increase in budget support from donors, bilateral and multilateral. This had the effect of increasing the Government’s foreign exchange reserves. Funds from the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and JICA amounted to $190 million.

4.16 Most International Financial Institutions now are providing funding split between grant and loan normally on a 50:50 basis.
4.17 **Economic impact of ESP** – The Committee enquired into the impact of the economic stimulus package of around $309 million into the economy from 2020 onwards.

4.18 The Governor has not yet seen any report analysing the economic impact of the economic stimulus package. What the bank has observed is the impact on copra production. The freight subsidy for copra has increased production by 40%. What has not yet been determined is what impact on other sectors by the ESP.

4.19 **Credit Support** – The Governor was not aware of any support from the Government to assist banks through credit support. The Central Bank loan guarantee scheme in operation prior to the COVID-19 is still in operation.

4.20 **Loan repayments holiday** – The Committee was concerned that homeowners were losing their homes during the COVID-19 crisis due to their inability to repay their loans on the due dates.

4.21 In consultation with banks, the prudential guidelines were relaxed by CBSI to give a holiday for loan repayments for six months to November 2020. This has been extended a further six months and will then be reviewed.

4.22 **Debt sustainability** – The Governor stated that the Debt to GDP ratio is currently at 30% with a threshold set at 35%. He expected the ratio to increase to 40% in the future. The bank is a member of the debt advisory committee, therefore, has ongoing consultation with the Government on debt.

4.23 **Development Bank of Solomon Islands** – The Committee was concerned that non-performing loans from commercial banks were being re-financed by DBSI. The Committee was also concerned with the composition of the board of directors of the DBSI including the chairman; Permanent Secretary Finance who is also a board member of CBSI, while another three are political appointees in the government.

4.24 **Procurement processes** – The Committee enquired into the procurement processes. The Committee was very concerned about the timely release of funds and at the same time safeguard the process from political influence.

4.25 The Central Bank was aware of these concerns and was looking into it. They are starting to carry out onsite inspections to ensure that DBSI is complying with the relevant requirements. The Central Bank Board have been requesting the names of DBSI Board members and will undertake a fit and proper test of independence and make any relevant recommendations.
4.26 DBSI and NPF operate under their own Acts as separate financial institutions. The Central Bank has the power to cease the licence of commercial banks, but not that of DBSI and NPF. The Central Bank’s powers relate to raising recommendations and penalties.

4.27 The Committee was concerned that the rural communities should benefit from DBSI as intended. The Governor confirmed that that was the aim of establishing DBSI and this was slowly starting.

4.28 **Pacific Games 2023** – The Committee was concerned whether the economic impact of the Pacific Games 2023 is wider than the infrastructure projects being considered. The level of funding required for hosting the games and how this would be achieved is not clear to the committee.

4.29 The Government may need to consider whether to put cash reserves aside to ensure hosting goes smoothly. The productive use of the facilities after the games is a great concern to the bank.

4.30 **Fisheries forecasts** – Fisheries revenue is forecasted to be a main contributor to income in 2021. The Committee was concerned whether this was realistic.

4.31 The Governor noted that the projections for fisheries growth was optimistic. 2020 had been a challenging year but an El Nino was forecast for 2021 and therefore this would expect increases in fish and fishing. The ministry of fisheries would be able to provide more information on this.

**Solomon Island Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI)**

**Issues of Concern**

4.32 **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** – The Committee noted that SICCI signed a MOU with the SIG. The Committee enquires into the content of the MOU.

4.33 The MOU was established to enable greater advocacy for reform of issues through dialogue with the Government. The MOU was signed in 2017 and the latest version was signed July 2020 and SICCI could provide a copy for the Committee.

4.34 This MOU provides the venue to engage with the Government and engage on common issues. SICCI uses its role to advocate for its members, one such example is for tax reforms.
such as tax reform and minimum wage reform. It has also been an important forum to engage with the Government on COVID-19 impacts.

4.35 One matter discussed through the MOU is the graduation from Least Developed Country (LDC) status. SICCI consulted with industry, export and import manufacturing industries such as Soltuna which exports to the EU market. The forum was helpful to highlight the impact of the loss of preferential access as the impact could be serious. The event led to a re-thing on the will to progress this. SICCI have four meetings a year with the government.

4.36 **Tax exemptions** - The Committee was interested what the process was for tax exemptions and whether there was a level playing field.

4.37 SICCI noted that the process and purpose of exemptions was unclear. For example, it was unclear why exemptions would be applied to an existing and functioning sector. Where they are applied to incentivise one area, this may have a detrimental impact on another.

4.38 **Minimum Wage** - The Committee wanted to know SICCI’s view on the concept of minimum wage. SICCI sit on the Labour Advisory Board (LAB). The main issue is that when legislation is introduced is to ensure that there is sufficient time for companies to implement this. They believed that in the short-term, introducing a minimum wage could lead to a short-term reduction in employment as the market adjusted. But it is also clear that businesses have to be realistic. One of the key challenges is how to make the cost of housing affordable. SICCI noted that the rate is currently $8/hour but this had not been gazetted.

4.39 **Environment conducive to business** - SICCI noted that a recent World Bank (WB) survey ranked Solomon Islands lower internationally for “ease of doing business”. It is challenging for businesses, whether new or existing. Reasons for these are: the tax system and utilities costs are high. This means that costs are high making prices for sales high which discourages investment.

4.40 **Level playing field for local businesses** - The Committee wanted to know if there was a level playing field for local businesses.

4.41 With the upcoming increases in construction, SICCI is looking to work with Government to see if a threshold can be applied to protect local industries. If local content can be protected money would be expected to stay within the country and impact economic growth. There is a lack of protection for local companies. On the reserve businesses SICCI noted that enforcement of laws is a challenge and the lack of technical skills for the local labour force.
4.42 Human resources development - The Committee wanted to understand whether training was being aligned to industry need.

4.43 SICCI noted that they had recently been asked to participate in Solomon Islands Tertiary Education and Skills Authority (SITESA) Committee to ensure the transfer of skills to the right areas of demand. SICCI is concerned that there is a misalignment of industry need and those graduating from tertiary institutions. There is general lack of skilled human resources at the management level. There is lack of trade skills but abundance of casual to supervisory level skills.

4.44 SICCI felt there is a misalignment within manufacturing with a lack of students in the sciences. SICCI noted that it was possible to get causal labour to a certain level but harder to gain those with experience further up the organisation.

4.45 Public Sector freeze - The Committee noted the Government’s redirection and planned public sector freeze. They were interested on SICCI’s view of this.

4.46 SICCI noted that the coming 2–3 year’s infrastructure investment was key to the economy’s recovery. They highlighted again the need to consider protections of local business and content in this period of investment. They felt that SICCI and the private sector were well placed to lead this.

Commercial Banks and Solomon Island (BSP, ANZ, POB & BREDBANK)

Issues of Concern

Matters raised by the Committee include the following:

4.47 Commercial Banks view on the impact of COVID 19 on domestic economy – All four (4) commercial banks share the same view on the impact of the COVID 19 on the domestic economy that the pandemic really impact their operations and of their customers. Their perspective for 2021 is economically the outlook for the domestic economy would be in for another tough year. Although they all hoping for V shape bounce back of the economy.

4.48 Appetite for Treasury bills – Only two (2) commercial banks show interest for short term treasury bills but all depending on the terms and conditions agreed.
4.49 **Commercial Banks view on the impact of ESP** – with the EPS issued by the government last year, banks’ view, there is little impact in the economy. Most customers use that for their overhead cost and loan repayments.

4.50 **View on DBSI** – Commercial banks confirm that some of their customers used DBSI to refinance their loans with them. They see this as not a development oriented as what DBSI should do.

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**National Provident Fund**

**Issues of Concern**

Matters raised by the Committee include the following:

4.51 **The Investments for 2021** – The Committee enquired into the total planned investment by NPF into the economy for 2021, the expected yield and any comparative figures for 2019 and 2020.

4.52 The fund budgeted for $150 million investment in 2021 which is around 20% of the whole portfolio. It has a cash reserve of $3.7 billion. The investment will be on Solomon Finance Ltd a wholly owned subsidiary of SINPF. $50 million for equity, $10 million guarantee. $30 million is set aside for operations $5 million cash and the rest for loan.

4.53 **YouSave scheme** - The Committee noted that the YouSave scheme has grown rapidly and enquired into any modelling that was done for the scheme and its profitability.

4.54 The fund confirmed that a business plan was done in 2018 for this scheme that the target to breakeven was for 22,000 members at an investment of $20 million by 2023. However the target was achieved by 2021 (within 3 years) with a large pool of cash.

4.55 **Debt exposure to SIG** – The National Government in 2017 borrowed a total amount of $150 million from NPF through sale of bonds. The loan was obtained for Submarine Cable project to finance the Government’s equity in the company. In addition, NPF finance other 49% which amounted to $260 m purposely for the cost of connection made to Honiara and to Noro, Auki and Taro. NPF obtained two bonds of $150 million and $60 million for 15 years and 10 years respectively. The recent one was for 5 years and it is based on a mirror
of what was lent to the government earlier last year when the government issues bonds to the SOEs and NPF.

4.56 NPF has about $210 million exposed to the government and this is about six percent of total exposure. NPF has set minimum 10 percent exposure target for SIG and a maximum target of 15 percent. The 10 percent of the total investment portfolio around $3.4 billion equates to about $340 million and minus $210 million provides a $130 million minimum gap that is available for the government. The government includes any government agencies such as SOE.

4.57 **Invest in the Provinces** – The Committee encourages the fund to invest in the provinces in order to stimulate growth there. The Committee cautions NPF to be on guard when spreading its investment to the provinces due to political and social risks.

4.58 On investment in any the provinces, NPF has already invested in Soltuna in Noro Western Province and in Central Islands Province for the slipway and properties in Tulagi. NPF recently invested in Malaita for real estate in Auki. The fund is reviewing the developments in Bina Harbour for possible investment opportunity. It is continuing with housing investment in collaboration with Home Finance in land banks at Panatina. It is also in discussion with IFC regarding other investment opportunities.

4.59 **Performance of SINPF investments** – The Committee noted that SINPF has a portfolio of equity investments and real estate investments and enquired into the performance of these entities.

4.60 NPF invest in a number of companies and properties both locally and internationally. Given the impact of the pandemic few investments might have challenges; however, in general NPF projected a positive return for 2021 investments. Some of the investments are:

- South Pacific Oil – doing well but demand for aviation fuel has been severely affected by the border closure;
- Solomon Telekom – doing well;
- Soltuna – performing well after securing additional fish supplies from other jurisdictions;
- Solomon Housing – construction continuing;
- Properties – Tavanupupu resort – offers were received for the lease of the resort after the termination of the previous arrangement.
- Tulagi slipway – this is in the process of being sold to Silent World;
• BSP – provides good return to the fund;
• Loloito resort, Heritage Park – affected by the border closure but both are continuing to operate.

Development Bank of Solomon Islands

Issues of Concern

Matters raised by the Committee include the following:

4.61 Board Appointments – The Committee raised with the Chairman when he attended the Committee earlier during the hearing that there are at least 3 political appointees and the chairman as the owner and regulator which appears a conflict of interest. The Board composition is not what was expected from the Act, which should be professionals and independent.

Recommendation 1

(a) The Committee urges the Central Bank to exercise regular supervisory and prudential oversight of DBSI.

(b) The Committee recommends that the composition of the DBSI Board be reviewed so that Board members are truly independent of both the Government as owner and the Central Bank as regulator and not include political appointees.

4.62 Governance in awarding loans – Commercial bankers’ support the work of the Bank but are concerned that the decision making between the receipt and process and the final approval of a loan is not at arm’s length. The Committee was concerned that an objective review should be undertaken when taking on loans which as the organisation builds that governance is sufficient to make good lending decisions.

4.63 The Bank confirmed their lending processes. The bank aims to encourage people to undertake investment activities now which might assist them through their retirement which is paid now through their salary. This can be abused but the bank is protected
through the recovery set up through their salary and the security against NPF. Generally these loans are about $40,000.

4.64 The Bank has tried to make use of technology as much as possible. The loan data is input to the system and based on criteria input to the system the system determines if loans are approved or not.

4.65 There are 2 types of loans: 1) life loans 2) SMEs. The decision making comes through the system. Alongside this there is a human decision making for investments over a certain threshold. For example:

- $500,000 – $1,000,000 goes to CEO
- Over 1,000,000 goes to Board

4.66 So far SME loans have been lower in value and undertaken cautiously. To date they have made 37 loans at $11m in total. This follows a similar process. In future the Bank will form a Credit Committee which will review the decisions of the staff.

4.67 **Refinancing** - The Committee raised concerns around re-financing of non-performing loans which was a key contributing issue in the demise of the prior DBSI. The commercial banks confirmed earlier that some of their non-performing loans were refinanced by DBSI. The Committee enquired into the number of that have been refinanced.

4.68 The Bank noted that, life loans can be re-financed but SMEs are not refinanced.

4.69 If anyone lends/borrows this is reported to the Credit Debtor Bureau (CDB) which will record the level of debt. In Solomon Islands the process does not record if the debt is bad debt or repaid. DBSI has a policy to provide an opportunity to improve their credit history, so made the decision to assist – but:

- check the information held in CDB is not up to date and the debt is cleared,
- that it is fully secured, and
- They charge a higher rate of interest.

4.70 **Interest rates** – The Committee acknowledged that development financing is expensive but one concern of the Committee is that interest rates and fees are not affordable to enable wide financing. The bank has to develop a trade off in order to be able to offer lower interest rates.

4.71 Also that equity contributions are lower to make it affordable to borrowers. The bank needs to have some dialogue with the central bank to consider the prudential guidelines
and the economic need to spread financing more widely. The interest rate and equity contributions have to be more affordable.

4.72 The bank noted that the important issue for businesses is to get access to financing, the lesser concern is to secure lower interest rates. The Bank’s policy in relation to interest is risk based to ensure the bank is sustainable. The Bank could reduce its rates, but the Bank needs to build the life loans in the rural areas. Because the life loans are recovered through salaries, this will build their revenue to them to provide funding to develop more into SMEs which will be more key to getting into rural areas. Once the organisation is operating the Bank may be able to reduce the level of interest rates in these areas once the financial costs are better understood.

4.73 If government wants to subsidise particular products, this could be used to absorb the cost of the Bank and reduce rates.

4.74 The bank noted comparative interest rates around the region:

- Fiji ranges from 8-15% at a subsidised rate by Fiji government.
- Palau ranges from 5-6%
- Vanuatu is higher at 15%

4.75 Cost of capital is at 13%. This would include 1.5% profit. If this is achieved, the Bank’s operations will become sustainable. The first set of financial statements will cover the establishment period of 16 months.

4.76 **Equity contribution** – The Committee noted that the requirements for and level of equity contribution are impediments for those who aspire to obtain loans from the bank.

4.77 The bank confirmed that this was an issue therefore will devised a system to assist rural borrowers on these requirements. The bank will accept non-cash equity, viability of selling the products and the ability to repay as part of the criteria for approving loans. The bank will treat the level of effort from the borrower as part of their contribution to equity rather than requiring them to provide cash as equity. CBSI will be consulted on these arrangements.

4.78 **Profitability** – The Committee noted POB made huge profit in its first year of operation with an initial capital of $26 m. It also made profits in subsequent years. However the profits were driven by the logging sector and foreign exchange. DBSI could establish corresponding banking arrangements with overseas banks for commodity exporters which might be more profitable. The Committee noted that logging is currently only financed through POB and this might be a profitable opportunity for the Bank.
4.79 The Bank was not capitalised to the same extent as other commercial banks. The Bank has not had access to Debt Capital in the same way as others. Some of the opportunities which are more profitable are not occurring as the Bank has not been capitalised to the level required. At the moment, the Bank will make a loss – in line with projections. The Bank planned to make a loss for the first 6 years. Now that Life Loans are occurring they have revised this so that by 2023 they will make a profit.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that:

(a) The Government provides further capital injection of $50 million to DBSI to enable it to provide further loans to SMEs and rural investors.

(b) The bank enter into international banking arrangements to enable foreign currency transactions to facilitate forestry accounts and transactions.

(c) DBSI develop transparent guidelines to avoid refinancing of non-performing loans from commercial banks.

4.80 **Interim CEO position** – The Committee noted with concern that the Interim CEO’s contract is short and that he is due to exist soon which risks leaving an inexperienced workforce to run the organisation.

4.81 The Board have advertised and interviewed two potential, experienced candidates. The Board expects to recruit a CEO shortly. The first choice has a challenge with age as the Act restricts to 60. This is being worked through by the Board.

**Australian High Commission**

**Issues of Concern**

The Committee identified the following matters of concern:

4.82 **The Solomon Islands infrastructure program (SIIP)** – The Committee acknowledged the Australian Government’s ongoing assistance to the people of Solomon Islands through
infrastructure programs and other programs. The Committee enquired into the composition and duration of the SIIP of $250 million.

4.83 The Australian High Commission (AHC) stated that this arrangement is not a loan but a grant based program to assist Solomon Islands through infrastructure activities for 10 years. It is designed for long term sustainability and capacity development in the infrastructure sector in Solomon Islands. It sits alongside the Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific (AIFFP) of AUD$2 billion – a combination of grants and loans.

4.84 This arrangement also applies to Tina Hydro for a combination of loans and grants, which Australia also allocated AUD$20.4 million, of which US$18.4 million is for construction of access road (US$10.6 million loan interest rate of 0.8% and grant of US$8 million). However, for Tina Hydro program part of its funding will be on loan basis but this is still on negotiation stage.

4.85 SIIP implementation will start in the middle of 2021 with the appointment of a managing contract. The aim of the program is to improve capability, policy on safe guards and provision of quality projects. Implementation was delayed by COVID-19.

4.86 National Transport Fund – The Committee was concerned with the status of National Transport Fund (NTF) since Australia will cease its funding arrangement by June 2021. The ceasing of funding by Australia could put the NTF at risk.

4.87 The AHC informed the Committee that this NTF funding assistance is a 10 year program which concludes by June 2021. Australia has funded the NTF activities since 2011. It is a direct funding arrangement and disbursements were based on outcomes. There will still be donor representatives in the NTF. The focus is now on the 10 years $250 m SIIP.

4.88 Climate Change – The Committee noted that the next phase of Australian Aid is through infrastructure programs. The Committee enquired into whether AHC has considered climate change issues such as relocation of vulnerable communities and building capacity in the climate change space for funding.

4.89 The High Commission informed the Committee that their assistance is channel through infrastructures projects which take into account climate change issues. However, their programs will not directly involved in the relocation of vulnerable communities. SIG did not ask direct assistance in the climate change space but all programs build in climate change safe guards.
4.90 **SIG policy redirection** – The AHC confirmed that SIG had dialogue with development partners on 10 March 2021 and the overall approach was explained by SIG. The redirection is on economic recovery and there would be a budget deficit. The key areas for 2021 budget support is on economic recovery programs as per DCGA redirection policy.

4.91 **Budget Support** - Australia is one of the major partner of SIG budget support. The Australian Government will continue to provide budget support toward 2021 budget in education, health and NTF. In 2020 budget support was provided to ESP as well.

4.92 The High Commission informed the committee that they will remain committed to provide budget support for SIG. Budget support 2021 will be through:

- **MHMS ($86.6 million)** – This is for primary and secondary health service. In addition direct funding assistance towards the purchase of AstraZeneca Covid-19 Vaccine first shipment to Solomon Islands. Australia will continue to render their assistance to Solomon Islands in the procurement of vaccine doses.

- **MEHRD** – The budget support for education infrastructure programs and education grants.

- Direct assistance to private sector organizations such as PHARMA and Strongem Bisinis.

4.93 **Border security** - The Committee would like to know what projects or programs Australia will fund to secure the Western border from the threat of COVID-19.

4.94 The Australian Government has provided security through the use of one of their navy boats which continue to monitor activities at the western border. There is an increased focus on the border and prior to COVID-19 an agreed patrol boat outpost was identified. Once the land for the base is secured construction will commence. A second patrol boat for Solomon Islands will arrive soon to supplement the operations at the border area. Since COVID-19 a number of requests have been considered for funding. Australia is providing support to the health space, review of health facilities and provision of advisory support.
Asian Development Bank

Issues of Concern

The Committee identified the following matters of concern:

4.95 **Economic growth** – The Committee noted that there are infrastructure and extractive projects that will stimulate the country’s economic growth such as Gold ridge mining, nickel mining, pacific games and Tina Hydro. The Committee is concerned whether these activities will actually enhance growth.

4.96 ADB informed the Committee that the economic outlook is still uncertain and noted that the government is planning a budget deficit of $300m for 2021. There will be fiscal pressure especially on COVID-19 related expenditure. There were delays in the implementation of ADB funded projects due to the pandemic. The status of some ADB funded projects that will stimulate economic activities are as follows:

- Energy projects – requires remobilization of workers. Solar hybrid projects in the provinces (Kirakira, Lata, Malu’u, Munda, Tulagi) of 2MW awaits exemptions for technical experts to enable them to arrive in country;
- Tina Hydro – contracted experts have arrived and construction commenced;
- USP 4th Campus – Technical experts will arrive in April 2021 to commence the implementation of the project;
- SIWA urban water supply – This is co-financed by DFAT and EU and implemented by SIWA. The project also includes water supplies in Auki and Gizo. The Auki component of the project was completed.

4.97 **Fiu river hydro project** – The Committee enquired into the status of Fiu river hydro project.

4.98 ADB informed the Committee that the Fiu project was cancelled due to land dispute within the project location. One of the main problems of not implementing development projects is land dispute. This is the reason why the funding for this project was withdrawn.

4.99 **Climate change space** – The Committee is very concerned that climate change has affect the most vulnerable in society yet SIG has neglected this space. SIG and donors were giving low priority to the relocation of those affected by sea level rise and the negative impact of climate change.
4.100 ADB confirmed that they have an allocation of US$5m grant to assist communities on natural disaster which can be dispersed in two days, however this assistance does not directly involved the relocation of vulnerable communities. The bank is a strong supporter of renewable energy to address climate change. It takes serious measures to mitigate and address natural disasters, responds to disaster risks, mitigate disaster risks and health related risks.

4.101 Debt outlook – The Committee enquired into the debt level that is suitable and sustainable for Solomon Islands.

4.102 The bank confirmed that the current debt to GDP threshold for Solomon Islands is 35%. In the bank’s view this is modest and low but depends on the debt financed projects (programs) that the government is implementing. The bank will work with the government to ensure that these projects are not overburden with debt. Other countries of similar fixtures have much higher debt to GDP level. SIG needs to assess each project so that the approved projects do not contribute to debt distress in future.

4.103 Budget Support – The bank will provide budget support to pipeline projects that are yet to be approve. It provided US$5 million to support the government’s COVID-19 response in 2020. A support of US$20 million is for PPEC comprising US$10 million loan and US$10 million grant.

