National Parliament of Solomon Islands

Bills and Legislation Committee

Committee Report

Report on the Telecommunications (Amendment) Bill 2021 (No. 3 of 2021)

NP-Paper No. 23 of 2021
Presented on 28 September, 2021
National Parliament Office
COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The current members of the Bills and Legislation Committee (11th Parliament) are:

Hon. John Maneniaru, MP (Chairman)
Hon. Matthew Cooper Wale, MP
Hon. John Dean Kuku, MP
Hon. Stanley Festus Sofu, MP
Hon. Rick Houenipwela, MP
Hon. Derrick Rawcliff Manuari, MP
Hon. Sam Shemuel Iduri, MP
Hon. Peter Kenilorea Jnr, MP
Hon. Lilly Maefai, MP

Secretariat:
Committee's Secretariat

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Bills and Legislation Committee
National Parliament of Solomon Islands
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CHAIR’S FOREWORD

Mr. Speaker,

Pursuant to Standing Orders No. 71 (g) of the National Parliament of Solomon Islands, it is an honour and pleasure for me Sir, to present the Report of the Bills and Legislation Committee on the Inquiry into the Telecommunications (Amendment) Bill 2021 for laying before Parliament.

Hon. John Maneniaru, MP
Chairman
Bills and Legislation Committee

28 Sept 2021
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Committee conducted its hearings into the Telecommunications (Amendment) Bill 2021 on the 13th of July then from the 4th and concluded on the 11th of August 2021.

The object of the Bill is to amend the *Telecommunications Act 2009* to ensure that all SIM-cards are registered.

It establishes the minimum age for purchasing SIM-cards (15 yrs) and requires persons to provide valid ID when purchasing the SIM-cards from service providers or their agents.

The service providers and agents will be responsible for establishing an electronic registry for recording accurate information to identify the purchasers.

The Committee after its inquiry into the Amendment Bill held that;

1. The Amendment Bill had no clear policy guideline.
2. Its drafting is not clearly structured and not compatible with the Principle Act.

The Committee therefore recommends the;

1. Telecommunications (Amendment) Bill 2021 (No.3 of 2021) be withdrawn.
2. The Ministry be encouraged to commission fresh legislative review process under a term of reference that provides for the inclusion of all relevant stakeholders in a strategic working group, mandated to develop clearer policy positions and drafting instructions on SIM Card registration for Solomon Islands.
1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Report presents the findings and recommendations by the Bills and Legislation Committee ('the Committee') after inquiring into the Telecommunications (Amendment) Bill 2021 ('the Amendment Bill') as required under the Standing Orders of the National Parliament of Solomon Islands ('the Standing Orders').

The Bill seeks is to amend the Telecommunications Act 2009 to ensure that all SIM-cards are registered. It establishes the minimum age for purchasing SIM cards (15 yrs) and requires persons to provide valid ID when purchasing the SIM cards from service providers or their agents. The service providers and agents will be responsible for establishing an electronic registry for recording accurate information to identify the purchasers.

The hearings into the Bill was held from the 13 of July and on the 4 and 5 of August. Final hearings were held on the 10 and 11 of August. Relevant stakeholders\(^1\) were invited before the Committee to make presentations or provide submissions on the contents, policy matters, and intentions of the Bill. The List of witnesses that appeared before the Committee and minutes of these proceedings are contained in Appendices 1 and 2.

Following its first initial hearing, the Committee’s inquiry was suspended with the suggestion that the Ministry of Communication consider issues raised by the Committee during the hearing. The Committee therefore decided that it will not resume the inquiry until it has received a response from the Ministry as to what they propose to do. The Committee prefers that the Bill be withdrawn and redrafted to include the points raised by the Committee, so that the notice period for a new Bill is not drawn out, this would be a neater way than proposing amendments to the current Bill. The Committee could then conduct its inquiry on a new Bill with the remaining stakeholders, and include the findings from the initial inquiry into the report.

\(^1\)See Appendix 1
2.0 ISSUES WITH THE BILL

The Committees' scrutiny of the Amendment Bill focused on the Government policies which necessitated the initiating of the Amendment Bill and how these policies are reflected in the drafting.

The Telecommunications Commission Solomon Islands (TCSI) when appearing before the Committee presented an articulated submission on the Amendment Bill. The Committee resolved to adopt most of the issues raised in their submission, in this report.