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Japanese Embassy

Issues of Concern

The Committee identified the following matters of concern:

4.104 Japanese ODA loan $190 million – The Committee requested the Japanese embassy to clarify the terms and conditions of the $190 million loan earmarked for COVID-19 related expenditures and to stimulate the recovery of the economy.

4.105 The Japanese embassy informed the Committee that the main focus is on health especially the pandemic and economic recovery programs. It is a direct budget support loan and will be transacted through the CBSI to SIG to spend. The terms and conditions of the loan are: interest rate - 0.01% pa; grace period – four years; term of loan - 15 years; and proceeds of the loan must be spent within one year.
4.106 **Kukum highway road development project** – The Committee was concerned that the delay in resolving land and property issues along the Kukum highway by SIG could delay the implementation of this $250 million project.

4.107 The Japanese embassy clarified that SIG needs to resolve the resumption of plots of land and compensate property owners along the highway from Ministry of Fisheries to Henderson before the tender is put out for the construction of the road. That is some 60 plots of land are to be resume or acquired and owners of 40 areas of fences and car parks are to be compensated.

4.108 **Kilu’ufi hospital project** – The committee acknowledged the Japanese Government for funding various programs in Solomon Islands and looks forward to the implementation of the Kilu’ufi hospital project. The Committee enquires into the design and timeframe for the Kilu’ufi Hospital project.

4.109 The Japanese embassy confirmed that Kilu’ufi hospital is their future project and is still at the discussion stage. They will formally make announcement before a study team will commence their feasibility study later in the year. The feasibility study and design stages will take a year and the construction phase will last 2 years. The embassy emphasized that the smooth implementation of the project depends on unrestricted access to the project site and the absence of disputes over the land that is earmarked for the hospital.

**New Zealand High Commission**

**Issues of Concern**

The Committee identified the following matters of concern:

4.110 The New Zealand High Commission (NZHC) confirmed their support via MFMR to help local land owners to identify land to set up a project management unit to connect all units together.

4.111 NZHC confirmed almost 300 RSE labourers have been in New Zealand and are involved in various jobs and well-kept by their employers.

4.112 NZHC confirmed their support towards fighting against CRB and collaborate together with MALD for the project, they also funded a program manager to oversee the work.
4.113 The NZHC confirmed their assistance of Pacific games towards the multipurpose hall and they continue to provide support on long term training online currently.

4.114 The Committee made two suggestions for NZHC to assist in providing SINU a vice chancellor because of their experience that they have with their quality of education and also to help to provide a market for Solomon Islands products with regards to agricultural products that are currently funded by the ESP program.

Solomon Island Broadcasting Corporation (SIBC), Commodities Export Markets Authority (CEMA), and Solomon Islands Postal Corporation (SIPC).

Issues of Concern

4.115 **Investment need** - The Committee was concerned that there was a need for investment in both SIBC and SIPC and wanted to understand what approach these organisations had had with the ministry to pursue the required funding.

4.116 SIPC noted they had not yet made an approach to government. In the next three years they expected to be in a position that they will have Post Offices up and running to generate income to support initiatives. Makira and Temotu post office developments were progressing using funds from within SIPC and the CSO funding as previous requests had not been forthcoming in prior years. The speed of progress could be improved if additional funding was in place.

4.117 SIPC noted that their board members terms had expired. They have recently had new members appointed but were still awaiting two further appointments.

4.118 SIBC had made a bid for development budget in 2021 and had received an allocation consistent with the baseline in 2020. SIBC are also looking to move into the digital domain. They have been undertaking a trial and will be reporting to the Board on this and how it might be rolled out to provinces.

4.119 **Revitalization and redirection of CEMA** – The Committee was concerned that the work on the revitalization of CEMA has been going on for many years since 2016. The Committee is yet to see any progress on this policy.
4.120 CEMA confirmed that the revitalization policy is managed by a Cabinet Sub-committee under the OPMC. The sub-committee is working on the final report for Cabinet consideration. The policy envisages that CEMA will be involved in commodities trading from the following sectors: agriculture, fisheries and forestry. It will focus on downstream processing and value added products. CEMA will undertake a review on how to deal with those who are now investing in those sectors so that their investments are not affected by any future dealings by CEMA.

4.121 Most of the infrastructures that were managed by CEMA before the liberalization were sold to liquidate debts. The facilities in Temotu are still owned by the province while the Kaonasughu lease is still with CEMA. All the buying points throughout the country were released back to the communities. The report identified four key areas of operation for a future revitalized CEMA: Noro, Kaonasughu, Malu’u and Lata.

4.122 SIBC TV project - The Committee enquired how the SIBC TV project was progressing.

4.123 SIBC noted that this was a long standing project. SIBC had submitted requests to SIG but had not been successful in securing funding. SIBC had not however cancelled the project but was now pursuing the plan in stages. SIBC noted that there has been progress in some areas. For example the weekly news bulletin on TTV. As SIBC increase capacity, they intend to increase the portfolio of content to go on air.

4.124 SIBC noted though that the cost of transmitting equipment is beyond the capability of SIBC. As a result SIBC have pursued the digital option which is cheaper and more accessible. SIBC are undertaking a survey to understand the details of this to plan future work.

4.125 Postal services – The Committee enquired into the status of postal services in the provinces.

4.126 SIPC has addressed its core function through digital services such as e-commerce and emails through a partnership with Singapore since 2019. SIPC has also ventured into digital financing through payment platform such as easy pay which generated around $37 million for the entity. The SIPC Act allows for the provision of communication so SIPC is assessing the possibility of venturing into this space. SIPC is progressing with the upgrading of its post office facilities in the provinces in order to accommodate its shift in focus.

4.127 SIBC Lata – The Committee noted that SIBC Lata is non-functional for a number of years and questioned when it will be revived.
SIBC was planning to revive the station for the last three years but could not due to resource constraints. Technical assessment was already done by the SIBC staff using internal resources. The provision of $1m in the development budget will enable the broadcaster to rehabilitate the Lata radio station in 2021. The speed of implementation depends on the timely release of funding to SIBC by SIG.

Solomon Islands Electoral Office

Mission Statement

To provide Solomon Islands citizens with high quality, accessible, professional electoral services through the conduct of impartial and independent elections.

2021 Budget Summary

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Issues of Concern

4.129 **Bye-election** - The Committee noted that three bye-elections are due later this year – one for national and two provincial. The Committee is interested in the total cost and the role that SIEC will play in the election process.

4.130 SIEC confirmed that the total cost for the bye-elections is $4.1 million. SIEC will use the lessons learnt from the East Makira bye-elections to undertake the upcoming bye-elections. The difference this time is that the wards where the provincial bye-elections will be held are not located in the same constituency that the national bye-election will be held. The bye-elections will be conducted under two different legislations as the amendment to the electoral act is yet to be amended. The election notices for the three bye-elections are aligned so that the polling day is the same for all bye-elections.

4.131 **2023 national and provincial elections** – The Committee noted that the electoral reform strategy of SIEC (2019 – 2023) Goal 3 requires the holding of all provincial and national elections on the same day. The committee enquired into the planned annual update of the voter registration in order to capture new voters and eliminate deceased persons before the 2023 elections.

4.132 The ministry stated that the intention was to establish provincial offices so that voter registration is decentralized but due to resource constraints other options have been assessed. The registration software requires modification before annual registration can be done.

4.133 The SIEC is prioritizing in 2021 the amendment of the Act to allow for all provincial and national elections to be held on the same polling day. The SIEC will then manage the elections under the Electoral Act.

4.134 **Amendment to the Act** - DFAT is providing technical assistance so that the Act is amended to give recognition to the new election system being proposed. This is expected to be done in 2021.

4.135 **Support to Political Parties Integrity Commission** – The Committee enquired into what support SIEC is providing to the PPIC.

4.136 SIEC stated that they will support any reforms undertaken by PPIC through the provision of advice and recommendations for reforming the PPI Act.

4.137 **Out of constituency voting** – The Committee noted that Goal 2 Outcome 6 of the electoral reform strategy framework requires the trialing of out of constituency voting.

4.138 SIEC confirmed that it was not possible to do a trial run during these bye-elections. The commission is developing a plan for the 2023 elections.
Civil registration – The commission states that civil registration is managed by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The commission is liaising with MHA on the possibility of having an interface between the civil registration database and the voter registration database so that relevant data can be extracted to update the voter registration database.

Office of the Ombudsman

Mission Statement

The role of the Office of the Ombudsman is to safeguard the rights of individuals against maladministration, abuse or power or violation of fundamental human rights by the public authorities subject to the Ombudsman’s jurisdiction, which may include investigating complaints and promote, fairness, justice, equity and an improved relationship between instruments of government at level, including citizens³.

2021 Budget Summary

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³ http://www.pireport.org/articles/2017/07/26/solomon-islands-parliament-passes-ombudsman-bill-reform-agency
Issues of Concern

Matters raised by the Committee includes the following:

The Ombudsman provided written submission to the PAC.

4.140 **Right to Information Bill** - The Office are planning to begin the public consultation on the Right to Information Bill.

4.141 **Reduced budget** – The Office’s challenges are the same as last year where adequate staffing remains our number one challenge. Under this year’s budget, MPS/MoFT reduced our salaries budget $521,897.00. This money includes the salary of three officers who have been acting on these positions for the two and half years, and action has been taken to confirm their substantive appointments to these positions since last year. It also include one filled positions.

4.142 **Need for additional staff** - The Office of the Ombudsman continues to raise the issue of the need for additional staff. The Office is in the business of dealing with people who are denied justice through bad administration decisions of the executive. The Office has been begging the MPS for the last three years for an increased budget so that it can increase its staff to properly exercise their powers and preform their function. However, the Office viewed the actions neglect of the MPS as a violation of section 11 (1) of the Ombudsman Act 2019.

70 Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development

**Mission Statement**

The vision of the ministry is to enhance and promote a sustainable agriculture and rural development in the Solomon Islands for economic stability, food sovereignty, and improved rural livelihoods by promoting, improving and take the leading role in agricultural development in the Solomon Islands to a profitable and environmentally sustainable future.

It also aspires to be the premier provider of information, research, extension, education, regulatory, and other services to improve the agriculture sector.
### 2021 Budget Summary

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<td>64,318,228</td>
<td>55,782,259</td>
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</table>

### Issues of Concern

Matters raised by the Committee include the following:

4.143 **Redirection Policy and impact of ESP on Productive Sector** – The Committee was concerned and wanted to know the view of the ministry on the redirection policy and impact of the ESP on the productive sector.

4.144 The ministry responded that with the refocus of the funding to productive sector and more on the food security shows that the ministry is in a view implementing the redirections policy. For ESP, it is too early to know the success of the ESP.

4.145 **Development budget** – The Committee was very concerned that the development budget allocation for the ministry is not adequate to drive the productive sector as what the
Redirection policy intended to do. Nearly half of the development budget goes to administrations and transport cost and therefore to achieve what is intended in the redirection policy by the national government, the Committee view that will not happen. This means that intention to boost the economy through the productive sector is not reflective in the budget. Also, the Committee was concerned that with the intention of the ministry on food security is to support the Pacific Games 2023, with this insufficient budget the ministry cannot support the Pacific Games.

4.146 The ministry agreed that the budget is not adequate as the budget unit used the actual last year baseline for this year budget. However, the ministry’s intention is to discuss with MRD to further collaborate as they have huge budget allocation.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development prepare a Cabinet paper to seek further assistances to boost the economy through productive sector under the ministry to fund specified crops for processing.

4.147 Biosecurity – The Committee was very much concerned that the biosecurity division is very weak in enforcing control measures at the points of entry into the country. There are a lot of new pests coming through the border without biosecurity detection. Control measures at the VIP lounge is very slack. When the pests were detected in country containment was weak. Most of the pests are threatening our food security.

Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends:

(a) That the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock needs to review the Biosecurity Act to enable the ministry to be more effective in controlling our borders against foreign pests.

(b) That the existing threats to Biosecurity of, coconut rhinoceros beetle, Asian bee and giant African snail, are adequately funded to seriously address the need currently experienced in the country.
4.148 **The Former ROC farm** – The Committee noted with concern that the former ROC farm was taken over for the pacific games facilities. This puts food security at risk as farmers no longer have access to farming materials and equipment to continue or expand their farming activities.

4.149 The ministry confirmed that the former Tenaru field experiment station will be developed to replace the site taken for the pacific games facilities. The site development of the Tenaru land will be done under the pacific games development budget. The PRC will also support the relocation of the farm.

4.150 The ministry is in collaboration with the World Bank to support infrastructure development field experiment stations in Guadalcanal, Malaita and Makira in 2022 to enable farmers to access farming materials and equipment.

4.151 **Market access** – The Committee was disappointed that successive government have neglected the agriculture sector for so long. Rural service centres and extension services are no longer in existence. Rural farmers are investing heavily in various cash crops but find it difficult to market their products or the means to access the markets are very expensive. There is urgent need for the ministry establish markets internally and externally for farmers to sell their products.

4.152 The ministry agreed with the Committee and will take stock of its activities and collaborate with MRD to partner with constituencies in order to assist farmers with market access. The ministry will also collaborate with the private sector regarding access to market.

4.153 **Honey bees** – The Committee was very concerned that honey bee farmers were not assisted with their endeavours to increase production. A committee member who is a honey bee farmer lost 32 queen bees in 2020 and another 11 bees in 2021.

4.154 The ministry agreed that there is potential in the honey industry for export and training is an important aspect to boost production. There are many reasons for the demise of the queen bees including diseases, management practices, pests such as Asian bees and the weather. The solution includes proper management practices and the application of chemicals. The ministry will collaborate with farmers on training and other advice on the honey bee production.

4.155 **Food security and livestock industry program** – The Committee enquired into the following components of this program: pig breeding facility and poultry slaughter facility.

4.156 The ministry stated that the pig facility is an existing facility located at Mile 6 Gizo. It is intended to provide piglets to farmers and will be operational in 2022. The poultry
slaughter facility is located at Henderson and is privately owned. It supports around 100 smallholder chicken farmers.

4.157 **Commercial agriculture development program** – The Committee noted that a component of this program will support two pack houses.

4.158 The ministry confirmed that the two pack houses are earmarked for Sape farm and Varivao. They will use the facilities to pack and export cassava. Varivao has already started exporting cassava to Australia. The facilities will be financed through a loan guarantee scheme to be managed by DBSI.

71 **Office of the Auditor General**

**Mission Statement**

To be an independent, competent national audit office with qualified professionals to ensure accountability and transparency in the public sector for the people of Solomon Islands, with the mission to be a center for excellence, thus enhances the strengthening of public sectors’ accountability, transparency and integrity to the people of Solomon Islands through a professional, independent audit service and to report to our elected legislators.

**2021 Budget Summary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Development Budget</th>
<th>Appropriated</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SIG</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donor</td>
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<td>Grand Total OAG</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The OAG’s Annual Plan for 2021 identifies 4 priorities for the Office:

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4 Submission PAC Generic Template 2020
• Building a strong audit practice to deliver audits in line with the relevant standards
• Ensuring the right staff are recruited and retained through appropriate capacity building
• Strengthening the corporate services function to support the operations of the business
• Strengthening communication with stakeholders

As part of this, we have a requirement to deliver the annual audit of financial statements in the following sectors:

- 9 Provincial Government and 1 City Council
- National Government and related Ministries and Offices
- 14 State Owned Enterprises, Statutory Bodies, Authorities

OAG also have a legislative requirement to undertake the following audits as required:

- Grant audits and Special Funds
- Constituency Development Funds

Delivery of Performance and Compliance audits and Special Investigations. In 2021 this will have a key focus on the impact of COVID-19.

Reforms - Auditor General Bill and Regulations.

Issues of Concern

Matters raised by the Committee include the following:

The OAG provided written submission to the PAC.

4.159 **Public Service recruitment freeze** – There are two roles that were lost in 2021 due to the recruitment freeze which are essential for the operations of the Office. International auditing standards require work to be reviewed on a “one-up basis”. There must also be sufficient and appropriate senior input to direct and control an audit. The following two
roles are therefore critical for the delivery of all our audits in particular that of the Solomon Islands Government:

- The Deputy Auditor General; and
- The Audit Manager Government Audit Branch.

4.160 OAG has received verbal confirmation from MPS that they will release the DAG role to enable the office to internally fill the vacancy before the current DAG leaves.

4.161 OAG will be unable to fill the other audit vacancies which arose at the end 2020 early 2021 which are required to deliver on audit program in a timely manner.

4.162 In addition we have budgetary pressures on:

- Travel budget to enable sufficient provincial government visits.
- Telecommunications costs. These are currently being met by MOFT.

4.163 The Office was not given the opportunity in 2021 to bid for additional funds to cover priorities arising. Having reduced the budget in 2020 and into 2021, the Office is experiencing a range of budget pressures noted above. This will impact their ability to undertake audits in a timely manner. The Office is continuing to reprioritize, align and re-allocate its budget to priority areas.

4.164 In 2020, the Office was participating in a much needed functional review with the Ministry of Public Service. This review was put on hold due to COVID19. This review was necessary for the Office to realign their structure and staff grades to better reflect the increasing technical audit and accounting requirements on our staff. The OAG continues to experience loss of experienced officers to other higher paid audit roles across the public sector. The review is needed to better align staff roles with those across government to improve our retention rates.

4.165 **AG’s residence** - The Development Bid from the Office which has not progressed has been to protect the AG’s residence from ongoing settlement. In 2019, the office received funding for phase 1 to secure the land but this was not progressed quickly enough in the year to complete the work. The project has not received subsequent funding. The longer this remains unaddressed the greater the risk that settlement will reoccur and further time, effort and funding will be re-required.

4.166 There should be good coordination with Ministries with sufficient time allowed to submit submissions and undertake consultation and revisions based on feedback.

Public Accounts Committee Report: April 2021
Recommendation 5

The Committee recommends:

a) That the Ministry of Public Service continue to coordinate with the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) to resolve the dire need for functional review of the OAG and allocate to the Office the required manpower.

b) That the Government allocate funds to the OAG to secure the AG’s residence from ongoing encroachments of settlements.

c) Expedite the appointment of the Auditor-General.

72 Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development

Mission Statement

The Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development (MEHRD) has developed a new education sector strategy. The overarching strategic goal is to provide universal access to quality secondary education for all children by 2030 and improve access to technical and vocational education and training and higher education. Government will place priority on refocusing education sector expenditure on providing services at primary and junior secondary schools to achieve the target of achieving universal completion of quality junior secondary by 2030.
2021 Budget Summary

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Issues of Concern

Matters raised by the Committee include the following:

4.167 **The SINU enrolment** – The Committee noted that in 2021, 13,958 applied for placements but only 6,450 were offered placement. Only 3,383 were issued ID cards. The Committee enquired into the reasons why a lower number was admitted to the university.

4.168 **SINU** stated that only those who satisfy the admission requirements of the university were accepted for enrolment. The university takes into account the academic qualifications and the ability to meet the fees. As such SIG sponsored students usually fully comply with the requirements. In terms of student residential accommodation, the university can only accommodate 800 students.

4.169 **Academic restructure** – The Committee appreciates the academic restructure that the university is currently undertaking. It noted that the university is offering 110 programs and if SINU has the capacity to deliver those programs at the expected level and quality.
SINU admits that it has very limited pool of qualified lecturers to deliver on its academic programs. The policy of the university is that degree holder – tutors, masters and PHD holders – lecturers. The aim of SINU is to strengthen the academic programs. The university is developing a business case to reform the university and to attract qualified lecturers from overseas to the university. The major stumbling block is the conditions of service at SINU for academic staff.

4.170 **Opportunity list** – The SICCI and commercial banks informed the Committee that there’s mismatch between the needs of the private sector and the graduates coming out of the tertiary institutions. The skills level of the graduates in most cases did not meet the requirements of the government and industry. This has imposed additional costs on employers in terms of training and capacity development.

4.171 The university stated that it is maintaining the dual nature of SINU – provision of skills training through industrial park and academic training. It is concerned with the level of graduate skills set and that the institution is not producing the required graduates for the industry. SINU will collaborate with the private sector and other training institutes to address the needs of the economy. SINU is planning an internment program for its lectures in the private sector to enable them to gain practical experiences.

4.172 **Education financing** – The Committee noted with disappointment the reduction in the budget for education and the continued high level of funding to tertiary education. The ECE, primary and secondary education levels continue to receive insufficient level of funding.

4.173 The ministry was finding it difficult to strike a balance in funding the different levels of education. It stated that evidence has shown that better investment at the primary level will improve the quality of education at the secondary and tertiary level. In Solomon Islands the formal education is from standard one to form six. ECE is supposed to be the responsibility of the community as is the case in Fiji and Vanuatu.

4.174 The ministry is costing a proposal with ADB to be ready by June 2021 called senior secondary expansion project to increase access to form 4 and form 6. At the moment only 7% of students got into form four and 2% to form six.

4.175 The proposed new legislation will deal with issues of education redirection. A comprehensive study is on the way to support the drafting of the new bill.

4.176 **Quality assurance, program audit and accreditation** – The Committee raised if quality assurance and accreditation of programs were already in place.
4.177 SINU confirmed that there is internal mechanism in SINU through a quality assurance committee regarding program audit and quality assurance. SITESA has develop a quality assurance and accreditation policy but it is yet to be implemented.

4.178 **Literacy and numeracy standards** – The ministry confirmed that literacy and numeracy standards have improved over time. A regional test undertake by SPC has place Solomon Islands at 90% for numeracy and 50% for literacy. There are teaching and learning challenges especially changes in practice, resourcing, and reading books and parents’ assistance.

4.179 **STEM (science, technology, engineering and math)** – The Committee was very concerned with the poor academic performance by many students in the field of science. There is a need to establish an elite science school that focuses on science and technology. SINU should focus on science and technology and review its dual nature.

4.180 The ministry confirmed that two schools have incorporated STEM in their academic program. The challenge is the need to invest in stem. A unit in MEHRD is focused on stem. The current approach to make all schools deliver science education. One issue is that science graduates are unable to find employment in the country.

4.181 **National apprenticeship program** – The national apprenticeship policy was completed by the ministry and approved by the apprenticeship board but Commissioner of Labour refused to implement it.

4.182 **SINU online registration and courses** – SINU was unable to offer online registrations and online courses due to broadband and internet connectivity limitations. The internet service providers are unable to provide the required bandwidth.

4.183 **SINU governance** – The Committee was very concerned that the governance issues at SINU has disrupted the ability of SINU deliver on its mandate as per the SINU Act. The minister and management must provide leadership role in order to resolve the impasse.

4.184 The ministry confirmed that the minister and officials have intervened to resolve the issues affecting the governance of SINU. The ministry is awaiting the outcome of the judicial review regarding the work permit and other grievances.