2.1 Administration of the Act

When appearing before the Committee the TCSI expressed that it was not properly consulted or included in the discussions and consultations on the Amendment Bill. TCSI expressed that as far as legislative reforms are concerned, it is not a stakeholder per se, but rather an integral party to any such processes. Whilst the Telecommunications Act of 2009 ("Act") falls under the purview of the Ministry of Communications and Aviation ("Ministry"), the administrative responsibility of the Act belongs to the Commission. The Commission is solely responsible for the administration of the Act and thus should be jointly responsible for the Bill.

Section 5, 6 and 7 of the Act outline the duties, functions and powers of the Minister, the Commission and the Commissioner as they relate to the sector. Section 6 (5) and (6) provides for the process in relation to the exercise of the Commission’s functions, duties and powers. Similarly, section 5(3) of the Act provides the intricate relationship between the Commissioner and the Minister in terms of considerations on the matters arising from the Act, the development of telecommunication policy, as well as reviews and legislative reforms. This requirement of the Act was ignored altogether by the developers of the Amendment Bill, including the government officials and legal drafters.

2.2 Policy Issues

a) No clear policy document or basis for the Amendment Bill

In its submission\(^2\) to the Committee, TCSI stated that the Amendment Bill does not have relevant policy documents that support it. There is no research paper, no policy position, and no legislative review report that articulates the basis for which such an amendment is necessary. The policy for which this amendment is designed and developed does not exist. And this is clearly reflected in the

\(^2\) TCSI, Submission, pg. 4
language of the Bill, the law that each sections propose, and the disjointed manner by which the whole Bill is strung together.

On the start of the hearings Committee members query why do we need to register? What is the policy on this? Members express that we are registering a property that is owned by the service providers and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The Committee learned that the purchaser of the SIM card is not the legal owner of SIM card as it belongs to the telecommunications provider. The phone number assigned to the purchaser is owned by the government.

b) Confusion between the bill and yet to be tabled future bill on cybersecurity

The Committee noted that there was confusion between the bill and is yet to be presented future bill on cyber security on both the policy basis for the bill and the objectives of the same. This confusion spanned across the spectrum of witnesses from both the private and public sectors who appeared before the Committee. Witnesses have different ideas and views on a variety of issues. Some witnesses praised the register of SIM card holders to be established in the bill as a great initiative to promote ID based services, including in the finance sector. The draft however did not speak of using the register in such a manner. Other witnesses highlighted the value of the bill as promoting online banking, e-commerce, and e-government services. The Committee noted that these services are already operational without the SIM card registration. Furthermore, the Committee learned that the vast majority of handsets in use throughout the nation are not smart phones with internet connection.

The bill underscores the confidentiality of the register which defeats the purpose of a register that can be used for verification of identity purposes in the delivery of e-services.

On matters of security and tracking of individuals suspected of perpetrating a crime, the Committee heard that telecommunication providers already have a process in place which involves the courts and the issuance of court orders for them to disclose information in a police investigation. The Committee learned that the number of instances which they provided information to the police under order to the police were not numerous. The Committee learned that a yet to be tabled cybersecurity bill would cover the use of the internet more broadly. It was clear to the Committee that there is confusion between the current bill and any future cybersecurity bill. This will need to be sorted.
c) No proper legislative review process followed to develop the Amendment Bill

TCSI submitted that the Amendment Bill is not the product of a proper legislative review process. In addition to the lack of supporting policy documentation on this Bill, the legislative process adopted to introduce such a striking reform to an already established piece of legislation was weak and inadequate and cannot justify this Amendment Bill as being the product of sound public policy processes that is integral to any government and parliamentary system.