4.185 **Scholarships** – The Committee was concerned that the terms and conditions of awards for scholarships are too generous to the awardees. The ministry should review the terms and conditions of the scholarship awards to make them reasonable and affordable.
The ministry states that a system and mechanism are in place to control the awarding of scholarships. The ministry will continue to face challenges regarding affordability, external influences and policy direction.

Fee free education – The Committee was of the view that ECE to secondary education should be completely free for all citizens of Solomon Islands. This is enable all to have access to these levels of education.

The ministry confirmed that they were under taking a comprehensive study to determine the cost of running ECE, primary and secondary education. The schools found it difficult to operate solely on grants. The school fees they charged supplement the grants that they received from SIG.

Recommendation 6

(a) The Committee recommends that the SINU Act be amended and that governance and the relationship of unions and management are clarified.

(b) The Committee urges the expedited appointment of a replacement Vice-Chancellor.

(c) The Committee recommends the Government study the option of establishing an institute of technology to take over the trades schools from SINU.

(d) The Committee urges MEHRD to seek external quality assurance assessment and accreditation of SINU course offerings.

(e) The Committee urges that the terms and conditions of award of scholarships be reviewed for affordability and incentivises and prioritises Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

(f) The Committee urges the Government to commission a study into Education financing.

(g) The Committee recommends the roll out of multilingual education (MLE) in primary schools.

(h) The Committee urges the Government to strengthen the apprenticeship program and give sole responsibility for it to SITESA.
Ministry of Finance and Treasury

The Ministry of Finance and Treasury is responsible for facilitating the provision of sound advice on monetary, budget and fiscal policy to the Solomon Islands Government (SIG). Ministry services include statistics and economic management to support Government decision making processes and the implementation of good governance practice. The core task of the Ministry include financial reporting, revenue collection, border protection, government payments, preparing and managing the Annual Solomon Islands recurrent budget and advising the Government on a range of financial policies and economic reforms.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Ministry of Finance and Treasury is to provide leadership role to the Solomon Islands Community in financial matters and deliver high quality, professional financial and economic services to the Ministry of Finance and Treasury, the Government, and other Ministries and the wider community.

2021 Budget Summary

| Pension And | Budget     | Prelim Actuals | Actuals     |
| Gratuities | 2021       | 2020           | 2019        | 2018       | 2017       |
| Payroll    | 16,105,600 | 14,014,866     | 15,811,900  | 15,933,772 | 12,948,837 | 13,745,516 |
| Other charges | 0         | 0              | 0           | 0          | 0          |
| Total      | 16,105,600 | 14,014,866     | 15,811,900  | 15,933,772 | 12,948,837 | 13,745,516 |
Matters raised during the public inquiry include the following:

4.189 **Impact of ESP** - The Committee was concerned whether there had been any assessment of the impact of the Economic Stimulus Package (ESP) on the economy.

4.190 The ministry noted that growth had improved through 2020 to 2021 from minus 4.3% to minus 3.3%.

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Public Accounts Committee Report: April 2021
4.191 The ministry stated that 15 cents in each dollar spent has a multiplier effect in the economy. The Solomon Islands have a high propensity to consume which generally means that when citizens have cash, they spend it. International countries support the economy through social security. But in the Solomon Islands, the approach is different. By supporting businesses, they support the economy. Copra production increased by 40% and there were increase in kava production, increased activities in wholesale and retail activities. The NPF withdrawals also stimulated demand.

4.192 The ministry is working on the report on the ESP which will provide the details of the impact of the assistance on the whole economy. The ministry is due to report to Cabinet on the ESP report soon.

4.193 **Japanese loan $190 million** – The Committee noted that the Japanese Government provided a loan of $190 million for COVID-19 response and economic recovery and whether further ESP investment was planned by SIG.

4.194 The ministry stated that the $190 million loan would go directly to support the development budget. The ministry confirmed that only $12 million from 2020 which remained unspent would be appropriated in 2021 as ESP. This was anticipated to provide support to CEMA and the productive resources sector. It was facilitated through an advance warrant of $89 million.

4.195 **Unemployment arising from COVID-19** - The Committee sought clarity on how many jobs were lost because of the COVID-19. The ministry did not have the information on jobs created and jobs lost during 2020.

4.196 The objective of the ministry though has been to ensure no further unemployment and that citizens are as much as possible employed. It is difficult to create employment in crisis. But without stimulus, companies are under threat. Some of the actions taken included:

- During 2020, the ministry noted that the fiscal position was kept under review and most staff were recalled from COVID-19 leave after a month. They were all repaid their arrears by quarter three;

- Stabilising the economy;

- Support to Soltuna of $5 million;

- The international expense of Solomon Airlines were paid plus other support totally $16 million;

- Support to the productive sector including kava, copra and timber milling resulting in jobs creation.
4.197 The Committee was very disappointed with the inability of the ministry to provide data on employment for many years.

4.198 The Committee noted that NPF had provided data on their membership as a proxy for employment:
- Decrease in new members by 6,000
- Decrease in active members by 2,000
- Decrease in new employers by 145.

4.199 **Long Service Benefit** - The Committee sought to confirm whether the retirement and redundancy payments would be met. The Committee noted that the Government’s policy was to reduce the public service establishment.

4.200 The ministry confirmed that $10 million is in the budget for long service benefit payments (new and arrears) but there is no budget for redundancy payments. The Government is yet to determine any redundancy figures for the public service establishment.

4.201 Planned deficit $330 million - The Committee wanted to understand how the budget deficit of $330 million would be met.

4.202 The ministry had taken a conservative approach to the budget with the proposed deficit of $330 million. This was based on GDP growth of 1% in 2021 rather than the rate forecasted by the CBSI and IMF at 1.5%. Part of the strategy will be to pursue collection of arrears, support activities for investment. In addition, if growth is at this higher rate this would likely deliver $256 million additional income for the Government.

4.203 The Ministry noted that other measures were being pursued which included expenditure controls. Ongoing discussions are being held with the Central Bank regarding the security market. The Core Economic Working Group (CEWG) developed policy metrics are due to Cabinet for approval. The Ministry stated that the last resort would be borrowing. Any borrowing has to be considered in light of the borrowing guidelines which must be applied. Last year, despite the crisis, unpaid bills were held at a low level at the end of 2020 which would be deferred to 2021.

4.204 **Arrears of revenue** - The Committee noted the opportunity raised by the CBSI regarding the arrears of revenue of $300 million. This amount included tobacco license of $23.5 million, excise on tobacco and unpaid taxes on logging.
4.205 The ministry noted the Comptroller had been in the role since 2019 and had identified arrears. Pursuit of these arrears would be one of the measures to address the planned deficit in 2021.

4.206 IRD have been looking into logging company tax compliance for 2 years now. In 2020, 170 full audits were completed. $200 million was collected. This shows a level of discrepancy and non-compliance.

4.207 In 2020, the ministry collected more than $250 million debt. The ministry noted that this was debt and offsets. They explained that offsets arose where a company may have a refund due in one area of tax and a debt in another tax.

4.208 The ministry confirmed that outstanding taxes were also required to be paid before any ESP payments were processed.

4.209 The Excise task force focused efforts on the forestry sector in 2020. As a result they collected $64 million in arrears. They have a target of $30 million yet to go. The remaining are those they have identified and are either pursuing legal action or are unable to pay. It is the intention of the task force to move to petroleum, tobacco, and general trading once the new graduates have completed their induction.

4.210 The Comptroller noted that there was one tobacco company currently in default.

4.211 The general expectation is that there is gross undervaluation of goods. The Comptroller noted that not many companies protected their copyright in the Solomon Islands. As a result, their options were generally to cease and auction the goods but with no protection under consumer law or whether to destroy the goods. Where goods are identified by Customs and Excise as undervalued, the company can request to make a deal. But if goods are not declared, they would be ceased.

4.212 The ministry has seen an increase in containers arriving into the Solomon Islands in 2020.

4.213 **Customs and Excise recruitment** - The ministry recruited 16 graduates prior to the recruitment freeze. They are commencing eight weeks of induction. Their focus will include audits, investigations and review of the current legal framework.

4.214 **Passport contract** - The Committee was concerned that the contract highlighted in the recent Auditor-General’s special investigation into passport was being paid despite the concerns raised in the report.

4.215 The ministry was not aware of the details of the report and suggested the matters were raised with the MCILI. The ministry will work with Internal Audit to implement any recommendations in the report.

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Public Accounts Committee Report: April 2021
4.216 **Pacific Games** - The Committee noted that 2021 budget for pacific games 2023 is $198 million and enquired what the cost to host the games was.

4.217 The ministry stated that the total cost for hosting would be in the region of $2 billion. The current proposal included within OPMC included $198 million which includes infrastructure projects, preparation for athletes, National Hosting Authority and the Committees. $84 million was allocated in 2020. The pacific games is the biggest pressure on the budget.

4.218 **Nickel/Bauxite** - The ministry confirmed that bauxite prices were already gazetted. The ministry has provided the required information on nickel to the Ministry of Mines to take the necessary actions.

4.219 **Tax exemptions** - The Committee asked for an update on the Coral Seas and Mamara Development tax exemptions. It seemed to the committee that the exemption policy was not fairly implemented as some investors were favoured than others when granting tax exemptions.

4.220 The ministry noted that the position on Coral Seas was of major concern to Customs. It was investigated within ERU. The ERU provided advice that there should not be any exemptions on customs related products e.g. alcohol or tobacco. The expansion of the hotel (capital expenses) however would receive exemptions up to $3.8 million renewable each year. The exemption on capital items only will commence in 2022.

4.221 The ministry has now signed off on the sufferance anchorage for the Mamara project. This will lead to regular deliveries to the site for a number of years. Customs will have a permanent presence and biosecurity if needed. The ministry confirmed that full exemptions were applied to the project through the Act (LN 2 of 17/01/2014).

4.222 **Telecommunications charges** - The Committee was concerned that the costs for telecommunications are very high and the quality of the internet connection is low even though the cable is fully operational.

4.223 The ministry noted that the current contracts are legacy prior to the connection of the cable. The Ministry is in the process of renegotiating the internet and telecommunications agreements for government which should see price and quality improvements.

4.224 **Cash reserves** - The Committee enquired what the cash reserves are.

4.225 The ministry confirmed the cash reserves remain tight. The IMF defines the benchmark as having reserves equivalent to two months’ worth of bills. At the moment, the Government has 50% of that, 1 months’ worth.
SIG has not received budget support since August 2020. In this environment it is difficult to build reserves.

**Recommendation 7**

(a) The Committee urges the Ministry of Finance and Treasury to liaise with the Governor of the Central Bank to collect the uncollected revenues of $300 million identified as “dead money”.

(b) The Committee is concerned at the slow pace of tax reform and urges the Ministry to progress these reforms in a more timely manner.

(c) The Committee recommends that exemptions granted to Mamara development be on capital items only.

(d) The committee recommends that appropriate packages of fiscal incentives are devised to attract quality and sizable investment in strategic sectors.

(e) The Committee urges CBSI to review the effectiveness and relevance of current monetary policy tools and consider options to strengthen the effectiveness of transmission of consequences of monetary policy to consumers.

(f) The Committee urges the Ministries of Finance and Planning to ensure that there is full disclosure in budget documents of donor funding through non-appropriated expenditures.

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**Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade**

**Mission Statement**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade envisions a sovereign, independent and peaceful Solomon Islands that enhances economic prosperity and security for its citizen
through cultivating diplomatic relationships with other nations and international organizations.

**2021 Budget Summary**

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**Issues of Concern**

Matters raised by the Committee include the following:

4.227 **Labour mobility**— The Committee noted the comments from the Australian High Commission noting the likely increase in labour mobility numbers from this year. The Committee asked what the expected number of recruits was over the coming 1-2 years. The Committee urged the ministry to aim for a target of 10,000.

4.228 The Ministry noted that mobilization was suspended until November 2020 due to COVID-19. Since then 174 were sent in November and a further 144 were sent in March. There
have been 672 committed to the program between March and April 2021 and 632 was the indicative number for the second half of 2021.

4.229 **Overseas mission appointments** - The Committee asked for an update on the appointments to posts internationally.

4.230 The ministry is trying to focus overseas missions on trade and economic opportunities. In terms of posts, the ministry confirmed that a staff member was ready to be deployed to New York. The Head of Mission role in New York was still vacant. The London office was closing and the Head of Mission was likely to cross-post to New Zealand. This was currently delayed due to the lack of flights.

Recommendation 8

The Committee urges the expedited appointment of the Ambassador to the United Nations.

4.231 **Least developed country (LDC) graduation** - The Committee enquired what the progress was in relation to LDC graduation.

4.232 The ministry confirmed that a request has been made to extend the graduation to 2024 to allow time to implement comprehensive arrangements. The ministry is looking at other trade arrangements in preparation for the graduation. The ministry stated that non-preferential trade arrangements will go beyond 2024.

4.233 **Market access** - The ministry is working with China on which products should be prioritized under the non-preferential trade arrangement between the two countries. The current focus is on fisheries reflecting the existing competent authority in this area.

4.234 The Committee enquired what was being done to investigate trade arrangements with USA, Japan, and Korea.

4.235 The ministry stated that as a member of the WTO the country already has access into the US market and duty free access to Korea and Japan. Global preferential treatment given due to the LDC status of Solomon Islands. The ministry, however, was also planning for bi-lateral arrangements when the opportunity arises.

4.236 The ministry will undertake awareness in the provinces regarding the requirements for PACER-Plus and trade arrangements with EU. UK is interested in oil palm products.
4.237 **Products for export** - The Committee enquired whether water had been considered as a trade focus product.

4.238 The ministry noted that this was not a current focus but did not rule it out for the future. The focus is on cassava, taro, kava, noni etc. A meeting is organized to develop a kava strategy as three species of kava are of high value. Lessons were learnt regarding the export of cassava as 21 tons for export contained 7 tons of waste. There is need to train farmers and exporters on market preparation.

75 **Office of the Governor General**

**Mission Statement**

The Office of the Governor-General supports the Governor-General in his role as Her Majesty’s Representative in the Solomon Islands as stipulated under Section 30 of the Solomon Islands National Constitution.

**2021 Budget Summary**

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**Issues of Concern**

Matters raised by the Committee include the following:

The Office of the Governor General provided written submission to the Committee.

4.239 **2021 key ministerial activities and reform** - The upgrade the office of the Governor-General and support the roles and functions of the Governor-General to be a symbol of national unity and leadership.
4.240 **Budget bids** - This year (2021) the OGG did not submit any bids to the Budget Unit. This is due to the redirection policy of the Government that there will be no bid submissions accepted from ministries for pay roll and other charges expenditures. Only Baseline Budget was given. This will affect the Governor-General in performing some of his roles and functions such as community visit to the provinces as a symbol of national unity and leadership. Further it also affect his role to undertake international state visits, and also to undertake medical treatment overseas.

**Recommendation 9**
The Committee recommends that the Government support the roles and functions of the Governor-General by allowing it to make budgetary bids for its Other Charges and Development budgets.

### 76 Ministry of Health and Medical Service

**Mission Statement**
The ministry’s mission is to play its part in improving the public’s health status. This will be done through:

- Proactive stewardship of the sector with a focus on Primary Health Care (PHC) and Healthy Islands effort via active community empowerment and development;
- Building partnerships with communities, other sectors (agriculture, education, labour, transport, infrastructure, etc.);
- The sector will also plan and manage health improvements with a focus on reducing the determinants of disease and illness including improving disease management.

**2021 Budget Summary**

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Public Accounts Committee Report: April 2021
### Public Accounts Committee Report: April 2021

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### Issues of Concern

Matters raised by the Committee include the following:

4.241 **Medical stores** – The Permanent Secretary told the Committee that the national medical store is 40 years old, is situated at the Ranadi area in Honiara with 20 secondary level medical situated throughout the country. To date there has not been any other national medical stores to act as a safeguard. Therefore, a new medical store will be situated in Noro to act as a buffer for all medical stores. Noro was strategically chosen due to the location of the international port and airport at Noro and Munda respectively and also to serve as a buffer for the western region. The ministry has already established secondary medical stores in Auki and Gizo.

4.242 The Committee viewed the need of a buffer for our existing national medical store as a critical safeguard for the supplies of medical drugs in the country.

4.243 **CT scan project** – The Committee enquired into status of the project and its completion date.

4.244 The Permanent Secretary informed the Committee that work on the project is ongoing and the ministry aims to complete the project this year. Last year the philanthropists were not able to donate the equipment because the COVID-19 pandemic hindered their plan to raise funds to purchase and donate this equipment. Therefore, it falls back on the ministry to
procure the equipment and other service contracts this year to carry on with the project. The ministry’s development budget allocation for this year is $44.8 million which will be a challenge because of other competing priorities but the aim will be to complete the project this year. All procurement documents are ready and awaiting the budget to be passed.

4.245 The CEO of the NRH further stated that the building for the scan will be completed by the end of April and equipment will be purchased after the budget is passed. Due to travel restrictions the equipment will be assembled in Australia and shipped to Honiara. Training is underway on how to handle this advanced diagnostic medical tool. Annual license fees will have to be paid for maintenance services because all database will be hosted and kept overseas. Additionally, the equipment will require very high supply for electricity which Solomon Power is working to increase from 300kva to 759kva and two Gensets with the capacity of 1000kva each.

4.246 **Policy redirection** – The Committee was concerned that one of the two overarching policy objective over the short to medium term is “to protect all citizens of Solomon Islands from the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic”. As one of the key ministry to implement this policy objective the budget does not reflect well on its allocation to the health sector especially when the ministry is expected to continue implement the government’s COVID-19 preparedness and response plan in conjunction with its annual core work programs.

4.247 **Procurement challenges** – The Committee was concerned about the slowness of the procurement process of the ministry of finance regarding the speed of the compliance process and the effectiveness to communicate feedbacks to the ministry.

4.248 **Budget implementing challenges** – The Committee was concerned about the short time for the ministry to implement its 2021 budget.

4.249 **Manpower and recruitment** – The Committee enquired into the manpower needs of the ministry. The Permanent Secretary told the Committee that 78 graduate nurses were recruited late last year. Thirteen (13) laboratory technicians are still pending recruitment. A submission was also made in August last year to the ministry of public service to integrate project officers into the public service under the HMSC. The ministry will collaborate more with the public service to speed up the recruitment process.

4.250 With regards to public health, the Permanent Secretary told the Committee that more than 200 health graduates graduated from SINU since 2016 and the ministry is yet to tap into that pull of human resources. The ministry is working on a concept note for an internship program for these graduates and has held discussions with the ministry of foreign affairs
to utilize this resource pool in the labour mobility scheme for age care abroad. Discussion is also with the Solomon Islands Red Cross volunteers and public health to support the ministry on the vaccine roll out program.

4.251 The Director of Nursing informed the Committee that one of the main issues with staff shortages at the rural clinics is the lack of staff houses for health workers in the rural areas. Additionally, the Role Delineation Policy outlined the minimum standard was to have 2 staff per rural health clinics. In practice this was not the case as most of them only has one staff.

4.252 The new recruitment of 78 nurses last year are currently stationed at the NRH because of the COVID-19. However, currently there are two groups of internship programs (one with 141 nurses and the other with 138 nurses) at the NRH which are intended for the provinces to cover shortages in our health centers. It was hoped that the ministry of public service could assist the ministry in its recruitment process so that their deployments can start.

4.253 Nurses’ deployment – The Committee was concerned about the current posting of health workers in the rural clinics. It seems that old nurses eligible for retirement are still being employed.

4.254 The ministry informed the Committee that there are two types of nursing deployment programs to the provinces. One is for the nurses recruited by the public service and the other is for direct wage employees. Currently, there are a lot of direct wage employees at the rural health clinics who have reached the age of retirement and the Director of Nursing acknowledges that there is a real need to beef up nursing services to the provinces.

4.255 The ministry acknowledged that a lot of health workers in the rural areas are old. Staff houses in provinces is also an ongoing issue. There is difficulty in implementing the role delineation policy.

4.256 Multipurpose Hall – The Committee was concerned that sports people were deprived of the usage of the multipurpose hall due to its current status as a field hospital.

4.257 The ministry told the Committee that the Hall is currently being used as a vaccination center for the roll out of the vaccines and is on standby as a field hospital in case of an outbreak of community transmission. The ministry intends to maintain the multipurpose hall as a field hospital during the pandemic in case of a community transmission. Currently, there are 10 isolation wards at the NRH but cannot cater for a community transmission because of limited space.
4.258 **COVID-19 immediate priorities** – The ministry stated that NZ MFAT money was allocated to renovate the hospital Taro hospital in Choiseul and also ongoing improvements to the Nila isolation center in Shortland. Key priorities are for the emergency zone at the western border, Malaita outer Islands, North West Choiseul and Shortland islands.

4.259 **NRH improvements** – The Committee commended the ministry on its works to improve the current NRH and also on the new relocation site. The Committee however, was concerned that development priorities on the current NRH must not supersede the NRH relocation project. The Committee was of the viewed that the NRH needs to be relocated very quickly.

4.260 The Permanent Secretary stated that work on phase 3 to relocate the NRH is currently underway. The ministry has held initial discussion with the People’s Republic of China (PRC) to build the current NRH to a 3-4 story complex for the cardiac treatment centre.

4.261 The Permanent Secretary informed the Committee that they are working towards kick starting the process to improve the current NRH. Work has already started at the eastern end of the hospital where the squatters are located with the aim to slowly remove the squatters. This work will also cover the nurses’ residential areas east of the ministry headquarters.

4.262 Relocation project (Phase 3) at the Gilbert Camp is ongoing. Current work on the site involves fencing of the whole perimeter of the new hospital site.

4.263 The CEO of NRH informed the Committee that the NRH improvement plan also covers the triage at the emergency department to sort out patient flow and the number of beds, renovate the operating theatre, and build a complex for child birth, women and children under special care.

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**Recommendation 10**

The Committee recommends to the Ministry of Health and Medical Services that any improvements to the current National Referral Hospital (NRH) and the proposed development of the new NRH must take into consideration the population growth and the aging population for the next 30 years so that structural designs are intended to last longer and can cater for the growing and aging population.
COVID-19 vaccine roll out – The Committee was concerned that the ministry did not have the resources to go throughout the country and conduct awareness to convince people to take the vaccine. Despite the fact, there are other government agencies throughout the country which the ministry can use to help with the roll out program. For example, through the ministry of education, the ministry can engage schools and teachers throughout the country to carryout awareness and education to educate and convince the people get vaccinated. Given the urgency to roll out the vaccination program, the ministry must make more effort to educate and convince the people.

The Permanent Secretary stated that the roll out efforts at the border have started and was coordinated with the police to mobilize 100 drums of fuel to Shortland to support joint efforts at the border. DFAT also contributed $10 million for operational costs to support the roll out program. The ministry further informed the Committee that it is their goal to protect our people and keep them safe and the ministry takes note to work with other government agencies on the roll out program.

The CEO stated that the AstraZeneca vaccine only target adults over 18 years of age. Since it only targets the adults it will be difficult to convince all adults to get vaccinated. But ministry’s aim was to target all front liners and all adults to get vaccinated to protect their families and everyone in the community by avoiding community transmission of the virus through the vaccination program.

The Permanent Secretary further informed the Committee of the issue of comorbidity (the simultaneous presence of two or more diseases or medical conditions in a patient) applies for adults over the age of 55 years because they may have other illnesses (e.g. NCD related illnesses) and so the ministry is only targeting their priority grouping. There is a standard form to be filled first for people to give their consent first before they are vaccinated. So it is up to individuals to give their consent or not.

The Committee was very concerned about how successful the vaccine roll out program is going to be in the communities because of misinformation that are circulating in the public about the side effects of the vaccine. It is critical for the Government to educate our people about the vaccine and the necessity to get vaccinated so that people’s fear of the vaccine are alleviated and encourage people to start working together to get the vaccine. The Committee viewed that the ministry get do more on this awareness program than what they doing currently.

The Committee also encouraged the ministry to use existing networks to carry out awareness and help with the roll out program as this will be a costly exercise for the Government.
Recommendation 11

The Committee recommends:

(a) That Government takes control of vaccine procurement and rollout.

(b) That the Ministry of Health and Medical Services work with other government agencies, networks and stakeholders such as churches to help with educating our people about the vaccine and its roll out program to convince our people to get vaccinated.

4.270 Public Health Emergency Bill – The ministry informed the Committee that the objective of the bill is not specific for the COVID-19 disease but is an “all hazard” bill that covers other incidences of public health emergencies.

4.271 The Committee noted that the bill is now before Parliament. However, the Committee was of the view that all the other acts of Parliament which the ministry is functioning under are very much out of date. The Committee was concerned that the legislations which governs the ministry have never been amended for quite a long time and there is a need to review all the existing acts so that they also complement the public health emergency bill.

4.272 Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – The Committee viewed that the CDC needs to be built regardless of a legislation in place. Once established is must be managed and operated by expert personnel.

4.273 The Permanent Secretary told the Committee that a concept paper has been developed and does not have to wait for the public health bill to be passed by Parliament before any commencement on the works can be carried out.

4.274 Clinical governance issues – The Committee was concerned about the professional standards of nurses at the hospital. There have been reports of nurses turning up very late for work. More seriously are reports of nurses’ administrating wrong dosages. These are very serious ethical and administrative issues for NRH administration as it is obvious that the accountability systems of the hospital is not strong enough to hold nurses accountable for their actions.

4.275 The Permanent Secretary acknowledged that the deteriorating clinical governance and systematic processes at the NRH are of great concern to the ministry and informed the Committee that a full audit on the processes and systems must be undertaken before further actions can be taken. The ministry also noted that the issues of absenteeism,
presentism, the non-compliance of dosage administration, revenue collection, etc. will have to be improved.

4.276 The CEO stated that a framework was established. A disciplinary committee was reestablished to look into nurses professional issues.

4.277 According to the Director of Nursing this issue of ethics is a big concern for the Nursing Council Board. The Board has an investigative role and therefore any concerns from the public can also be raised with them to investigate. The Council has already deregistered two nurses for the above reasons.

4.278 The Committee commends the ministry and the NRH on the works to improve the infrastructures and equipment at the NRH. However, both the ministry and the NRH must also improve on the issue of clinical governance that is a serious cause for concern and safety of the users of the NRH. Should this be the case at the NRH, the Committee is also concerned about the other government hospitals in the provinces.

**Recommendation 12**

The Committee recommends that the Government commission a review of National Referral Hospital to look at clinical governance and corporate governance with a view to the possibility of establishing an independent hospital board and urge the government to consider procuring technical assistance to undertake such a review.

4.279 **Ambulance services** – The Committee was concerned with the equipping of lifesaving equipment in ambulances.

4.280 The Permanent Secretary stated that there is a need to review ambulance services. However, the Japanese Government has donated seven (7) new ambulance as part of the COVID-19 response and are designated for the provinces. The ministry, with the assistance from MFAT and DFAT, is also in the process of procuring six (6) sea ambulances for the country under the COVID-19 response plan.

4.281 **Tobacco licenses** – The Committee enquired into the ministry’s progress on the collection of tobacco license fees and statutory penalty fees that are currently outstanding for some tobacco companies. The Committee was concerned that these companies that produce and sell health hazard products who are not complying with the laws governing them.
4.282 The Permanent Secretary told the Committee that there are weaknesses in enforcing the Tobacco Control Act 2010. The ministry is still to recoup $20 million from the Treasury as the fees were deposited to the Consolidated Fund rather than going directly to the ministry’s Donor Healthy Lifestyle Fund special account. Currently, there is almost $10 million in this account which the ministry is earmarking for NCD programs, activities, and infrastructure development such as the Wellness Centre and Wellness Programs in the country.

4.283 Additionally, the ministry is looking to submit a Cabinet paper on the Sugar, Sweets and Beverages (SSBs) Tax Policy. An analysis indicated that 40 percent tax on all SSBs can create savings for the government of $25 million, which in part also reduces some of our NCDs issue.

4.284 **Helena Goldie Hospital** – The Committee was concerned about the deteriorating state of the mission hospital and whether there is any discussion held with the United Church to relocate the hospital and how the government can assist in building the new hospital.

4.285 The Committee also enquired into any works to fulfil the licenses certification requirement of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to meet a minimum required number of hospital beds in case of an air traffic accident to deal with such emergencies.

4.286 According to the Permanent Secretary, a project proposal was put forward to the World Bank for improvement works on the current hospital and for COVID-19 isolation. The ministry’s new strategy is to improve all health centres in all provinces. Generally, all hospitals throughout the country need new buildings and not improvement/maintenance works. However, the relocation plan is still in the pipeline and awaiting actions from the ministry to secure resources.

4.287 The Committee viewed that there was clearly a need to improve the mission hospital as it serves quite a number of the population in the western region. The improvement will have to involve building a new hospital for the mission at a new location away from the seaside to avoid tsunami threats and sea level rise.

4.288 **Helena Goldie nursing School** – The Committee was concerned about the status of the mission’s nursing school.

4.289 The Director of Nursing told the Committee that the Nursing Council is working closely with the hospital and the church to ensure that the nursing school is reopened again this year because the ministry still needs the nursing school together with Atoefi and SINU.

4.290 **Mammogram** – The Committee enquired into the state of the mammogram.
4.291 The Permanent Secretary told the Committee that this was already discussed with MFAT and they are awaiting on the details to procure a mammogram for the NRH. The existing one, donated by the First Lady Charity, went out of service since 2018.

4.292 **Dialysis machine** – The Committee enquired into the need for a dialysis. Given the rise of NCDs in the country it is important that this equipment and its services are available at the NRH.

4.293 The ministry is strategically looking at how to roll this out as it is a very expensive piece of equipment to acquire, operate and maintain.

**Recommendation 13**

The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Health and Medical Service carry out a Cost of Health and Medicals Services study in the Solomon Islands that is similar to the Cost of Policing done by RAMSI. This is so that an overall report on cost of delivering health and medical services can inform on the appropriate budget allocation.

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77 **Ministry of Infrastructure Development**

**Mission Statement**

The ministry strives to provide, regulate and maintain services that support an integrated, efficient, safe, and affordable transport system to enable all Solomon Islanders to participate and benefit in economic and social activities that sustains equality, unity and prosperity for the nation.

**2021 Budget Summary**
Matters raised by the Committee includes the following:

4.294 **JICA projects** – The Committee enquired into the details of the JICA phase two road project in Honiara and whether the ministry meets all its obligations before JICA commence the project.

4.295 The ministry confirmed that they met their obligation for JICA Kukum Highway Phase 2 from ministry of fisheries to Henderson. The 2021 development budget provides for SIG obligations for all donor funded projects.

4.296 **CAUSE project** – The Committee was concerned about the poor state of all feeder roads in Honiara and requested that the CAUSE project concentrate of building cement feeder roads and direct HCC to devote more funds to refuse collection.

4.297 The ministry confirmed that the CAUSE project is a World Bank funded project of US$15 million and will expire in 2022. The project also operates in Auki, Gizo, Munda and Noro. The project is building some feeder roads in Honiara with cement (Vura, Agape etc.)
4.298 **National Transport Fund** - The Committee enquired about the status of the NTF in view of DFAT’s decision to cease funding by June 2021.

4.299 The ministry confirmed that the whole balance in the NTF is already committed and no funds available at the moment. Government needs to inject funds to that project to keep it operating. Current estimate SIG to assist for 2021 is $45 million. SIG and ADB are still committed to the fund. The ministry will review the fund after which a decision will be made on its future.

4.300 **Corruption in procurement contracts** – The Committee was concerned that officers from MID and Treasury are obtaining commissions from contractors.

4.301 The ministry reaffirm to the Committee that they knew about such practices and they are now taking actions against such behaviours. The ministry also appointed a new Director in the ABMS division to weed out such activities.

4.302 **SIPA** – The Committee was concerned that the government might use its redirection policy to privatize few SOE including SIPA.

4.303 The ministry and SIPA reaffirm to the Committee that given the good performance of SIPA and considering the national security of the country privatising of SIPA is not an option for them and there is no policy for SIPA to be privatized.

4.304 **Sufferance wharves** - The Committee is concerned about the discharge of general goods at the Leeroy wharf and the new one approved for the Mamara development. The concern is on the ability of Customs and Excise to capture revenue under the usage of the wharf to discharge goods. SIPA lost huge revenue due to discharge of goods the Leeroy wharf and is expected to forgo additional revenue at the Mamara site.

4.305 SIPA confirmed that they raised the matter with the relevant authorities regarding the operation of Leeroy wharf in terms of lost revenue, national security and international obligations of Solomon Islands regarding international ports. SIPA can handle all the products that are discharged in the wharves and also the wharves are within Honiara.

4.306 **Road maintenance** – The Committee was very concerned with the poor state of the roads around Honiara especially the main road and the very substandard work undertake by contractors to maintain those roads. The Committee enquired into the status of the material testing laboratory.

4.307 The ministry confirmed that a testing laboratory is in place and they are collaborating with contractors to improve the quality of the materials for road constructions. There are only two contractors with proper road making equipment and the skills set is still work in
progress for most workers. The ministry is working with JICA and ADB to provide capacity development to the staff in the ministry and contractors.

4.308 A Honiara road master plan is being developed after a survey was done in 2020. The fisheries to Henderson road will only be maintained at a minimal level until the JICA project kicks in.

4.309 **Transport initiative program** – The Committee was concerned that the stakeholders are not familiar with the process to access funding from the transport initiative program. Skilled local boat builders are not passing on the skills to the new generation due to non-availability of assistance to the sector from the program.

4.310 The ministry confirmed that the funding is available to all but they must submit a proposal to the ministry for consideration. The ministry received applications valued at $30 m but the budget for this program in 2021 is $5 m. The ministry is willing to support the boat building industry but is handicapped by budget constraints.

4.311 **SIMA** – The Committee raised the issue of safety risk in the domestic shipping industry and the lack of level playing field in the sector.

4.312 The ministry informed the committee that Solomon Islands Maritime Authority (SIMA) has transitioned to a statutory authority in 2020. SIMA administers the legislations and regulations regarding the shipping industry. The ministry will consult with SIMA regarding safety and other issues in the shipping industry.

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### National Parliament

**Mission Statement**

As a 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.

**2021 Budget Summary**
### Issues of Concern

Matters raised by the Committee include the following:

The National Parliament provided written submission to the Committee.

4.313 **Lack of consultation on revised budget** - A majority of Parliamentary activities will be hampered in 2021, the day to day operations of Parliament will be implemented at a slow pace.

4.314 For Strategy related activities, Parliament Office will look for external support particularly from UNDP.

### Ministry of Forestry and Research

**Mission Statement**

To promote, conserve, investigate and manage the nation’s forest resources for the optimal of all stakeholders and the environment.

**2021 Budget Summary**
### Public Accounts Committee Report: April 2021

#### Budget

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#### Issues of Concern

Matters of concern raised by the Committee include the following:

4.315 **Redirection policy** – The Committee requested the ministry to provide the details of the redirection policy that the ministry will implement in order to stimulate employment and export.

4.316 The ministry stated that the redirection policy for the ministry is downstream processing and value adding. $5.3 million is allocated for activities such as training, awareness, freight subsidy, downstream equipment for five constituencies who missed out on the 2020 allocation, promotion of hardwood timber in overseas markets and reporting.

4.317 The downstream processing policy involves categorization of production into smallholders, medium enterprises and logging companies. The objective of the policy is to reduce logging and increase timber production.

4.318 **Forestry bill** – The Committee enquired into the status of the proposed new Forestry Act.

4.319 The ministry confirmed that they submitted the drafting instructions to the Attorney General’s Chamber for the bill to be drafted. The consultation stage was completed.

4.320 **Sustainable logging policy** - The ministry assured the Committee that it is closely monitoring all forestry and logging activities in accordance to the Solomon Islands Logging Policy.
This logging policy intends to set a benchmark at 700,000 cubic metres of log exports by 2023 and will regulate the 400 meter above sea level encroachment. However the 400 meter encroachment only applies to several of our bigger islands.

The policy was intended to be implemented from 2019 but was derailed by the pandemic. The target volume for 2021 is 1.9 million cubic metres. 2.3 million cubic metres were exported in 2020. The sustainable level of 700,000 cubic metres comprise 400,000 cubic metres from natural forest and 300,000 plantation forest. The policy envisage increased production in value added forest products and less log exports.

Logging export compliance – The Committee was concerned on how the ministry deploys its officers on monitoring exercises. The Committee also heard that while forestry officers are working closely with existing logging companies; the process is not robust enough and companies tend to report and provide data from log ponds to the ministry themselves. In most cases only customs officers were present when ships were loading logs for export resulting in misreporting of species of logs for export (rosewood, vitex etc.)

The ministry mentioned that it was difficult for them to undertake monitoring across the whole country as most log ponds are located in remote parts of the country.

With regards to the issuance of licenses, there are currently 281 valid felling licensed operators nationwide, of which 154 are operational. With regards to compliance officers, there about one officer per five logging operation.

Felling license terms and conditions – The Committee was concerned that the regulations prohibiting logging above 400 metres is not enforced by the Commissioner of Forest. The Committee cited Komarindi as an example.

The ministry confirmed that the Commissioner has the power to grant license to log at above 400 metres if the area is flat. Any area that has a slope greater than 10 degrees is prohibited for logging. The request for logging in those areas were from landowners.

The provision in the regulations relating to this has been removed recently. Most of the Komarindi area are excluded from logging.

The enforcement is lacking due to capacity issues in the ministry.

Timber milling quota - The Committee was concerned that some logging companies are not compliant with the 8% requirement for milling. The Committee alerts Parliament that compliance in this area must be upheld and that this rate must be increased.
4.331 The ministry stated that the logging companies found it difficult to implement the 8% timber milling policy due to land issues regarding the location of the mills. The ministry will review and increase the rate if it is achievable.

4.332 Small holder or out grower plantations – The Committee enquired about the process for obtaining plantation licenses.

4.333 The ministry confirmed that section 4 (c) of the Act provides for the export of plantation logs. Under the regulations the fee is $1,000 and the performance bond is $50,000. The Committee viewed the $50,000 as unaffordable for smallholder plantation owners.

Recommendation 14
(a) The Committee urges the Government to implement the forestry sustainability policy.
(b) The Committee urges the Government to strictly enforce the prohibition of logging beyond 400 meters above sea-level.

81 Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Mission Statement

The overall goal of the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (OPMC) is to provide leadership for and coordination of all government Ministries and Agencies and to facilitate the delivery of adequate, appropriate and quality services to the people of Solomon Islands through an efficient and effective system of government.

The OPMC’s role and functions form the apex of the Public Service, coordination, managing, and monitoring the implementation of government policies and programs and carrying out the Central Agency role of leading the Service.

The OPMC has to effectively lead the coordination of the Government Machinery; it has to provide timely interventions, options, advice and relevant information to Cabinet for their deliberation for policy changes or improvement and clear directives; it is the focus for where all policies of the government and the progress on their implementation coverage for the final assessments of progress; it therefore has the responsibilities of drawing up guidelines,
checklists and other instruments for analysis, monitoring and measuring the performance against all government initiatives.

**2021 Budget Summary**

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**Issues of Concern**

Matters raised by the Committee include the following:

4.334 **Economic Stimulus Package (ESP)** - The Committee queried whether another Economic Stimulus Package (ESP) will be injected into the economy directed at the productive and resource sector.

4.335 In response, the Policy Secretary at the OPMC informed the Committee that there is no intention to inject another ESP into the economy, however, under the 2021 budget the objective of a stimulus is featured in the budget.
4.336 **Assessment report on the ESP** - The Committee queried whether an assessment had already been done on the ESP for the last fiscal year. The ministry informed the Committee that a monitoring team has been established to monitor funds that had been expended under the ESP and a report will be produced later. The Committee expressed that they support the ESP in the economy, however, the way it is done should be more transparent and systematically managed.

4.337 **CMCC** - The Committee enquired about the budget monitoring and coordinating role of the CMCC with the Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Finance, and the PMO. The Committee commented that from 2019 to 2020 the CMCC was coordinating the budget, but now it seems the Cabinet is coordinating the budget. The Committee requested if the CMCC can report the outcomes of each budget. In response, the SPM clarified that the CMCC is still there but the central coordinating and monitoring role is now performed by the Prime Minister’s Office and there is a reporting mechanism that was put in place.

4.338 **Redirection policy** - The Committee made observatory comments on the budget where ministries have to re-prioritize what have already been re-prioritized. That nothing much will change in the productive sector because of limited support. Major infrastructure developments such as the 2023 games should build infrastructures that can be converted or be reused after the games. Furthermore, the Committee observed that with reprioritizing and budget cuts, governance or oversight institutions have been hampered to fully carry out their oversight functions. The current projects under the policy direction are not new, only the 2023 Games is a new project. Whether these projects will create new jobs, increase household incomes, and increased production.

4.339 In response, the ministry commented that all ministries have to prioritize activities to get the maximum benefits out of their development budget (DB) and not spread resources thinly across. The Committee viewed that the redirection policy is misleading the dialogue or conversation on the economy. The economy needs to focus more on fiscal policies with financial systems to boost economic activities.

4.340 **Donor funding** - The Committee cautioned the Government that the Constitution requires all monies expended including donor funds to be appropriated and reflected under the development budget.

4.341 **Governance institutions** - The Committee members also expressed concern about the lack of budget support to the newly established Independent Commission against Corruption. Nearly all ministries experienced corruption so the SIIAC office needs to be fully operational, therefore, the OPMC is commended for the $2.2 million budget allocation to this office in the current budget.
4.342 Pacific Games budget – The Committee noted the funding allocation of $198 million in the OPMCs’ development estimates and queried whether it is enough for all Pacific games projects this year. Members also query the actual cost of hosting the games.

4.343 PM residence – The Committee enquired about $2 million allocation for the construction of the new PMs’ residence.

4.344 In response, the SPM clarified that the $198 million is more than enough and the actual cost of hosting the games is $263 million. For the new PMs’ residence, he stated that the $2 million is for the design but the actual construction will be $18 million.

84 Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening

Mission Statement

The ministry strives to see to an improved provincial government service delivery system that meets the needs of the rural communities by capacitating the Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening that endeavors to seeks clarifications and expansion on the roles of the Provincial Governments and ensures resources to facilitate effective service delivery for improved living conditions of all rural communities.

2021 Budget Summary

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Development Budget

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Public Accounts Committee Report: April 2021
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**Issues of Concern**

Matters raised by the Committee include the following:

4.345 **Provincial Government Strengthening Program** – The Committee enquired about the latest report on the PGSP program, whether it is currently available and the benefits as per purpose of the program.

4.346 The ministry confirmed that reports are produced on a yearly basis. In terms of benefits, currently 1,300 projects have been completed and more than 10,000 people employed. With that ministry also faced up with challenges with lack of funding especially budget cuts during this pandemic period and also challenges with its contractors not completing contracts, land disputes and also depends on Members of Provincial Assembly (MPA) assistance in their implementation.

4.347 **Good governance and administration** – The Committee was concerned on the status of good governance and financial management across the provinces since inductions and trainings have been already conducted for MPAs in all provinces.

4.348 Ministry confirmed that now Ward Development Grants (WDG) are administered through Ward Development Committees (WDC) and not MPAs as was the case before, this to comply with the Gazette Financial Management Ordinances 2018. It also stated that, about 80% of fund allocated for PCDF also determined by the WDC.

4.349 Trainings and capacity building still ongoing since new MPAs are coming in and old ones are going out. And trainings for premiers and executives will also be rolled out to train them of their roles and responsibilities as most MPAs are not familiar with provincial legislation and practices.

4.350 Two provinces have achieved a clean audit opinion for financial year 2019/2020 as a result of the training and capacity buildings, they are Isabel Province and Central Province. These are indications of improvement in the management and administration of provincial funds.

4.351 **PCDF Program** – The Committee is concerned with the impact of Covid-19 and budget cut on PCDF projects, capacity building and managing the programs. The Committee is also concerned about duplication of funding so should integrate RCDF and other funding under PCDF.
4.352 The ministry confirmed the challenge faced is budget cut due to the impacts of the COVID-19. This resulted in incomplete projects last year and probably this year due to limited funds available. Last year some contracts were not completed by contractors due to lack of funds.

4.353 Ministry has an oversight committee manning the PCDF program to ensure resources are pulled together and assist the people.

4.354 Currently, consultations are under way with donors, development partners and other line ministries regarding integration of RCDF and other funding under the PCDF Program. It was confirmed the consultations are based on how the flow of funds to assist some projects earmarked for provinces. This multi-donor consultation is focus more on capacity building, and the ministry is preparing for capacity building to reinforce capacity in provinces, such as provincial advisors, specialists and other advisors. This is to ensure funds are spent wisely and communities benefit from the program.

4.355 Revenue Sharing/Mobilization— The Committee is concerned about the tabling of the revenue sharing scheme bill in parliament and how this arrangement will be implemented and benefit the provinces.

4.356 In response, MPGIS stated that in 2020 it made a presentation to caucus and cabinet regarding the revenue sharing scheme. After the presentation to cabinet, the ministry was badly affected by the COVID-19 emergency which delayed the work program.

4.357 This revenue sharing scheme has a formula which takes into account costs of materials, population density and other variables of a province.

83 Ministry of Police, National Security and Correctional Services

Mission Statement

The overall objective of the Ministry is to contribute to safer and secure environment through the provision of high quality policing service, humane containment and the rehabilitation of prisoners.

“Professional, effective and ethical Police and Correctional Services for the maintenance of Law and Order, Good Governance and Human Rights”.
2021 Budget Summary

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Issues of Concern

Matters raised by the Committee include the following:

4.358 **Vacant Employment Positions** – The Committee was concerned about the 128 vacant posts within RSIPF.

4.359 The ministry stated that the ongoing retirement and discipline issues cause those vacant posts within the RSIPF. Numbers of retirement will increase, however other officers within RSIPF will be recruited for those positions.

4.360 **Intelligence led policing** – The Committee was pleased with the outcome of the community policing program within Honiara residential areas. It was raised if this...
program reach to other residential areas in Honiara and long term engagement to communities.

4.361 The ministry stated that crime preventive strategies is everybody business not the RSIPF itself but must work together. This will also roll out to the communities in the provinces as well with the $3.5 million in the development in collaboration with 470 committees. The new crime prevention strategy is to conduct intelligence work before undertaking any operation rather than random operations.

4.362 CSSI Program – The Committee was concerned that inmates in prison been well care and fed by CSSI. Those inmates should provide some community work/activities as part of their program.

4.363 The ministry responded that rehabilitation and capacity development programs has been provided to the inmates as part of their learning. Focus on enterprises, farms, bakery, tailoring in Honiara to upskill inmates and then to roll out to provinces. In 2018 and 2019 the program was trialed in Burns Creek. MOU signed with churches and stakeholders establishing the obligations for each party regarding the program.

4.364 Provincial Police Stations – The Committee was concerned that most provincial police stations have no officers in the stations. When communities called or present to report any matters there are no officers to attend for their cases.

4.365 The ministry took note of the concern and will review all police stations to develop a plan to rehabilitate police stations across the country. The ministry will prioritise its activities in 2021 in order to accommodate all concern/matters reported to them.

4.366 Border Security – The Committee was concerned about the border security and the allocated is insufficient for border operations.

4.367 The national border strategy and the national security policy provide for collaboration between various agencies of government. The framework covers western, eastern and southern borders of the country. The focus now is on the western border.

4.368 The ministry stated that they have good conversations with landowners for the location of border outposts. The Australian Government has already agreed assistance for border facilities. It was also stated by the ministry that they will construct a multi-agencies facilities that can be used by various agencies to combat COVID-19 and other illegal activities at the border.

4.369 Ngossi land – The Committee enquired about the Ngossi land and the plan the ministry has for the development of that land.
4.370 The ministry stated that land for Ngossi will be developed and extended for staff housing.

4.371 **Cost of policing** – The ministry confirmed that the cost of policing document is under review to set the target for the next five years. The payroll component of the current budget is in line with the threshold as per the current cost of policing report but the other charges of component of the budget is below the threshold.

4.372 **Salaries restructure** – The ministry stated that the salary restructure exercise was put on hold due to the pandemic. The ministry aims to restart the process this year. The challenge will be the ability of the government to fund the new salary structure.

### Recommendation 15

(a) The Committee urges the Government to review the arms capability of the RSIPF appropriate to border management.

(b) The Committee recommends that the Commissioner of Corrections consider options for community service by inmates.

(c) The Committee recommends the Ministry undertake a peer review of the quality of police training.

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85 **Ministry of Lands, Housing and Survey**

**Mission Statement**

The Ministry will ensure land dealings are fair, transparent, and impartial and according to appropriate and relevant laws and that the services provided by the Ministry is customer-focused, effective and efficient.

**2021 Budget Summary**
Matters of concern raised by the Committee include the following:

4.373 **Government housing** - The Committee understood that some of the government houses are no longer in existence and this concern the Committee what is the Government’s plan or provision for the existing government houses.

4.374 The ministry responded that no discussion is done at the ministerial level regarding this matter and also, no budget allocation for the rolled out of this project. Existing government houses are tied to each ministry and not directly under the control of the ministry.

4.375 **Housing pilot project** - The Committee suggested that the housing pilot project is the next option to undertake if the government does not have Provision to deal with the existing government house shortage in Honiara and in the Provinces. The Committee wants to know if this pilot project will be extended to other Provinces as well.

4.376 The ministry stated that the proposed pilot project came about because of the increasing cost in the government rental scheme over the years as a result of increase staff and the shortage of government housing. The ministry confirm that the possibility to extend the pilot project to other provinces depends entirely on the progress and if it succeeds in Honiara.
4.377 The ministry will work with Solomon Housing, NPF and Mamara project. The contribution from the ministry will be site development.

4.378 **Upgrading of Temporary Occupation License (TOL)** - The Committee was really concerned with the issues of TOL; it’s becoming an issue to address within Honiara town boundary. The committee sees this method as an indirect application for plots of land; where occupants occupied the plots of land and get the land titles afterward. The committee therefore would like to know if the government has plan to upgrade the TOL and also, if this will also extend to the provinces.

4.379 The ministry confirmed that there are lots of TOL in Honiara in locations such as Gilbert Camp, Kaibia, Noha Hill and Kaibia. Since last year the Ministry received assistance from the Australia Government to upgrade the TOL at various places such as Gilbet Camp and Noha hill. The upgrading of TOL is only restricted to Honiara and not in the Provinces.

4.380 **Resumption and acquisition of land for public purposes** - The Committee enquired into the status and the progress of acquisition and resumption of plots of land to upgrade bigger or build public infrastructures in the country such as the Kukum highway, Tandai highway and the international airport upgrading.

4.381 The Ministry responded that in terms of Kukum Highway upgrading, the phase 2 from Fishing village to Airport no plan available as yet; the Ministry will start dealing with the land owners as soon as the plan is available. And for the International Airport, the COL has already acquired back two parcels of land and still working with the Ministry of Communication and Aviation for other parcels of land.

4.382 **Building on drainage in Honiara** - The Committee was concerned with the practice of constructing buildings over drain in Honiara.

4.383 The ministry responded that the ministry is responsible for land allocation and not building allocation. It is the responsibility of land board not to allocate land reserved for public purposes such as road reserves including drainage reserves. If the land is taken already then it is the responsible of the Honiara City Council to ensure that no structures are built over drains.

4.384 **Lunga -Tenaru Land** - The Committee wanted to know the status of Lunga -Tenaru land.

4.385 The ministry responded that last year the government directed the ministry to acquire back the land title from Levers Solomons Ltd, and the company took the government to court disputing the action and the court case awaiting court decision.
4.386 **Alienated Land Lease** - The Committee was concerned about the old alienated land lease term over 99 years. The Committee would like to know the views of the ministry regarding the terms of lease of alienated lands after independence.

4.387 The ministry responded that term of the lease depends on each case by case. The ministry confirmed that some lands are still under lease for 99 years and how it came about depends who owns the land. If the owner is a foreigner and acquired land before independence than the lease automatically converted to fixed term estate and, if a local owner then it is still 99 years lease. Change of the years of lease term from 99 to 75 years is not from the Act but land board policy for both foreign and local leases.

4.388 **Administration and Operational Changes** - The Committee noted that the budget support from last year and the current year are the same and the Committee enquired if there are changes within the administration and operation external and internal environments.

4.389 The ministry confirmed that there are changes happening within the ministry. For instance, changes of policy from one-man decision to the board decision and also, there are controls implemented to prevent fraudulent activity.

4.390 **Administration** - The Committee was concerned with the issues arising from the public between the Commissioner and the register, where the signature and stamp of the commissioner has been forged for two high value land at Baha’i and Opposite Kukum Market. The committee does not want these issues to arise and would like to know if the case has been resolved or not yet.

4.391 The Ministry confirmed that the issue is still outstanding and not resolved as yet.

**Recommendation 16**

(a) The Committee recommends that the Land Registry be reallocated to the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Survey under the management of the Commissioner of Lands.

(b) The Committee urges the Government to expedite identification and acquisition of land for the resettlement of climate vulnerable communities.
Ministry of National Planning and Development Coordination

Mission Statement

The ministry’s vision is that all Solomon Islanders participate meaningfully and effectively in national planning and development in the spirit of partnership and nation building.

Under the DCGA Policy Direction, MNPDC is part of the fundamental sector cluster with a mandate related to the key theme “Strengthen Good Governance” MNPDC has a mandate that is related broadly to national strategic planning, aid coordination and monitoring and learning. Especially these mandates are as follows;

Ministry Mandates

1. Preparation of National Development Plans and Development Budget implementation

2. Mobilising, managing and coordinating official development assistance in strategic partnerships with all development partners

3. Evaluating progress of development plans and annual development budgets and building monitoring and evaluation capacities across the government sector.

4. Supporting Ministries to develop, implement and monitor social, governance and economic development programs, including national population policy formulation and planning, and strategic infrastructure planning.

5. Supporting the coordination of disaster recovery.

6. Managing the implementation of the Rural Development Program (RDP) Phase II

2021 Budget Summary

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Public Accounts Committee Report: April 2021
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### Issues of concern

Matters of concern raised by the Committee include the following:

4.392 **Ministry Capacity to oversight development projects** – The Committee was concerned that the ministry does not have the capacity and resources to manage, monitor and evaluate all the National Projects to achieve the outcome especially under the DCGA redirection policy. The Committee noted from previous years that most national development projects were never completed or implemented.

4.393 The ministry stated that they have 5 division within the ministry mainly, Development Cooperation and NAO Division, Strategic Planning and Budget Allocation Division, Programme Quality Division, Social Development and Governance Sector Division and Economic and Productive Sector Division that provide guidance to other ministries on their development projects. MNPDC assist ministries to develop, implement and monitor their development programs.

4.394 The 2020 development budget, 60% of it was redirect because of the COVID-19 pandemic. For this reason, most of the development project were on hold or not implemented. The current 2021 development budget is geared towards recovery programs, that is “Towards a Path to Economic Recovery: Advancing Growth and Service Delivery through Better Partnership”.

4.395 The ministry is also seeking technical assistance with the European Union to support their capacity development on managing, monitoring and evaluating of national projects to achieve its objectives.

4.396 **Development budget** – The Committee was concerned that the development budget is the same as previous years which does not reflect the Redirection Policy of economic growth and productivity.

4.397 The ministry stated that they worked closely with the Policy Unit in the OPMC and MOFT on the preparation of National Development Plans and Development Budget Implementation. The current development budget focuses more on adequate funding.
investment projects under the economic productive and resources sectors and programs and other essential services in the social sector for continuous delivery of essential services across the country.

4.398 The Committee was concerned that development partners’ financed programs are not reflected in the development budget as was the case some years ago.

4.399 The ministry indicated that data on donor funding is unreliable due to different financial years, non-availability of breakdown of expenditures, the timing of actual expenses and challenges in obtaining accurate information from donor.

4.400 **US Aid Scale Program** – The Committee noted that there is a new funding arrangement between SIG and US Aid program. The Committee is concerned about the status of this arrangement. What sectors is USA interest to invest in and what is their funding arrangement.

4.401 The ministry stated that the USAID SCALE program will focus on Forestry and Tourism. Initial consultations between the SIG and USAID SCALE program has taken place during the 4th quarter of 2020. Both Governments (SIG and USA) are yet to sign a Memorandum of Understanding for the USAID SCALE Program. The program will be implemented by five implementing partners and the initial focus is on Malaita.

4.402 **LDC Graduation** – The Committee was concerned about the status of Least Development Country (LDC) graduation.

4.403 The ministry stated that as per plan Solomon Islands should graduate from Least Developed Country (LDC) to a developing country status at the end of 2024. The initial activities to establish an LDC transition team and prepare a Transition Graduation strategy started in 2019. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the further progress and preparation of the smooth graduation strategy. Earlier indications especially the economic indicators also show reversals to key indicators for graduation that Solomon Islands has previously met. For this reason it is necessary to consider a delayed in the LDC graduation.

4.404 The ministry is undertaking further analysis and using recent results of a few studies on the socio-economic impacts of COVID 19 to inform recommendations for government decision on the issue of LDC graduation

4.405 Scholarship Opportunity List – The Committee learnt from the commercial banks and SICCI that the annually produced list did not target the professions required by the various sectors in the economy. The Committee was concerned whether the list has been
submitted to National Training Unit. Under this COVID-19 pandemic restriction what is the arrangement on the mode of study for successful applicants.

4.406 The ministry in collaboration with MEHRD (SITESA) conducted annual surveys to determine the composition of the opportunity list for each year. The private sector and other stakeholders were consulted during the annual survey.

4.407 The ministry stated that the Scholarship Opportunity List was already submitted to National Training Unit. This list provides guidance to the NTU, the National Training Committee and the Public Service In-Service Training Committee in the deliberation of scholarship awards.

4.408 With the ongoing challenges related to travel and other restrictions induced by the COVID-19 pandemic, part of the recommendations put forward is that training for 2021 will focus on in-country training.

4.409 **Rural Development Program** – The Committee appreciates the reintroduction of this program into the development budget. However, it was concerned with the focus of this program, projects selections, project designs, incomplete projects and the duplication of some projects in the constituencies especially those financed by RCDF. It is the view of the Committee that this program is shifted to the Ministry of Rural Development or the Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening.

4.410 The ministry admitted that there is room for improvement in the management and implementation of the program. The maximum funding under this program is $200,000. The projects are selected by communities through their Ward Development Committees.

4.411 **Millennium Challenge Corporation** – The ministry confirmed that the focus of the MCC is forestry and tourism. The objective is to provide the enabling environment for investors to invest in these sectors. A five start hotel investment is included in the program. The MCC board approved the participation of Solomon Islands in 2018.

4.412 **Poverty tracking** – The Committee was concerned with the increasing rate of poverty as a result of the pandemic. The Committee is interested in the latest data on poverty and the proposed response from SIG in the 2021 budget.

4.413 The government’s response is reflected in the allocations in the agriculture sector and the health budget targeting NCD and tax on sugary products.
87 Ministry of Culture and Tourism

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Ministry is to increase the impact of tourism on economic growth in the Solomon Islands by developing a dynamic, sustainable and private sector driven industry. The Ministry is aware of the fact that sustainable tourism development must be sensitive to the unique cultural and environmental legacy of the nation. It must also empower local communities and bring economic benefits to rural populations by creating jobs and reducing poverty. The Ministry is also responsible for the protection, nurturing and promotion of the Solomon Islands’ unique and diverse cultural heritage.

2021 Budget Summary

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Issues of Concern

Matters of concern raised by the Committee include the following:

4.414 Rebranding – The Committee was concerned with the impacts of COVID-19 on the rebranding exercise and the Domestic Tourism Bubble in the tourism sector.

4.415 The ministry highlighted that the rebranding was rolled out but there were challenges in terms of funding. The aim is to create the demand for tourists to visit the country.

Public Accounts Committee Report: April 2021
4.416 The new brand is Solomon Islands or Solomon Is, this to depict the diverse cultures, sites and smiles of the islands. In terms of travel destinations, there are challenges during this world wide pandemic as international travel border restrictions with very small number of arrivals.

4.417 In terms of the Domestic Tourism Bubble, this will be rolled out via participating agencies such as Solomon Airlines, Tourism Solomon and Operators. Regarding amenities, the ministry is targeting public servants to utilize accommodation leave packages of public servants. For costs in domestic travel and accommodation, airfare will be different but accommodation will be same and tourist operators and participants will decide their prices. This is targeting level 10 and up.

4.418 **Bloody ridge** – The Committee was concerned with squatter settlements building permanent homes within the bloody ridge boundary.

4.419 The ministry confirmed that it is facing some challenges with squatter settlement in the area. Last year the ministry wanted to fully fence the area, but was not possible due to a lack of funding. A contractor to do the fencing has already been identified last year and will also engage surrounding communities to assist with the fencing.

4.420 **COVID-19 and ESP** – The Committee was concerned with the impacts of the COVID-19 on the tourism sector and how the ministry track investments through the Economic Stimulus Package (ESP) in the tourism sector.

4.421 The ministry has stated that its aim is to stabilize tourism sector and create employment. And it is looking at the ESP to trigger new business initiatives, facilitating new investment platforms and encourage new investors to come on board. This will also maintain current investors and supporting them to be sustainable during the pandemic.

4.422 In terms of tracking the ESP investments, the process is being done by Tourism Solomon tracking business who have been supported with the Ministry of Finance and Treasury.

4.423 The ministry will also provide guarantee scheme to Development Bank of Solomon Islands (DBSI) and tourism providers to loan funds from DBSI, an amount of $2 million has been allocated under development budget. It confirms that DBSI has never utilized it yet, and want to trial it this year since access to funds is challenging. DBSI will develop a product for this arrangement but for accountability purposes the ministry will not be directly involved in this fund.
88 Ministry of Commerce, Industries, Labour and Immigration

Mission Statement

The Primary purpose and objectives of the Ministry of Commerce, industries, Labour and immigration is to provide an effective and efficient delivery of services that will enhance, promote and generate growth within the private sector thus creating a vibrant and progressive economy. It is the business of the Ministry to provide Business Services where they are needed and access to financing Solomon Islanders to actively participate and engage in Small and Medium Enterprises. To continuously review its institutional arrangement with a view to build a better, flexible labour market that favours private sector growth ensuring real growth is achieved through the creation of increased business opportunities, creation of employment opportunity, improved product development, equitable participation by both foreigners and local investments, efficient legal and administrative process and the acceleration of technology and industry.

2021 Budget Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Budget 2021</th>
<th>Recurrent Budget</th>
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<th>Actuals</th>
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Development Budget

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<td>6,533,959</td>
<td>6,233,937</td>
<td>5,058,025</td>
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</table>


Issues of Concern

The Committee raised the following issues:

4.424 Export and Trade Program – The Committee was concerned whether the $7 million budget for export and trade program is sufficient.
4.425 The ministry stated that the initial budget bid was $30 million and later reduce to $7 million. It was further stated by the ministry that the demand for large volumes of products per year by overseas markets could not be achieved. However, the ministry is considering value chain added export strategy. The Market division will assist the private sectors commercial activities to enable them to export high value products. Inadequate budget is an issue but consultation with the private sector is going well in order to increase their export activities.

4.426 **CEMA** – The Committee was concerned that the revitalisation of CEMA to meet export market capacity demand expectation is unnecessarily delayed.

4.427 The ministry stated that they collaborated with CEMA and a draft report on the revitalisation is already with Cabinet and will be implemented when it is approved by Cabinet. CEMA’s marketing arm is expected to become operational in 2022.

4.428 **Mamara Tasivarongo Development** – The Committee was concerned about the Mamara development with regards to investment incentives and local job creation.

4.429 The ministry stated that the official ground breaking ceremony at Mamara will be conducted after the 2021 Easter season. The development will include residential areas, shopping mall, hotels, recreational facilities etc. Incentives given include tax exemptions on capital goods for the developer as per subsidiary legislation (LN 2 of 17 January 2014) of the Mamara Tasivarongo Mavo Development Agreement Act. The ministry further stated that more than 100 jobs will be available for local employment. The agreement obligated the developer to employ SI nationals.

4.430 **Kirakira Cocoa factory/Bonale pineapple projects** – The Committee enquired whether the Kirakira cocoa factory and Bonale pineapple development were private-sector led investments. It would be more appropriate for investors to invest in such projects.

4.431 The ministry stated that for the Kirakira cocoa factory, the Makira Ulawa Provincial Government is responsible to identify land and the concept plan before putting the project for public tender. For Bonale Pineapple, according to the ministry, studies are underway before informing private investors and with the PPP arrangement already been conducted.

4.432 **Foreign Investment** – The Committee was concerned about the growing number of foreign investors who are taking over the businesses that are reserved for locals.

4.433 The ministry informed the Committee that the Foreign Investment Division has dealt with the issue of reserved local businesses. The ministry stated that they intend to dialogue
with the executive of the indigenous chamber of commerce in order to revive it so that the entity can advocate for the interests of indigenous businesses. Foreign investors who are in breach regulations are liable to penalties as per the regulations such as cancellation of licences and business close down.

89 Ministry of Communication and Aviation

Mission Statement

The Ministry aims to rehabilitate and upgrade all Civil Aviation infrastructures and facilities throughout the country and provide efficient, effective and reliable Communication and Civil Aviation Services that are timely, accurate, safe and secure while meeting all regulatory requirements.

2021 Budget Summary

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Budget</th>
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Development Budget

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<td>Total</td>
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<td>14,436,675</td>
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Grand Total        | 69,953,565   | 64,474,944  | 50,028,221    |

Issues of Concern

The Committee raised the following issues:
4.434 **Communication cost** – The Committee was concerned that the charges (data, voice, and SMS) by Solomon Telekom and Bmobile Vodafone are very expensive for users. The network speed and connectivity are very unreliable. The undersea cable is supposed to resolve these issues but this is no longer the case.

4.435 The ministry stated that some of the equipment and transmitters deployed by the service providers are old and require upgrading to accommodate the volume of transmission from the cable. Solomon Telekom has a program to upgrade its facilities to resolve these issues.

4.436 The ministry encourages customers to raise their complaints with the regulator as they have the right to raise issues of concern with TCSI.

4.437 **200 telecom towers** – The Committee enquired into the status of the 200 tower as this project was announced by the Minister during the Parliament meeting.

4.438 The ministry confirmed that the project is on the design stage and the proposal was submitted to donors for consideration. It was delayed due to the pandemic.

4.439 **SIBC TV** – The Committee noted that SIBC was planning to introduce TV but encountered funding difficulties. They have now ventured into other digital platforms to disseminate news and video. The Committee enquired into any assistance that might be rendered by the ministry to SIBC.

4.440 The ministry confirmed that SIBC submitted an application for a TV license and the ministry is prepared to assist SBIC with their proposed projects.

4.441 **Facebook** – The Committee enquired into the status of the proposed ban on Facebook and noted the level of misinformation regarding the vaccines for COVID-19 in Facebook. The Committee is also concerned with the possible hacking and harvesting of data belonging to people within the country.

4.442 The ministry confirmed that a paper will be submitted to Cabinet to rescind the Cabinet decision to ban Facebook. The ministry is aware of the misinformation in Facebook and is working with Facebook to deal with the issue. It will require four people to monitor Facebook and identify the articles to be taken down. The ministry will liaise with Facebook to train the people that will be doing the monitoring.

4.443 With regards to the hacking, illegal access to the servers can only be done overseas since the servers are located offshore. The other way of accessing accounts is sniping of passwords. It is the responsibility of each institution to manage the firewalls of their
servers. The national computer emergency team monitoring any illegal access into the country’s computer networks.

4.444 **Honiara international airport upgrade** – The ministry assured the Committee that the design for the upgrade of the airport was already done but construction will be delayed due to funding shortage. It will not affect the logistics in the airport during 2023 Pacific Games.

4.445 The World Bank funded Solomon Islands infrastructure and aviation project will now focus on the following: tar sealing of Auki town, Fiu Bridge and Munda terminal.

4.446 **Domestic travel bubble** - Solomon Airlines confirmed that the ‘Umitugeda holidays” target senior officer in the public service and will be marketed to the private sector as well. The objective is to assist airlines, tour operators, resort operators and other tourism service providers. It is hoped that discounted accommodations will be in the package. The long term aim is to reset the pricing so that Solomon Islands is competitive regionally so as to develop the local tourism market.

4.447 **Airspace revenue** – The ministry confirmed that the revenue from airspace charges was affect by the pandemic in 2020 with a reduction of 90%. Only $10 million was collected so undertook cost cutting measures during the year. The revenue was picking up in the first 2 months of 2021.

4.448 **Policy on airline ownership** – The ministry has done a study on airlines strategy and the report will be released soon. The ministry is looking at how to support airlines, air service agreements and air service agreement with PRC.

4.449 **Solomon Airlines** – The Committee was concerned with the viability of Solomon Airlines in view of the ongoing border closures around the globe.

4.450 The airlines stated that the fixed costs are lease and insurance for two aircrafts A320 and a twin otter. The twin otter is subleased to Air Kiribati. The monthly bill is US$195,000. The company is on survival mode and continue to manage its costs. SIG has assisted through the ESP with $20 million - $15 million loan and $5 million grant. It requires further support from SIG. It is expecting a loss of $45 million and cash flow shortage of $20 million.

4.451 **Provincial Airports** - The Committee commends the ministry for the upgrading of Seghe airport and Taro as this will boost tourism. However, the Committee is concerned that the other airports such as Gwanaru airport is not included in the rehabilitation plan.

4.452 The ministry claimed that Gwanaru airport cannot be tar sealed because the land is still contested by various landowners in the area. Donors were not comfortable with funding

Public Accounts Committee Report: April 2021
privately owned airports. The policy of the government is to acquire the private airports and then source funding to rehabilitate them. The plan is to acquire Fera and Mono in 2022. The leasing of airports is still risky as the delay in the payment of lease money triggered airport closures by landowners as was the case with Marau airport recently.

Recommendation 17
The Committee urges:

(a) The Government to continue with the Henderson runway reseal/overlay and to seek additional funding for its completion.

(b) The Committee urges the Government to review the Telecommunications Act to further strengthen competition, improve quality, and reduce cost of services.

90 Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources

Mission Statement
The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) leads the challenge to sustainably manage and develop the nation’s offshore and coastal fisheries, is active in promoting Community Based Resource Management, and aims to contribute to the sustainable management of the region’s offshore marine resources.

The MFMR strives to provide an effective and efficient service to all stakeholders, promote government inter-agency cooperation and act as the focal point for national capacity building, research and development within the sector.

2021 Budget Summary

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<tr>
<th>Recurrent Budget</th>
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Public Accounts Committee Report: April 2021
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**Issues of Concern**

The Committee identified the following matters of concern:

4.453 **Reduction of revenue** – The Committee was concerned with the reduction of revenue to $290,314,000 compared to 2020 of $369,261,643.

4.454 The ministry informed the Committee of the causes of the reduction for revenue this year 2021. The following are causing revenue reduction; COVID-19 impact, reduction of days that will sold to fishing companies, fish movement and climate changes.

4.455 **Vessel day scheme** - Solomon Islands 3000 VDS for sale in 2021. Pacific Community predicts that more fish will be available in the Eastern Pacific than Western Pacific due to the La-Nina and El-Nino effects. This means there will be less fish in Solomon Islands EEZ during 2021. The challenge for Solomon Islands is the selling of its allocated vessel days. The ministry’s strategy regarding this issue is to engage in ‘pooling’ of days with other Parties to Nauru Agreement countries. Currently Solomon Islands is selling at US$10,000 per day and can negotiate to increase the rate to US$12,000 per day.
4.456 **Bina harbour project** – The Committee expressed concern over Bina harbour project status and land issues.

4.457 The ministry stated that they are working on land deeds to transfer title to Commissioner of Lands. Before any agreement through government to potential investors. Water survey is been conducted which can supply to the concerned project. Moreover, the ministry also had conversations with sea owners surrounding Bina Harbour. The New Zealand Government is committed to do recruitment of employees for the project, currently temporary office been set within the ministry to facilitate this project. The donors include the NZ government, International Finance Corporation and Australia. The areas of investment by these donors include; infrastructure (wharves and roads), communication (internet and phones) and energy (power and water). The ministry expects the government and other donors will provide some assistance in future.

4.458 **Tilapia hatchery project** – The Committee enquired into which stage the ministry has reached with regards to Tilapia project.

4.459 The ministry stated that they have reached the second stage of the project. The second stage is water supply, solar installation, staff house and landscaping. Training is being conducted for farmers in Malaita and Guadalcanal Provinces about tilapia farming.

4.460 **Sea cucumber farming** – The Committee enquired about the sea cucumber farming in Marau and Ngella.

4.461 The ministry confirmed that there is good collaboration with communities in Marau and Ngella to breed the species and grow them in the reef with the assistance of Japanese government. The research and monitoring by the ministry indicates that this is a viable project that will increase the population of the farmed species in future. Ministry is looking forward to expand this project to other locations in the near future.

4.462 **FAD** – the committee is concerned that frustrated fishermen were damaging FADs that were previously deployed by the ministry throughout the country.

4.463 The ministry has shifted from surface FADs to submerged FADs to counter sabotage and vandalism by inconsiderate people in the community. The submerged FADs are also cheap. The ministry has already deployed the FADs in Shortland.
91 Ministry of Public Service

Mission Statement

The Ministry of Public Service is the employer body for Solomon Islands public officers. It is the Secretariat for the Public Service Commission, the Judicial and Legal Services Commission and the Police and Prison Service Commission. The Ministry oversees the regulation of condition of service for public officers, deals with manpower requirements of Ministries and has an important role in coordinating training and development activities across the whole of the public service. Also the Ministry is responsible for the public service reforms and quality management that foster and enhance a knowledge workforce that is effective and responsive to the needs of the State and the people of the Solomon Islands.

2021 Key Policy Area

- Public Service form based on performance review of institutional roles and responsibilities to reduce recurrent expenditure and streamline administrative functions for purposes of ensuring more effective delivery of government services.
- Review and development of redundancy and early retirement packages, to enable public servants to resign or retire to support private sector growth and contribution to rural development.
- Finalize the proposed public service salary structure and remuneration and other terms and conditions of service.
- Redirection of Public service establishment to provincial establishment, to support Government intention on the constituency Development centers concept.

2021 Budget Summary

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Public Accounts Committee Report: April 2021
### Other charges

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### Development Budget

#### Appropriated

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### Grand Total

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### Issues of Concern

The Committee identified the following matters of concern:

4.464 **Long Service Benefit** – The Committee was concerned on the long service benefit payment entitle for public servants. The Committee informed the ministry that they should prioritize and settle this long outstanding issue. As officers leaving the public service depends very much on this money for their future plans.

4.465 The ministry stated that in 2020 they had already paid about 50 public servants for their long service benefit. Currently, each ministry has the budget for the long service benefit for their own staff. This should ease the pressure on the Ministry of Public Service as each ministry will be responsible for the long service benefit payment for their staff.

4.466 **Redundancy** – The Committee was concerned on the right age for redundancy across all public sector. The Committee enquired into the current policy on redundancy and its budget.

4.467 The ministry stated that redundancy is only applicable to those below 50 years of age. The retirement age for SIG public servant is age 55 and age 60 for lawyers. The ministry will review the policy on redundancy as the working population would be affected in any redundancy exercise. There is no budget for redundancy in 2021.

4.468 **IPAM** – The Committee raised a comment that since the ministry does not have a development budget for 2021 they should liaise with Pacific Game Committee to build a building which can be used for the game but after the game it can house the IPAM. A better training facilities for the public servants.

4.469 The Ministry stated that the ides is a good one and likely will explore that idea.

4.470 **Freeze of recruitment** – The Committee was concerned on the freeze of recruitment to non-essential vacancies across the service. This will hinder the productiveness of the
ministries as old officers in the service may not open up to new ideas or changes. New graduates should be encouraged to apply to work for SIG.

4.471 The ministry stated that the measure taken to freeze recruitment is in response to the pandemic COVID-19. This is DCGA Policy Direction to reduce recurrent expenditure in order to ease SIG on the impact of this pandemic.

4.472 The public service will implement a graduate program for 26 months commencing in 2021. MPS will sponsor 10 positions while a donor will fund another 10 positions.

92 Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs / 96 National Judiciary

Mission Statement

We will deliver transparent, accountable and effective justice services which protect the fundamental rights and freedom of all people in the Solomon Islands.

2021 Budget Summary

Justice and Legal Affairs

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National Judiciary

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4.473 **Financial autonomy** – The Committee noted with concern the level of funding being accorded to the judicial sector in view of its mandate under the constitution.

4.474 The ministry stated that they are preparing a white paper for Cabinet to consider financial autonomy for the judicial sector. This is to enable it to fulfil its mandate under the constitution. The Ministry will discuss with MOFT the need for additional funding for the
judiciary. It is likely that the ministry will request a supplementary later in the year. At the moment the government does not consider the judiciary as an essential service.

4.475 **Institutional infrastructure program** - The Committee noted that this program listed a number of new buildings to be build but the budget is only for $5 million.

4.476 The ministry stated that they bid for $10 million but only $5 million is given. The priority is to build the court houses in the provinces at $1.5 million each and use the rest for minor works.

4.477 **Justice precinct** – The Committee enquired into the status of the justice precinct project that was initiated many years ago.

4.478 This is one of the ministry’s priority projects. The design was done 10 years ago, therefore requires updating to take into account changes taking place in the justice sector. The redesign will cost about $2 million. The ministry will be using the $1 million in the budget to renovate the Registrar General’s Office and the DPP office.

4.479 **Tribal land dispute resolution bill** – The ministry confirmed that the bill was withdrawn to enable further consultation.

Recommendation 18
The Committee urges the Government to adequately fund the National Judiciary and its support services and to expedite reforms to strengthen the independence of the judiciary.

93  Ministry of Home Affairs

**Mission Statement**

Empower people to shape political future upon ethical leadership, professionalism and a governance culture that recognizes diversity in traditional cultures, values and the dignity of our people – government – stakeholder relationship.

**2021 Budget Summary**
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**Issues of Concern**

The issues of concern to the Committee:

4.480 **Budget support** – The ministry confirmed that the budget support is to assist the ministry in its civil registration program. This will involve registration of new born babies in collaboration with MHMS, deaths, marriages and review, consultation and drafting of registration legislation.

4.481 **Legislative reform** – The Committee was very concerned with the outdated legislations that the ministry is administering: HCC Act, Gaming Act, Censorship Act plus the subsidiary legislations.

4.482 The ministry agreed with the Committee and will endeavour to review and update those legislations. The ministry is in the process of developing a lottery bill in order to support
sports development in the country. The ministry is also assessing the framework for a law to regulate operations NGO and CSO in the country.

94  Ministry of Traditional Governance, Peace and Ecclesiastical Affairs

Mission Statement

Protect and promote worthy culture, customs and values, and foster national Unity through appropriate Peace building Stakeholders’ partnership.

2021 Budget Summary

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Development Budget

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Public Accounts Committee Report: April 2021
The Committee identified the following matters of concern:

4.483 **Traditional governance bill** – The Committee noted that traditional leaders are one of the partners in the development and governance of communities in Solomon Islands. The Committee therefore enquires into the status of the traditional governance bill.

4.484 The ministry confirmed that the bill will be finalised in the last quarter of 2021 and cost is provided for in the recurrent budget.

4.485 **TRC report** – The Committee was concerned that the TRC report is yet to be dealt with by Parliament as required by the Act.

4.486 The ministry is developing matrix on the recommendations on the report and this will be submitted to Cabinet for deliberation.

4.487 **Role of churches** – The Committee acknowledges the government for collaborating and providing assistance to the churches as evidenced by the presence of the two general secretaries in PAC. However, the Committee cautioned the government and churches to deal with each other at arm’s length to ensure that the independence and advocacy role of churches are preserved.

4.488 The ministry and the churches representatives agree with the Committee and will ensure that the relationship is maintained at arm’s length. The churches are now in the process of establishing one umbrella body to administer the interests and other common goals of the churches.

95 **Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural electrification**

**Mission Statement**

To develop and manage the natural non-living resources of Solomon Islands, for the social and economic benefit, advancement and well-being of the people of Solomon Islands, now and for the future.
2021 Budget Summary

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| Budget Support                |          |                |         |
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| Expenditure                   |          |                |         |
| Payroll                       |          |                |         |
| Other Charges                 |          |                |         |
| Total                         |          |                |         |

| Development Budget            |          |                |         |
| Appropriated Revenue          | 0        | 2,440,000      | 0       |
| Appropriated Expenditures     | 11,800,000| 13,092,952   | 8,513,669|
| Total                         | 11,800,000| 13,092,952   | 8,513,669|

| Non-appropriated              |          |                |         |
| Grant Total                   | 27,638,655| 27,481,614    | 20960329|

Issues of Concern

The Committee identified the following matters of concern:

4.489 **Geo-tech lab** - The Committee enquired on the status of the ministry on whether they have the capacity to do independent testing on the export minerals in the country.

4.490 The Ministry informed the Committee that the Geo-Chemical laboratory requires upgrading and the ministry requested $26 million but was only allocated $3 million to upgrade the laboratory. Currently, the ministry is sending samples to Australia for testing. With regards to the lab analysis, at the moment, the division has been able to carry out simple analysis and inspection of samples from the Mines Division.

4.491 **Bauxite price** – On the bauxite price, the price is already gazetted last year 2020 but not the price for nickel. The unit price is determine the MOFT which is US$20.
4.492 **Mining bill** - The ministry had submitted the final draft of the new Mining Bill to the AG in February 2021 for final review before submitting to cabinet this year 2021.

4.493 **SIEA tariff** – The Committee was concerned with the high tariff imposed by SIEA on its customers even though it has made a profit of $75m. The committee is of the view that SIEA should reduce the tariff to an affordable level.

4.494 Solomon power agreed and confirmed that a review is on the way to determine the level of tariff for the next five years. It is likely that the tariff will reduce. SIEA is using its profits for infrastructure development in throughout the country.

4.495 **SIEA customer base** – The Committee enquired into the customer base for SIEA in Honiara and the expected capture rate going forward.

4.496 SIEA has 20,500 customers in the country and the target is to make it 30,000 by 2023 and nearly 80 percent of those customers are in Honiara. The targeted 30,000 customers by 2023 will represent 25 percent of the population of the country and 75 percent of the population of Honiara. Currently, about 65% of the people in Honiara have access to electricity, and with the extension of the networks and with the OBF program funding by World Bank, SIEA is very confident that by another three years, 75% of the people in Honiara will have access to electricity. (need to amend figures to reflect updated figures)

4.497 **Gold ridge mining** – The Committee was concerned that most of the minerals will be processed off-shores the government will not get enough revenue to boost the struggling economy. More than half of the processing should done locally.

4.498 The ministry stated that the arrangement is for an interim period of up to 5 years to enable the mine to be profitable. This is based on an independent feasibility study done by an Australian company.

4.499 **SIWA** – The Committee was concerned about the continuous shutdown of water in the city when there is a heavy down fall of rain, what is progress of borehole drilling, whether it is sufficient for the city. SIWA confirm that they have 24 boreholes but what is supplied by the boreholes is relatively low of what the intended design and benefit from the boreholes. SIWA will continue to shutdown water supply to city as there are number of illegal milling still continue at the Kongulai Water source.
Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs

Mission Statement

In Partnership with the people of Solomon Islands to uphold and promote the rights of women, young people and children and families to advance the wellbeing of the nation.

2021 Budget Summary

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<td>2,443,440</td>
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<tr>
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<td>SIG</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td>13,465,209</td>
<td>14,577,042</td>
<td>7,997,529</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Issues of Concern

The Committee identified the following matters of concern:

4.500 **Family support centres** – The Committee noted that the budget might not be enough to support the three centres. The Committee enquired into the latest report on operations of the care centres and data on gender based violence.

4.501 The ministry supports the Christian Care Centre in Honiara, and will roll out the service to Malaita and Temotu. The Family Support Centre has established nine voluntary committees in 6 provinces.
4.502 On data collection, a template is used to collect statistical data that will be input into a database that is under construction. On the gender based violence the CCC report an increase of 10 – 15% while the FSC recorded an increase of 10 – 15% in the first quarter of 2021.

4.503 The centres are used to accommodate 4 clients a day and it has since increased to 8 clients a day. The centres only have five counsellors focusing on domestic violence. Now there are other forms of abuse – trafficking, people with disability, abuse of children both male and female.

4.504 National child policy - The ministry is implementing the national child policy in collaboration with other stakeholders including the MEHRD.

4.505 Youth development program – The ministry intends to develop youth centres in the provinces to enable them to run youth activities and promote youth@work. The first one which is in the budget is the youth centre in Temotu.

4.506 The national youth grant supports youth divisions in the provinces and 30% is for national programs. $600,000 supports the work of the national youth congress including the board and secretariat.

Recommendation 19

The Committee strongly urges the Government to allocate adequate funding for safe houses and support services for victims of domestic and gender based violence.

98 Ministry of Rural Development

Mission Statement

The mission of the Ministry is to create and manage an effective information centre of all constituencies for planning and development purposes. More so, the Ministry’s responsibility is to distribute and monitor resources allocated to the Ministry and other development
stakeholders within Government, Donor agencies and non-government organizations to ensure fair and equitable development at the local level especially in the rural areas. Ultimately to ensure that Rural Solomon Islanders (80% of Solomon Island’s population) actively participate in the social and economic development of Solomon Islands to improve standard of living and quality of life.

2021 Budget Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recurrent Budget</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Prelim Actuals</th>
<th>Actuals</th>
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<td>2020</td>
<td>2019</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Expenditure</td>
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<td>30,464,464</td>
<td>30,542,429</td>
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Development Budget

<table>
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<tr>
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<td>319,842,818</td>
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<td>270,517,135</td>
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</table>

Issues of Concern

The Committee identified the following matters of concern:

4.507 **Budget support from PRC** – The Committee was concerned with the $90 million under the development budget through the Ministry from PRC. The Committee asked the ministry to clarify that budget support from PRC, the amount of the money and the purpose of the money and how it going to be spend.

4.508 The ministry stated that they were only aware of that $90 million and not anything above or below that amount. They also stated, that of the $90 million; each constituency is
allocated $1.8 million and this is purposely allocated for Water and Sanitation Programs for each constituency at the community level. It also for other projects such as health and education to build infrastructure at the community level and income generating projects.

4.509 **PRC Budget support for 2022** - The Committee informed the ministry that it was announce at the floor of Parliament that the PRC budget support through the ministry will end this year 2021 and will not extended to next year 2022. The Committee wanted to know what the Government’s plan is for the PRC budget support for 2022.

4.510 The ministry stated that prior discussion has already taking place at the Government level and soon will discuss with the PRC the government’s position regarding the PRC budget support for 2022. The ministry also stated that the OPMC is the coordinating body to inform the Committee about this. The ministry assured the Committees that discussion has already taken placed and soon will update the Committee accordingly as soon as the decision is made at the Government level regarding this matter.

4.511 **Increase Recruitment at the Rural Sector** - The Committee was concerned with the increase recruitment at the rural sector with the ministry. Given the current Government aim to bring recruitment down to the community level. The Committee wants to know if there is any vacancy at the constituency level.

4.512 The ministry indicated that, currently vacancies at the ministry remain the same as of last year. The reason being there is no budget allocation for that project to rolled out and provide support service for the officers on the ground. For instance, accommodation and infrastructure to accommodate the officers at the community level.

4.513 **Terms and Condition of CDOs and CPOs** - The Committee was concerned with the terms and conditions for the CDOs and CPOs for the constituency. There has being complain raised to the previous government, that there should be gratuity payment for the CDOs and CPOs. And the Committee want to know if government has any plan to look at the terms and condition for the CDOs and CPOs.

4.514 The ministry stated that for the current CDOs and CPOs, there is already a clause for the entitlement; which is 30 percent entitlement during the anniversary signing of the contracts around May to June 2019, and is already implemented. Except for the housing, still not resolved. However, the Public Service the contracting authority agreed to give 10 % housing allowance across the board.
Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology

Mission Statement

- To improve and strengthen the national institutional and administrative capacity of the division to be able to promote the protection, conservation and sustainable management of the use of the environment and natural resources of Solomon Islands.
- To provide an enabling environment for the socio-economic development of the Solomon Islands through application of necessary safeguards with regards to: sustainable use of natural resources; the provision of meteorological services; reducing the risk and impact of climate change and other hazards to communities; and leading and managing disaster preparedness and their consequences.

2021 Budget Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget Type</th>
<th>2021</th>
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<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
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<td><strong>Development Budget</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Appropriated</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>5,960,000</td>
<td>7,960,000</td>
<td>2,922,710</td>
<td>3,753,195</td>
<td>2,375,623</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Issues of Concern

The ministry provides written submission to the Committee:

4.515 Green initiatives for KGVI - The Committee was concerned with the plan programs under the ministry such as the KGVI green initiative.

4.516 The ministry stated that this initiative came under the low carbon emission and development program and it is supporting renewable energy as well as reforestation-planting trees around the school. This is not only working towards 2023 but also based on the small scale with different initiatives from the mitigation point of view. Hence, students will also involve in the whole process.

4.517 Rehabilitation of the Mataniko River – The Committee noted that there is no budget allocated in 2021 for the development plan and the status of work for 2021. It is important to encourage the flow of the river.

4.518 The ministry told the Committee that this has been captured in the work plan for this year and also reflected under the development budget under the environment and conservation program. The ministry is drawing on other external projects that also working around Mataniko River as well reaching out to partners to assist. Such as working closely with Solomon water towards removing the two sewage outfalls in the river. The ministry also using other existing initiatives that can also help in the rehabilitation process.

4.519 The resources available to the ministry are not consistent whilst the ministry is working with the people living along the Mataniko riverside. There are existing committees to work with and empower people living in those places to be responsible for littering.

4.520 East Rennel World Heritage Management Plan - Perhaps the ministry can brief the Committee on the impact (if there is any) of the oil spillage at the World Heritage.

4.521 This has come about during a round table meeting in 2017 between Government ministries; Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Fisheries, Ministry of Infrastructure, and Ministry of Education. To come up with a legislative framework to protect this place as these ministries see the important since there is no national world heritage law to protect under the protected areas act. A consultation has been carried out and required to develop a management plan to clear boundaries on the sites. This year’s priority is to come up with a management plan as required by a particular law to protect the site legally.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total expenditure</th>
<th>40,442,018</th>
<th>84,720,894</th>
<th>76,850,844</th>
<th>30,532,022</th>
<th>30,005,995</th>
<th>36,632,407</th>
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</thead>
</table>
4.522 **Relocation scheme for Communities affected by sea-level rise** - A concern raised by the Committee to look into ways to relocate people from the low-lying islands that are affected by the sea-level rise.

4.523 The ministry of environment and the ministry of land are working together with international immigration to come up with relocation guidelines. Currently, there is a team assessing in the Reef Islands to see issues people are facing. This needs a whole of government approach. At the moment the ministry is focusing on providing a second safe home.

4.524 **Oil spillage in Rennell** - The issue of the oil spill has become a great concern to what it has caused in Rennell.

4.525 On the 5th of February 2019, MV. Solomon Traders went ashore in Lavagu bay. An assessment of the environmental damages has been carried out and issues have been identified mainly around the locality of the Lavagu bay and proximity to East Rennell to the Heritage at that time. The ministry informed that this certainly has impacted and needs further assessment on what has been done.

4.526 The Committee was concerned and needs further information on the financial liability of this vessel.

4.527 The Government has based its decision on advice from expert lawyers with the support of the Australian marine lawyers that this has to exceed the banker’s convention. The ratification instrument of the banker’s convention by the governor has been accession and effective as of January 2021. Based on the advice, this is the best avenue to seek compensation. There are teams being put together to seek compensation from the third party of the vessel. Work on that is progressing.

4.528 The ministry was concerned about the environmental damage it caused in the sea and the insurance of the vessel to do the salvage worked to meet the expense of the experts. However, there is no work done as yet. The ministry’s focus is to make sure this is carried out.

4.529 **Climate change is real** - Climate change has been an issue not only in the Solomon Islands but globally. With such activities, the potential of logging and mining impacts can be felt by everyone. Any extraction processes of natural resources will disturb the environment. This is unavoidable.

4.530 Environmental degradation is very clear where the environmental activities have been taking place thus the ministry needs to rationalize both economic objectives and
environmental objectives. The government is currently prioritizing environmental action to be able to address some of the gaps. Basically to strengthen the control aspects and new areas concerning waste management. Managing the impacts is a challenge for both resource owners and the government. This is an area that needs commitments for the environmental practices from both resources owners and government.

4.531 **Development on riverside** - The Committee was concerned about the Chinese businesses that are building into the riverbank of the Mataniko River.

4.532 The ministry confirmed that these Chinese developers need development consent, hence the ministry is not aware of any consent that has been obtained. Of course, there are other processes within the HCC on the development itself. The ministry will continue to monitor and act upon the committee’s concerns.

**Committee comments**

4.533 The Committee encourages the ministry to follow up on the pending issues on the environmental damages caused by the M.V Solomon Trader.

4.534 The Committee encourages the ministry to be proactive on its climate change mandate and increase its development budget above 2% of the overall SIG development budget.

**Recommendation 20**

The Committee recommends:

(a) That the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology liaise with HCC to ensure that appropriate development consent was obtained in the developments encroaching the Mataniko riverside and appropriate remedial action is taken to enforce the law.

(b) That a project to clean up the Mataniko river.

(c) That the Government commission a study on the need to establish a climate fund.

(d) That the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology devise a plan and protocols for the reallocation of communities vulnerable to sea level rise.

(e) That the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology propose amendments to relevant laws to clarify governance for tubi.
Appendices

Committee Functions

The Committee is established under Standing Order 69; an Order made pursuant to the Constitution and has the functions, together with the necessary powers to discharge such,

(a) examine the accounts prescribed by Section 77 of the Public Financial Management Act 2013, together with the report of the Auditor General thereon, and to report the results of such examination to Parliament;

(b) establish the causes of any excesses over authorised expenditure and to make recommendations to Parliament on any appropriate measures to cater for such excesses of expenditure;

(c) examine such other accounts laid before Parliament as the Committee may think fit, together with any auditor’s report thereon and to report the results of such examination to Parliament;

(d) summon any public officer to give information on any explanation, or to produce any records or documents which the Committee may require in the performance of its duties;

(e) consider in detail the Draft Estimates prepared by the Government in support of the Annual Appropriation Bill;

(f) summon and examine the Accounting Officers and Technical staff of Ministries and Departments and require the production of background information and explanation in relation to Draft Estimates;

(g) report to Parliament in such a way that the report may inform Members prior to the Parliamentary debate thereon of the background to the Draft Estimates draw attention to those matters which the Committee feels should be the subject for such Parliamentary debate; and

(h) make such recommendations as the Committee sees fit and subsequently receive comments and reports on such recommendations from the Government.

Section 62, Constitution of Solomon Islands 1978.
Minutes of Proceedings

Committee Hearing into the 2021 Appropriation Bill 2021

Day 1 /2021

Monday 22nd March 2021, CR II, Parliament House 9:30 am

1. Members Present
Hon Douglas Ete, Chairman
Hon Matthew Wale, MP
Hon. John Deane Kuku, MP
Hon. Lilly Maefai, MP
Hon. Ethel Lency, MP
Hon. Alfred Efona, MP
Hon. Rick Houenipwela, MP
Hon. John Maneniaru, MP
Hon. Commins Mewa, MP

Secretary: Ms. Rachel Mckechnie- Deputy Auditor General
Mr. Johnson Lobo, Manager Audit

Secretariat
Mr. Heston Rence, Committee Secretariat
Mr. Wilson Orisi, Committee Secretariat
Mr. Whitmon Tabiru, Committee Secretariat
Ms. Salome Pilumate, Committee Secretariat
Ms. Ivory Iruha’a, Committee Secretariat
Mr Greg Kinimete, Hansard Reporter
Ms. Theresa Nori, Hansard Reporter
Ms. Hazel Fafale, Hansard Reporter
Ms. Sherilyn Ragoso, Hansard Reporter
Mr. Lawrence Scott, Senior Media Officer
2. Prayer
The MP for Small Malaita, Hon. Rick Houenipwela said the opening prayer.

3. Welcome and Opening Remarks
The Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee Hon. Douglas Ete made his opening remarks. The Chair informed the witnesses of the Parliamentary privileges.

4. Inquiry into the 2021 Appropriation Bill 2021
The Hearing proper commenced and the following witnesses from the Central Bank of Solomon Islands were admitted:

**Hearing 1 Witnesses**

i. Dr. Luke Forau, Governor  
ii. Mr. Michael Kikiolo, Management Advisor Policy  
iii. Ms. Louisa Baragamu, Chief Manager ERSD (Ag)

The witnesses made their presentations before the committee.  
The committee questioned the witnesses based on the evidences presented.  
The examination concluded

*Hearing suspends for lunch at 11:29am*

The Hearing proper resumed at 11:34am and the following witnesses from the Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce were admitted:

**Hearing 2 Witnesses**

i. Mr. Jeremy Bartlet, Chairman Board  
ii. Mr. Ricky Fu’o, Vice Chairman Board  
iii. Ms. Qila Tuhanuku, Board Member  
iv. Ms. Natalina Hong, Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

The witnesses made their presentations before the committee.  
The committee questioned the witnesses based on the evidences presented.  
The examination concluded.

*Hearing suspends for lunch at 12:46pm*

The Hearing proper resumed at 2:11pm and the following witnesses from the Solomon Islands National Provident Fund (SINPF) were admitted;
**Hearing 3 Witnesses**

i. Mr. Michael Wate, CEO/GM  
ii. Mr. Manasseh Taloafiri, HRM (Manager Human Resources & Corporate Services)  
iii. Ms. Areau Hivu, Manager Internal Audit  
iv. Ms. Rose Karoa, Manager Finance

The witnesses made their presentations before the committee.  
The committee questioned the witnesses based on the evidences presented.  
The examination concluded.

**Hearing suspends at 3:16pm**

The Hearing proper resumed at 4:15pm and the following witnesses from the Commercial Banks; BSP, POB, ANZ & BRED Bank were admitted;

**Hearing 4 Witnesses**

i. David Anderson, Country Head, BSP  
ii. Upul Hettiarachchi, CEO, POB  
iii. Ishmelly Kevu, Finance Manager, Bred Bank  
iv. Martin Beattie, CEO, ANZ

4. Adjournment:  
The committee adjourned hearing at 5:03pm

5. Documents Tabled  
   i. CBSI – State of the Economy and Economy outlook and risks.  
   ii. Private Sector Pathway for the COVID-19 Recovery.  
   iii. PAC Scope of Inquiry

Minutes of Proceedings  
Committee Inquiry into the 2021 Appropriation 2021

Day 2 /2021

**Tuesday 23rd March 2019, CR II, Parliament House 9: 22 am**

1. **Members Present**  
   Hon Douglas Ete - Chairman  
   Hon., John Dean Kuku, MP  
   Hon. Matthew Wale, MP

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Public Accounts Committee Report: April 2021
2. Welcome and Opening Remarks
The Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee Hon. Douglas Ete made his opening remarks. The Chair informed the witnesses of the Parliamentary privileges.

3. Inquiry into the 2021 Appropriation Bill 2021
The Hearing proper commenced and the following witnesses from the Australian High Commission were admitted:

Hearing 5 Witnesses

i. Ms. Sally Anne Vincent, Deputy Head of Mission, Australian High Commission
ii. Ms. Heather Randall, Second Secretary, Australian High Commission
iii. Ms. Laura Wilson, Third Secretary, Australian High Commission
iv. Ms. Skye Bale, Ag Counsellor, Australian High Commission

The witness made his presentations before the committee.
Hearing 6 Witnesses
i. Ms. Dalcy Ilala, Senior Country Officer, Asian Development Bank (ADB)
ii. Mr. Elmar Elbling, Unit Head, Asian Development Bank, (ADB)
iii. Ms. Elma Morsheda, Infrastructure Specialist, Asian Development Bank, (ADB)

The witnesses made their presentations before the committee.
The committee questioned the witnesses based on the evidences presented.
The examination concluded.

Hearing 7 Witnesses
i. Mr. MORIMOTO Yasuhiro, Japanese Ambassador, Japanese Embassy
ii. Ms. ASANO Yoko, First Secretary, Japanese Embassy

The witnesses made their presentations before the committee.
The committee questioned the witness based on the evidences presented.
The examination concluded.

Hearing 8 Witnesses
i. Mr. Coswal Nelson, Director Budget, MOFT
ii. Mr. Rictor Luaboe, Director, MOFT
iii. Mr. Mckinie Dentana, Permanent Secretary, MOFT
iv. Mr. Bruce. Philips, Auditor General, MOFT
v. Mr. John Vaefa, Budget Office, MOFT
vi. Mr. Kevis Kimasaru, Economic Reform Unit- Policy Analyst, MOFT
vii. Ms. Primula Kingmele, Economic Reform Unit, MOFT
viii. Mr. Joseph Dokekana, Inland Revenue Division, MOFT
ix. Mr. Jim Sutton, Customs Comptroller, MOFT

The witness made their presentations before the committee. The committee questioned the witness based on the evidences presented. The examination concluded.

*Hearing suspends at 4:21pm*

The Hearing proper continued at 4:47 pm and the following witnesses from the Commodity Export Marketing Authority (CEMA), Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation (SIBC) and Solomon Islands Postal Corporation (SIPC) were admitted:

**Hearing 9 Witnesses**

i. Mr. Patterson Siliota, General Manager (Ag), CEMA
ii. Mr. Kennedy Jim, Finance & Admin Manager, CEMA
iii. Mr. Ronald Buaoka, General Manager, SIBC
iv. Mr. Jacob Panada, Manager Finance (Ag), SIBC
v. Mr. Gideon Zoleveke, Chairman (Ag), SIPC
vi. Mr. Alfred Ghemu, CEO, SIPC
vii. Mr. Jeff Henz Hanuara, Director Operations, SIPC
viii. Mr. Nixon Ngira, Deputy Corporate Services, SIPC

The witness made their presentations before the committee. The committee questioned the witness based on the evidences presented. The examination concluded.

*Hearing adjourned at 5:45 pm*

4. Adjournment:
The committee adjourned hearing at 5:45 pm.

5. Documents Tabled
MOFT-PAC Generic Template
Talking Notes- Permanent Secretary, MOFT

Day 3/ 2021

Thursday 24th Marc 2021, CR II, Parliament House 9:41 am
1. **Members Present**
Hon. Douglas Ete, Chairman  
Hon. Matthew Wale, MP  
Hon. John Deane Kuku, MP  
Hon. Lilly Maefai, MP  
Hon. Ethel Lency, MP  
Hon. Rick Houenipwela, MP  
Hon. John Maneniaru, MP  
Hon. Commins Mewa, MP

**Secretary:** Ms. Rachel Mckechnie- Deputy Auditor General  
Ms. Mary Leo  
Mr. Johnson Lobo, Manager Audit

**Secretariat**
Mr. Gregory Fineanganofo, Director Committees  
Ms. Salome Pilumate, Committee Secretary  
Mr. Whitmon Tabiru, Committee Secretary  
Mr. Heston Rence, Committee Secretary  
Mr. Lawrence Scott, Senior Media Officer  
Mr. Philemon Loe, Principal Media Officer  
Ms. Theresa Nori, Hansard Reporter  
Ms. Sherilyn Ragoso, Hansard Reporter  
Mr. Greg Kinimete, Hansard Reporter  
Mrs. Esther Turangaluvu, Hansard Reporter  
Ms. Hazel Fafale, Hansard Reporter

Chair call the meeting to order at 9:41am

1. **Opening prayer said by MP for Small Malaita, Hon. Rick Houenipwela**

2. **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
The Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee Hon. Douglas Ete made his opening remarks. The Chair informed the witnesses of the Parliamentary privileges.

3. **Inquiry into the 2021 Appropriation Bill 2021**
The Hearing proper commenced and the following witnesses from the Ministry of National Planning and Development Coordination were admitted:

   **Hearing 10 Witnesses**
   i. Ms. Susan Sulu, Permanent Secretary  
   ii. Mr. Travis Ziku, DS- SPPG  
   iii. Mr. Roy Mae, DS- PDCMG
iv. Mr. Samuel Wara, Director- DCNAO
v. Mr. Michael Pasikeni, Director (SPBA)
vi. Mr. Danny Lenny, CPO (SPBO)
vii. Mr. Tammie Joshua, Deputy Director- NAO
viii. Ms. Gladys Asitewa, HRM
ix. Ms. Nichola K. Namo, Director- EPSD
x. Ms. Judith S. Vava, FC
xi. Mr. Lottie Vaise Kavea, PM-RDP
xii. Mr. Samuel Aruhu, Director- SDGD

The witnesses made their presentations before the committee.
The committee questioned the witnesses based on the evidences presented.
The examination concluded.

*Hearing suspends at 11:10 am*

The Hearing proper continued at 11:18 am and the following witnesses from the Ministry of Public Service were admitted:

**Hearing 11 Witnesses**
i. Mr. Nego Sisiolo, Permanent Secretary
ii. Mr. Lionel Menimer, Financial Controller
iii. Mr. Cornelius Tariga, Assistant HRMIS/ICT

The witnesses made their presentations before the committee.
The committee questioned the witnesses based on the evidences presented.
The examination concluded.

*Hearing suspends for lunch at 12:38 pm*

The Hearing proper continued at 1:41 pm and the following witnesses from the New Zealand High Commission were admitted:

**Hearing 12 Witnesses**
i. H.E Georgina Roberts
ii. Ms. Berris Olitisa, DPC
iii. Ms. Ambel Lusk, Second Secretary

The witnesses made their presentation before the Committee.
The Committee questioned the witnesses based on the evidence presented.
The examination concluded.

*Hearing suspends at 2:23 pm*
The Hearing proper continued at 2:27pm and the following witnesses from the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock were admitted:

**Hearing 13 Witnesses**

i. Ms. Ethel Frances, Permanent Secretary  
ii. Mr. Michael Ho’ota, DST  
iii. Mr. Francis Tsatsia, Director Bio-security  
iv. Mr. Peter Treva Rorahabua, DPLOD  
v. Mr. Paul Greg, FC  
vi. Mr. Andrew Melowlu, DoG (SU)  
vii. Mr. Barney Keqa, Director

The witnesses made their presentation before the Committee.
The Committee questioned the witnesses based on the evidence presented.
The examination concluded.

**Hearing suspends at 3:54pm**

The Hearing proper continued at 4:00pm and the following witnesses from the Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification, SIE and SIWA were admitted:

**Hearing 14 Witnesses**

i. Dr. Christopher Vehe, Permanent Secretary  
ii. Mr. Daniel Rove, Deputy Secretary  
iii. Mr. Duffy Ako, FC  
iv. Mr. Charlie Bepapa, Director Water  
v. Mr. John Korinihona, Director Energy  
vi. Mr. Ishmael Khegrasupa, Mines Division  
vii. Mr. Lawrence Balani, Petroleum Geologist  
viii. Mr. Fred Conning, Deputy Project Manager, Tina Project Office  
ix. Mr. Ian Gooden, Chief Executive Officer, SIWA  
x. Mr. Unni Kesavan, Chief Financial Officer, SIWA  
xi. Ms. Gloria Hong, Board Member, SIWA  
xii. Mr. Scravin Tongi, Chief Operations Officer, SIWA  
xiii. Mr. Donald Kiriau, CEO, Solomon Power  
xiv. Mr. Martin Sam, Chief Engineer, Solomon Power  
xv. Ms. Delilah Kekea Homelo, General Manager Customer Services, Solomon Power

The witnesses made their presentation before the Committee.
The Committee questioned the witnesses based on the evidence presented.
The examination concluded.
Hearing suspends at 5:33pm

The Hearing proper continued at 5:42pm and the following witnesses from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were admitted:

**Hearing 16 Witnesses**

i. Mr. Collin Beck, Permanent Secretary  
ii. Mr. Cornelius Walegerea, Deputy Secretary  
iii. Mr. George Tuti, Director  
iv. Ms. Alexandra Hilly, HRM  
v. Ms. Loise Daga, FC

The witnesses made their presentation before the Committee. The Committee questioned the witnesses based on the evidence presented. The examination concluded.

**Hearing adjourned at 6:28pm**

4. Adjournment:  
The committee adjourned hearing at 6:28pm

5. Documents Tabled  

i. Talking notes – MNPD  
ii. Development Partner Official Development Assistance - MNPD  
iii. Profiles of Development Partners in Solomon Islands – MNPD  
v. Talking notes – New Zealand High Commission  
v. Solomon Power Submission to the Public Accounts Committee:  
vi. PAC Generic Template – MMERE  
vii. An overview of MEHRD’s budget for Public Accounts Committee – MEHRD  
viii. PAC Generic Template- MEHRD  
ix. PAC Generic Template - MFAET

Day 4/2021

Thursday 25th March 2021, CR II, Parliament House 9:23 am

1. Members Present  
Hon. Douglas Ete, Chairman  
Hon. Matthew Wale, MP  
Hon. John Deane Kuku, MP  
Hon. Rick Houenipwela, MP  
Hon. Lily Maefae, MP

Public Accounts Committee Report: April 2021
2. Prayer
The Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development (MEHRD) Mr. Franco Rodie said the opening prayer.

3. Welcome and Opening Remarks
The Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee Hon. Douglas Ete made his opening remarks. The Chair informed the witnesses of the Parliamentary privileges.

4. Inquiry into the 2021 Appropriation Bill 2021
The Hearing proper commenced at 9:23am and the following witnesses from the Ministry of Education & Human Resources Development were admitted:

**Hearing 17 Witnesses**

i. Dr Franco Rodie, Permanent Secretary, MEHRD
ii. James Bosamata, Deputy Secretary, MEHRD
iii. Mr Joe. M. Ririmae, Deputy Secretary, MEHRD
iv. Clement Tito, Manager AUD, MEHRD
v. Linda Wate, Deputy Secretary Teachings & Learning Services, MEHRD
vi. Bryan Sida, CAO/TSD, MEHRD
vii. Mrs. Merrylyn Kodoleke, Director Finance, MEHRD
viii. Ms. Serah Piturara, Chief Asset Officer, MEHRD
ix. Mr. Chris Sahiri, DSES, MEHRD
x. Watson Buare, ADF, SINU
xi. Dr. Jack Maebuta, Vice Chancellor (Ag), SINU
xii. Shadrach Fanega, Pro Vice Chancellor
xiii. Constance Nasi, CEO, SITESA

The witnesses made their presentation before the Committee.
The Committee questioned the witnesses based on the evidence presented.
The examination concluded.

Hearing Suspended at 12:45am

The Hearing proper continued at 12:47am and the following witnesses from the Ministry of Infrastructure and Development were admitted:

Hearing 18 Witnesses
i. Mr. Stephen Maesiola, Permanent Secretary, MID
ii. Mr. Paul Nee, Financial Controller, MID
iii. Mr. Mike Qaqara, DCE (Ag), MID
iv. Mr. Elsie Nate, DME, MID
v. Ms. Philip Baura, DABMS, MID
vi. Mr. Paul Chris Hoasia, Deputy Director, MID
vii. Mr. Jimmy Nuake, Deputy Secretary Technical, MID
viii. Mr. Cris Afable Jr, Project Manager-CAUSE-HCC, CAUSE Project
ix. Mr. Samuel B, Project Manager, CAUSE Project
x. Ms. Lorraine Galo, HRM, MID
xi. Mr. Eranda Kotelawala, CEO, Solomon Ports Authority
xii. Mr. George Rausi, CFO, Solomon Ports Authority
xiii. Mr. Ronald Ivupitu, CPE, Solomon Ports Authority

The witnesses made their presentation before the Committee.
The Committee questioned the witnesses based on the evidence presented.
The examination concluded.

Hearing Suspended for lunch a 2:05pm.

The Hearing proper continued at 3:52pm and the following witnesses from the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet were admitted:

Hearing 19 Witnesses
The witnesses made their presentation before the Committee. The Committee questioned the witnesses based on the evidence presented. The examination concluded.

_Hearing proper adjourned 5:43pm_

5. **Adjournment:**
The committee adjourned hearing at 5:22 pm

6. **Documents Tabled**
   i. Talking notes – MEHRD
   ii. Talking Notes- SINU
   iii. SIPA Statement of Corporate Objectives 2020-2025– SIPA

**Day 5/ 2021**

**Friday 26th March 2021, CR II, Parliament House 9:29am**

1. **Members Present**
   Hon Douglas Ete, Chairman
   Hon Matthew Wale, MP
   Hon. Ethel Lency, MP
   Hon Rick Houenipwela, MP
   Hon. John Deane Kuku, MP
   Hon. Lilly Maefai, MP
   Hon. Alfred Efona, MP
   Hon. John Maneniaru, MP
   Hon. Commins Mewa, MP

   **Secretary:** Mr. Peter Lokay-Technical Advisor (Auditor General’s Office),
   Mr. Johnson Lobo, Manager Auditor
   Ms. Rachel McKechnie, DAG

   **Secretariat**
   Mr. Gregory Fineanganofo, Committee Secretary

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Public Accounts Committee Report: April 2021
1. Chair call meeting to order at 9:29am

2. Welcome and Opening Remarks
   The Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee Hon. Douglas Ete made his opening remarks. The Chair informed the witnesses of the Parliamentary privileges.

3. Inquiry into the 2021 Appropriation Bill 2021
   The Hearing proper commenced and the following witnesses from the Ministry of Health and Medical Services were admitted:

   **Hearing 20 Witnesses**

   1. Mrs. Pauline McNeil, Permanent Secretary
   2. Dr. Gregory Jilini, Deputy Secretary HC
   3. Mr. Lazarus Neko, Deputy Secretary Corporate
   4. Dr. George Malefoasi, CEO/NRH
   5. Mr. Peter Nelson, FC
   6. Ms. Esther Tekulu, Accountant
   7. Ms. Yvonne Lipa, Chief Accountant
   8. Ms. Clesovia Luse, Accountant
   9. Mr. Michael Larui, National Director of Nursing
   10. Mr. Layten Jacob, Procurement Manager
   11. Mr. Ivan Ghemu, Director Planning and Policy

   The witness made his presentation before the Committee. The Committee questioned the witness based on the evidence presented. The examination concluded.

   *Hearing Suspended for lunch at 11:37am*
Hearing resume at 1:09pm

The Hearing proper continued at 1:09pm and the following witnesses from the Ministry of Police, National Security and Correctional Services were admitted:

**Hearing 21 Witnesses**

i. Ms. Karen Galokale, Permanent Secretary
ii. Mr. Ian Bara, AC Corporate
iii. Mr. Gabriel Manelusi, Commissioner CSSI
iv. Mr. Mostyn Mangau, Commissioner RSIPF
v. Mr. Simpson Pogeava, AC NCCP, RSIPF
vi. Mr. Michael Naga, DCO - CSSI
vii. Mr. Haron Danny, Director Finance (Ag) CSSI
viii. Ms. Catherine Kere, DCA- CSSI
ix. Ms. Annie Pulekera, CA (Ag) / RSIPF Finance
x. Ms. Julia Twumasi, DSCS – MPNMSCS
xi. Ms. Nourah Ajaj, SIPDP Advisor

The witness made his presentation before the Committee.
The Committee questioned the witness based on the evidence presented.
The examination concluded.

**Hearing Suspended at 2:21pm**

The Hearing proper continued at 2:28pm and the following witnesses from the Ministry of Commerce, Industries, Labour and Immigration were admitted:

**Hearing 22 Witnesses**

i. Mr. Riley Mesepitu, Permanent Secretary
ii. Mr. Hunter Masuguria, Deputy Secretary (Admin/Planning)
iii. Mr. Eric George, Deputy Secretary (Technical)
iv. Mr. Chris Akosawa, Director of Immigration (Ag)
v. Mr. Geoffrey .D. Hou’ua, Director – Director- Consumer Affairs & Price
vi. Mr. Tobit Taravu, Deputy Registrar of Companies
vii. Mr. Eric Hurutara, Chief Commercial Officer
viii. Mr. Jacob Gala, Director Industries
ix. Mr. Andrew Idute’e, FC
x. Mr. Cornelius Donga, Director MEPD
xi. Mr. Josiah Manehia, Commissioner of Labour
xii. Ms. Lynette Dawheya, FI/MCILI

Public Accounts Committee Report: April 2021
The witnesses made his presentation before the Committee.
The Committee questioned the witness based on the evidence presented.
The examination concluded.

Hearing Suspended at 3:40pm

The Hearing proper continued at 3:50pm and the following witnesses from the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources were admitted:

**Hearing 23 Witnesses**

i. Dr. Christain Ramofafia, Permanent Secretary  
ii. Mr. Patterson Lusi, Deputy Secretary  
iii. Mr. E. Houiwala, Director Fisheries  
iv. Mr. B. Buga, Deputy Director .....  
v. Mr. J. Teri, Deputy Director Aquaculture  
vi. Mr. F. Tofuakalo, Deputy Director Offshore  
vii. Mr. A. Misibini, FC  
viii. Mr. R. Panda, Assistant Secretary Policy  
ix. Ms. Ivory Akao, Deputy Director Inshore  
x. Ms. Lisa Bugumamu, Assistant Secretary (Project)

The witness made his presentation before the Committee.
The Committee questioned the witness based on the evidence presented.
The examination concluded.

Hearing Suspended at 4:39pm

The Hearing proper continued at 4:42pm and the following witnesses from the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology were admitted:

**Hearing 24 Witnesses**

i. Mr. Melchior Mataki , Permanent Secretary  
ii. Mr. Jacob Akao, FC  
iii. Mr. Joseph Hurutarau, DDC  
iv. Mr. Allan Rangi, HRM  
v. Mr. B. Bago, NPC  
vi. Mr. Jonathan Tafiariiki, DDNDMO

The witnesses made their presentation before the Committee.
The Committee questioned the witnesses based on the evidence presented.
The examination concluded.

*Hearing Suspended at 5:30pm*

The Hearing proper continued at 5:32pm and the following witnesses from the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs were admitted:

**Hearing 25 Witnesses**

i. Dr. Paul Mae, Permanent Secretary  
ii. Mr. Andrew Houlia, Deputy Secretary  
iii. Mr. Andrew Talasasa, Deputy Registrar Magistrate Court  
iv. Mr. Chris Saul Koako, FC  
v. Mr. Clifton Tigi, CSPO  
vi. Mr. Ricky Iomea, DCM  
vii. Lynette Tora, CEO/NJ  
viii. Mr. Paul Kapakeni, FC/NJ  
ix. Ms. Emma Garo, Chief Magistrate

The witnesses made their presentation before the Committee.  
The Committee questioned the witnesses based on the evidence presented.  
The examination concluded.

Hearing adjourned at 6:34pm

**Adjournment:**  
The committee concluded hearing at pm

5. Documents Tabled During Hearings

i. PS Talking note – MPNSCS

**Day 6/ 2021**

**Monday 29th March 2021, CR II, Parliament House 2:20pm**

1. **Members Present**  
Hon. Douglas Ete, Chairman

Public Accounts Committee Report: April 2021
2. Prayer
No prayers.

3. Welcome and Opening Remarks
The Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee Hon. Douglas Ete made his opening remarks. The Chair informed the witnesses of the Parliamentary privileges.

4. Inquiry into the 2021 Appropriation Bill 2021
The Hearing proper commenced at 2:20pm and the following witnesses from the Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional strengthening were admitted:

Hearing 26 Witnesses
i. Stanley Dick Pirione, Permanent Secretary
ii. John N. Misitee, Deputy Secretary
iii. M. L. Sawaneh, PME
iv. L. Kopana, Financial Controller
v. D. Kiku, Human Resource Manager

The witnesses made their presentation before the Committee.
The Committee questioned the witnesses based on the evidence presented. The examination concluded.

*Hearing Suspended at 3:27pm*

The Hearing proper continued at 3:32pm and the following witnesses from the Ministry of Forestry and Research were admitted:

**Hearing 27 Witnesses**

i. Vaeno Vigulu, Permanent Secretary  
ii. Alfred Maaramo, CFO FDRD  
iii. Coleman Vuke, SAO Accounts  
iv. Jacob Kinai, Legal Officer  
v. Wilfred Atomea, DS/Admin

The witnesses made their presentation before the Committee. The Chairman raised a point of order. Committee is concern on the absence of other division heads not attending, e.g., Commissioner of Forests. The Chair requested all Division Heads to be present commenting that this Ministry is an important Ministry in the country. Chair rule that the Ministry to re-appear again tomorrow in the morning. Committee suspend hearings at 3:37pm.

*Hearing Suspended at 3:37pm*

The Hearing proper continued at 3:40pm and the following witnesses from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism were admitted:

**Hearing 28 Witnesses**

i. Andrew Nihopara, PS  
ii. Dennis Marita, Director Culture  
iii. Julie Fakaia, Assistant Curator  
iv. Kabini Afia, PCA/Archives  
v. Fiona Teama, Head/Sales & Marketing  
vi. Moses T, Deputy Secretary  
vii. Dagnal Derevake, Head/Corporate Services  
viii. Barney Sivoro, Director Tourism  
ix. Richard Rehomae, HRM/MCT  
x. Joseph Mamau, FC/MCT  
xii. Tony Heorake, Director Museum

The witnesses made their presentation before the Committee. The Committee questioned the witnesses based on the evidence presented. The examination concluded.
Hearing Suspended at 4:38pm

The Hearing proper continued at 4:42pm and the following witnesses from the Ministry of Home Affairs were admitted:

**Hearing 29 Witnesses**

i. Jeffry Sade Deve, PS  
ii. Freddie I Ota’au, DSC  
iii. Eric Kwalai, Chairman Citizenship Commission  
iv. William Misibini, Director CAD  
v. Patrick D, FC  
vi. Rodrick Kidoe, Registrar  
vii. Selison Faisi, DS

The witnesses made their presentation before the Committee.  
The Committee questioned the witnesses based on the evidence presented.  
The Chairman thank all witnesses for their attendance, the examination concluded.

Hearing adjourned at 5:22pm

**Adjournment:**  
The committee concluded hearing at 5:22pm

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**Day 7/ 2021**

**Tuesday 29th March 2021, CR II, Parliament House 9:28am**

**1. Members Present**  
Hon. Douglas Ete, Chairman  
Hon Matthew Wale, MP  
Hon. John Deane Kuku, MP  
Hon. Lilly Maefae, MP  
Hon. Rick Houenipwela, MP  
Hon. Ethel Lency, MP
Hon. Alfred Efona, MP
Hon. John Maneniaru, MP
Hon. Commins Mewa, MP

Secretary:
Mr. Peter Lokay-Technical Advisor (Auditor General’s Office),
Ms. Rachel Mckechnie- Deputy Auditor General
Mrs. Rhoda Tavalo -

Secretariat
Mr. Wilson Orisi, Committee Secretary
Mr. Whitmon Tabiru, Committee Secretary
Ms. Salome Pilumate, Committee Secretary
Mr., Committee Secretary
Mr., Committee Secretary
Mr. Greg Kinimete, Hansard Officer
Ms. Sherilyn Ragoso, Hansard Reporter
Mrs Esther Turangaluvu, Hansard Reporter
Ms. Theresa Nori, Hansard Reporter
Mr. Lawrence Scott, Media Officer

2. Prayer
The Permanent Secretary of Forestry and Research, Dr. Vaeno Vigulu said the opening prayer.

3. Welcome and Opening Remarks
The Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee Hon. Douglas Ete made his opening remarks. The Chair informed the witnesses of the Parliamentary privileges.

4. Inquiry into the 2021 Appropriation Bill 2021
The Hearing proper commenced at 8:28am and the following witnesses from the Ministry of Forestry and Research were admitted:

Hearing 30 Witnesses
i. Dr. Vaeno Vigulu, Permanent Secretary
ii. Mr. Wilfred Atomea, DS/A
iii. Mrs. Stephanie Rikoi, CFO-U
iv. Mr. Jacob Kinai, Legal Officer
v. Mr. Reeves Moveni, Commissioner Forestry
vi. Mr. Alfred Ma’aramo, Chief Forester/ Reforestation
vii. Mr. Fred Pitisopa, Deputy Commissioner/NHBG
viii. Mr. Coleman Vuke, Senior Accountant
ix. Mrs. Margrette Salini, Deputy Commissioner/Forest Service
x. Mr. Kevin Alu, Director Operation
xi. Mr. Gideon Solomon, Chief Forest/REDPT

The witnesses made their presentation before the Committee.
The Committee questioned the witnesses based on the evidence presented.
The examination concluded.

Hearing Suspended at 10:56am

The Hearing proper continued at 11:05am and the following witnesses from the Solomon Islands Electoral Commission were admitted:

Hearing 31 Witnesses
i. Mrs. Jane Waetara, CEO & Commissioner
ii. Mr. Raybek Rongomea, Finance Manager
iii. Mr. Fredrick Bosoboe, Operations Manager

The witnesses made their presentation before the Committee.
The Committee questioned the witnesses based on the evidence presented.
The examination concluded.

Hearing Suspended at 11:53am

The Hearing proper continued at 12:02pm and the following witnesses from the Ministry of Traditional Governance, Peace and Ecclesiastical Affairs were admitted:

Hearing 32 Witnesses
i. Mr. Peter Mae, Permanent Secretary
ii. Mr. Gregory Rofeta, Deputy Secretary Corporate
iii. Mr. Holmes Saeve, General Secretary (SICA)
iv. Mrs. Emily Kupenga, Deputy Secretary Technical
v. Ms. Jacqueline Tangirongo, HRM
vi. Mr. Aldrick Sese, FC
vii. Pr. John Subu, General Secretary (SIFGA)

The witnesses made their presentation before the Committee.
The Committee questioned the witnesses based on the evidence presented.
The examination concluded.

Hearing Suspended for lunch at 12:50pm
Hearing resume at 2:08pm

The Hearing proper continued at 2:08pm and the following witnesses from the Ministry of Rural Development were admitted:

**Hearing 33 Witnesses**

i. Mr. Allan Daonga, PS  
ii. Mr. Timothy Paoka, FC  
iii. Mr. Milfred Delemani, DRC  
iv. Mr. Hugo Hebala, DST  
v. Mrs. Joy Tealiklava, HRM

The witnesses made their presentation before the Committee.  
The Committee questioned the witnesses based on the evidence presented.  
The Chairman thanked all witnesses for their attendance, the examination concluded.

Hearing adjourned at 2:52 pm

The Hearing proper continued at 3:03pm and the following witnesses from the Ministry of Lands, Housing & Survey were admitted:

**Hearing 34 Witnesses**

i. Mr. Alan Mcneil, Commissioner of Lands  
ii. Mr. Buddley Ronnie, DST  
iii. Francis Hou, HRM  
iv. Stanley Waleanisia, PS  
v. Margaret Qoloni, DSA  
vi. Helena Siosi, VG  
vii. Jerold Musi, FC

The witnesses made their presentation before the Committee.  
The Committee questioned the witnesses based on the evidence presented.  
The Chairman thanked all witnesses for their attendance, the examination concluded.

Hearing adjourned at 4:15pm

5. Documents Tabled During Hearings

The Hearing proper continued at 4:20pm and the following witnesses from the Ministry of Women, Youth, and Children & Family Affairs were admitted:

**Hearing 35 Witnesses**

i. Mr. Dr Cedric Alependava, PS  
ii. Mr. Aaron Pitagae, DS  
iii. Mr. Malcolm Mataifo, FC  
iv. Mr. Loretta Ta’ake, CDD  
v. Vaela Ngai, Director (WDD)  
vi. Eddie Aife, HRM  
vii. A.Tipoki, YDD  
viii. Jackson Tasa, Director FDD  

The witnesses made their presentation before the Committee.  
The Committee questioned the witnesses based on the evidence presented.  
The Chairman thank all witnesses for their attendance, the examination concluded.  
Hearing adjourned at 5:10pm  

The Hearing proper continued at 5:15pm and the following witnesses from the Ministry of Communication and Aviation & Solomon Airlines Ltd & Solomon Islands Airport Corporation admitted:

**Hearing 36 Witnesses**

i. Mr. Luke Mua, DS  
ii. Mesach Korabule, Principal Technical Officer  
iii. Fred Dolah, FC  
iv. Moses Virivolomo, PS  
v. Cohen Sisimanu, Manager Commercial (Solomon Airport)  
vi. Peter Soqoilo, CFO  
vii. Brian Halisanau, DCA  
viii. Nairy Elosi, Manager (AVSEC)  
ix. Alwyn Danitofea, DCOM  
x. Bob Pollard, Director (SAC)  

The witnesses made their presentation before the Committee.  
The Committee questioned the witnesses based on the evidence presented.  
The Chairman thank all witnesses for their attendance, the examination concluded.  
Hearing adjourned at 6:15pm  

Public Accounts Committee Report: April 2021
Adjournment:  
The Committee concluded hearing at 6:17pm

Day 8/2021

Tuesday 31st March 2021, CR II, Parliament House 9:28am

1. Members Present  
Hon. Douglas Ete, Chairman  
Hon. Matthew Wale, MP  
Hon. John Deane Kuku, MP  
Hon. Lilly Maefae, MP  
Hon. Ethel Lency, MP  
Hon. Alfred Efona, MP  
Hon. John Maneniaru, MP

Secretary:  
Mr. Peter Lokay-Technical Advisor (Auditor General’s Office),  
Ms. Rachel Mckechnie- Deputy Auditor General

Secretariat  
Mr. Wilson Ani, Committee Secretary  
Ms. Ivory Iruha’a, Committee Secretary  
Ms. Salome Pilumate, Committee Secretary  
Mr. Heston Rence, Committee Secretary  
Mr. Greg Kinimete, Hansard Officer  
Mr. Lawrence Scott, Media Officer

2. Prayer  
Member of Parliament for Central Honiara, Hon. Alfred Efona said the opening prayer.

3. Welcome and Opening Remarks  
The Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee Hon. Douglas Ete made his opening remarks. The Chair informed the witnesses of the Parliamentary privileges.

4. Inquiry into the 2021 Appropriation Bill 2021
The Hearing proper commenced at 9:21am and the following witnesses from the Development Bank of Solomon Islands were admitted:

**Hearing 37 Witnesses**

i. Tukama Bovoro, Interim CEO  
ii. Mr. Stanley Peter Havae, Relationship Manager  
iii. Mr. Peter Soqilo, Board Director

The witnesses made their presentation before the Committee. The Committee questioned the witnesses based on the evidence presented. The examination concluded.

*Hearing concluded at 10:28am*
List of Submissions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Author</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>CBSI – State of the Economy and Economy outlook and risks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>SICCI - Private Sector Pathway for the COVID-19 Recovery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>SINPF – PAC Scope of Inquiry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>WB – Solomon Islands Recent Developments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>WB – Press Release No.21/62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>MNPD – Briefing notes on Ministry Mandates, Key Updates and Analysis for Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Hearing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>OPMC – 2023 Pacific Games Update</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>OPMC- National Hosting Authority XVII 2023 Pacific Games- Brief Update-March 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>MCT-ANNUAL WORK PLAN 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>MCT – SOLOMON ISLANDS TOURISM RECOVERY-FIVE POINT PLAN 2021-2030 MCT-TOURISM SOLOMONS BALANCE SHEET AS OF 31ST DECEMBER 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>CBSI – EMPLOYMENT INDICATORS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>MNPD - Development Partner Official Development Assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>MNPD - Profiles of Development Partners in Solomon Islands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>New Zealand / Solomon Islands Partnership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>MEHRD – An overview of MEHRD’s budget for Public Accounts Committee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>SINU – CONCEPT NOTE: FACULTIES, SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, ACADEMY AND DEPARTMENTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.</td>
<td>SINU–Solomon Islands National University Organisational Structure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
22. Solomon Water – PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE BRIEFING, 24 March 2021
23. MID - HEAD 277: INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT
24. MID - HEAD 477: INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT
25. MID - Franchise Shipping Services Routes: Quarter 1 2021 – Actual Payment
26. MHMS – NEW POLICY FUNDING PROPOSAL FOR THE 2021 BUDGET on RENOVATION, EXPANSION and COOLANT SYSTEM OF THE NATIONAL MEDICAL STORE BUILDING
27. MHMS – NEW POLICY FUNDING PROPOSAL FOR THE 2021 BUDGET on BID APPLICATION FOR THE SUPPORT TO DISASTER RELIEF SUB HEAD FOR THE COVID-19 OPERATION
28. MHMS – NEW POLICY FUNDING PROPOSAL FOR THE 2021 BUDGET on Payment of Capex-Specialized Equipment (CT Scan) NRH Radiology Department
29. A BRIEF PREPARED FOR PAC ON THE HEARING INTO 2021 BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR MFMR HEAD 290: SIG RECURRANT ESTIMATES 2021
30. MPTGEA – MINISTRY OF TRADITIONAL GOVERNANCE, PEACE AND ECCLESIASTICAL AFFAIRS STATEMENT/ SUBMISSION TO THE PARLIAMENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE FY 2021 HEARING ON HEAD 294 AND HEAD 494.
31. MPTGEA – NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM FOR CHURCH LEADERS ON ECCLESISTICAL AFFAIRS IN SOLOMON ISLANDS. COMMUNIQUE STATEMENT.
32. OPMC – NOTES ON OPMC PRESENTATION TO THE PAC ON 2020 SB 2020
34. MEHRD – PS Talking Notes
35. SINU – Vice Chancellor (Ag) Talking Notes.
36. SIPA STATEMENT OF CORPORATE OBJECTIVES 2020 – 2025
38. MCILI – Budget in Brief – 2021
39. MPNCS- PS Talking notes
41. MCILI PAC FOR 2021 AB 2021
42. OOSI SALARY ALLOCATION OF OOSI’S 2021 BUDGET
43. MECCDM UPDATE ON COVID-19 OPERATIONS LED BY NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT OFFICE ON BEHALF OF THE NATIONAL DISASTER COUNCIL
   MWYCFA BRIEFING FOR PAC
44. MWYCFA BRIEFING FOR PAC, WOMENS DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
45. MHA PS TAKING NOTES
46. SIEC CORPORATE PLAN 2019-2023
   SIEC SUMMARY OF ELECTROL REFORM STRATEGY FRAMEWORK 2019-2023
47. OAG – Office of the Auditor General submission to the Public Accounts Committee
48. ADB: Talking Notes
49. SICCI: Temporary Facebook Ban Survey
50.
51. Not Available
53. SICCI: Solomon Islands Private Sector Scan Report
54. Not Available
55. SICCI: Default Report: Business Confidence Survey 2020
56. Australian High Commission (AHC) Overview of Australia’s Assistance to Solomon Islands
58. MMERE: Service Area Findings
59. MMERE: Gold Ridge Review- Service Area 2 Teleconference Discussion Points
60. MMERE: Service Area 3 Gold Ridge FS Review-Derisk Comments
61. MMERE: Derisk FS_2.5 MTPA Cash Flow Model
62. MRD: PAC Talking Notes
63. MRD: Corporate Plan 2020-2023
64. MCA: Head 489 Communication and Aviation
65. DBSI: Corporate Profile
List of PAC Generic Submissions

1. MALD – PAC Generic Template 221 AB 2021
2. MNPD – PAC Generic Template
3. MRD – PAC Generic Template
4. MPNCS – PAC Generic Template
5. MOFT- PAC Generic Template
6. MPS- PAC Generic Template
7. MEHRD – PAC Generic Template
8. MFR- PAC Generic Template
9. MMERE- PAC Generic Template
10. MECCDM-PAC Generic Template
11. MJLA – PAC Generic Template
12. MFAET – PAC Generic Template
13. MID- PAC Generic Template
14. MCILI- PAC Generic Template
15. MHMS-PAC Generic Template
16. MTGPE-PAC Generic Template
17. MFMR- PAC Generic Template
18. MWYCF-PAC Generic Template
19. National Judiciary- PAC Generic Template
20. OAG- PAC Generic Template
21. OGG- PAC Generic Template
22. OOO- PAC Generic Template
23. NPO- PAC Generic Template
24. OPMC- PAC Generic Template
25. MPGIS- PAC Generic Template
26. MLHS- PAC Generic Template
27. MCT- PAC Generic Template
28. MCA- PAC Generic Template
29. MHA- PAC Generic Template