Stakeholders (more specifically service providers) were never included in the development stages of the legislative processes. They were merely consulted at the tail-end of the exercise and on a draft amendment Bill not for the purposes of developing or checking the ideas on SIM Card registration, but rather to inform them that changes to the Telecommunications Act is inevitable.

d) Registration of existing subscribers

During discussions on the phase of registration, the Committee identified that the Amendment Bill did not clearly spell out the registration of existing SIM card holders. It only provides for registration of new SIM cards. When clarification was sought from the AG Chambers legal drafts counsels they revealed that the instructions were on the registration of existing SIM cards only. The Ministry’s officials admitted that this is an oversight. The Committee is of the view that this ambiguity unfortunately will defeat the main policy objective of the Amendment Bill in ensuring that all SIM cards are registered.

e) Need for better consideration of similar regulations in the region including PNG and Fiji

According to TCSI, worldwide SIM Card registration is in place in around 155 countries. In the region, it is provided for Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Tonga and similar mechanisms is being considered by Vanuatu. These countries provide for SIM card registration as a regulation to their respective telecommunications legislation. They have clearly identified provisions that set out the essential laws – SIM card registration system, accepted national identification forms, registration of current subscribers, registration for locals, registration for foreigners etc. There is enormous value in considering this approach. These do not appear to have been considered at all by the drafter of the Amendment Bill now before Parliament.
f) Protection of confidential information and threshold set by section 96

TCSI submitted that an integral feature of the Telecommunications Act is its emphasis on confidentiality, and the protection of confidential information of service providers, subscriber data and messages. This protection is fundamental to the Act and is directly connected to the principle of the right to privacy protected by the Constitution of Solomon Islands. It is also what lends the regime the level of trust, faith and confidence stakeholders need to have in telecommunications. This protection is provided primarily for in section 74. The right of government and the power of the Prime Minister to require the release of confidential information under law, in accordance with section 96 and 97 of the Act (by the Prime Minister by High Court Order). Section 96 therefore is essentially a statutory threshold which sets the condition that must be satisfied, if confidential information protected under section 73 is to be lawfully made available. There is also a reason why specific circumstance, mechanism and situations must exist before confidentiality protection can be lawfully permitted under the Act, and that is, the full and total confidence in the confidentiality of personal information, is paramount integrity.

2.3 Drafting Issues

It is evident that the Amendment Bill was not based on any clearly structured drafting instruction that sought to provide legal drafters in the Attorney General’s Chambers a clear outline of what was needed. The legal drafters claimed to have received fragmented and sporadic instructions on what to include, what to remove, what to amend, from time to time. And this is evident in the construction, coherence and semantics of the Amendment Bill. It would be a terrible mismatch, and an unfortunate combination of incompatible pieces of law, if the Amendment Bill was allowed to become part of the Principal Act. The Committee cannot support the Bill in its current form.

There is a need for consistency in the draft, particularly in the clauses dealing with the valid ID requirements. There needs to be more explicit uniformed connection between the purchaser of SIM cards and the valid IDs he or she is required to present. There is inconsistency in this link throughout the draft. There is a need for clarity in the draft with no room for ambiguity, particularly when dealing with identity of persons.

The following clauses highlight some of the incompatible drafting issues in the Amendment Bill.
g) Clause 78A—Definition: ‘sell a SIM-card’

The Committee observed that according to the definition for ‘sell’ in the draft bill it includes issuing SIM-cards. A scenario presented is when corporate bodies register SIM cards under their names and issue phones to its staff, therefore person using the phone cannot be identified. The Committee sensed that this was not part of the policy instructions and an omission. The Committee suggested that a clear definition to differentiate individuals and body corporate be drafted in.

h) Clause 78B – Registration of SIM Card

Proposed law:
- This clause requires every service provider to establish a Register for recording subscriber information, in electronic form and accessible by all service providers and agents
- Service provider and agent must enter information in 78D and 78F (d)
- 78D (a) and (b) (name, address, age) (valid ID)
- 78D(c) (examination must be done and if they are satisfied with ID and age then enter into register)

Issue with proposed law:
The Committee heard that there are numerous technological issues that are involved in SIM Card registration which may or may not have been considered by the drafters of this Amendment Bill. As such, proper consultation with service providers is necessary. It is suggested that this clause should also contain the basis by which registration of SIM card is mandatory. For instance, whether operators capture personal information upon purchase of SIM cards and share this with government agencies on demand; or whether operators capture personal information and proactively share the same with government agencies or whether operators capture information and validate this against a central government database. The Committee agrees with the points raised by witnesses that personal information that is collected must be protected and not left open to various vulnerabilities.

i) 78C – No sale of SIM card except with section 78D and 78F

Proposed law:
This clause restricts sale of SIM cards to anyone under the age of 18 years, but then creates an exception (section 78F) for persons younger than 18 but older than 15.
Issue with proposed law:

The committee is of the view that the dual provision on age eligibility is redundant. It is noted that the restriction of sale to a 15yo is not created as exception per se, but rather an ambiguous extension of the rule. The Committee is of the opinion this does not lead to good law and the drafting needs to be tightened up. Secondly, what is being regulated is the SALE of SIM Cards by service providers and agents. It only applies to service providers and agents and not to anyone else. This means this regulation is technically a restriction on service providers and agents at the “point of sale”. Conversely, sale by anyone else at any other time, does not fall under this regulation. Accordingly, in the opinion of the Committee the penalty of 500K penalty points, 10-year imprisonment or both is extremely excessive.

Further considerations:

The Committee noted that the TCSI submitted that there are new Parental Control Measures and Mechanisms which have been introduced by many mobile and internet tools and applications, which should be considered by the drafters of this Amendment Bill. In this regard, the Committee agrees with the view expressed by the TCSI that the Amendment Bill ignores the fact that contemporary parents and guardians permit their children to own phones and possess SIM-cards at an increasingly young age, and for various reasons including the need to stay in touch, to track location, allow online access. As such, the Committee stresses that regulating SIM-card registration should be done with this in mind.

In line with the issues raised earlier in this report about the need for consistency when it comes to ID, the Committee is of the view that the Amendment Bill should be unambiguous and set the minimum age for sale of SIM-cards to minors (and for the purposes of the Act, determine the age of a minor e.g. 15 years and above (passports, UMI-Save, Student ID) or 18 years and above (passports, driver licence, UMI-Save, Student ID, BVR card, NPF Card) or the age when a person can obtain a formal identification card) and similar to the Regulation in other countries, require parental or guardian signatory for minors.

j) Clause 78D – Sale of SIM-card to 18 years or older

Proposed law:

• Buyer must provide personal information including Name, Address, and Age
• Buyer must provide Valid ID
• Service provider and agent must be satisfied with ID
• Information to be entered into the Register:
- Name and address of person
- Type of ID presented
- Identification number on the ID
- Date of expiry of the ID
- For a letter (name and status of author of letter, date of signature)

Issue with proposed law:

The Committee noted this clause is the first of four categories of identification that the Amendment Bill creates. The Committee agrees with the TCSI that from a drafting point of view, these provisions are clumsy, ambiguous and could be very difficult to implement. It would seem that SIM card registration is being introduced in a legal void – where there is now an attempt at mandating SIM card registration without a national identity framework or a privacy or data protection framework. Finally, the Committee underscores that there are no safeguards guaranteeing the protection of personal information collected are not open to various vulnerabilities.

k) Clause 78E – Valid ID for purchase of SIM-card under section 78D

Proposed law:

- Statutory IDs accepted from persons 18yo and above (Formal IDs according to Statutory Requirements)
  - BVR Card valid for less than 5 years
  - Student ID of tertiary education (excludes secondary school students)
  - A current Driver’s Licence (18 years and above)
  - An SINPF ID card
  - A valid passport
- Informal IDs accepted from persons 18 years and above
  - A certified photograph + statutory declaration from certifying Commissioner
  - Letter from Employer (6 months valid)
  - Letter from School Principal (6 months valid)
  - Student ID
  - Letter from L6 provincial government officer (6 months valid)
  - Letter from constituency project officer or constituency development officer (6 months valid)
  - Copy of birth record particulars
  - Copy of Baptism Certificate
- Letter from Minister of Religion (6 months valid)
- Letter from a member of local court clerk from the buyers specific jurisdiction (6 months valid)

**Issue with proposed law:**
The Committee noted that this clause provides for the second and third of four categories for identification the Amendment Bill creates. The Committee heard that studies have shown that where there are too many forms of informal forms of identification including letters and statutory declarations, the subscriber system is vulnerable to identity theft, incorrect identification records, and therefore the likelihood of high numbers of incorrect identities. This has been the case in many countries. Unless a SIM Card registration is robust, the subscriber database will be unreliable.

**I) Clause 78F – Sale of SIM-card to person aged between 15 and 18**
This clause provides sale of SIM Cards to those between the age of 15 and 18, as distinct from those who are 18 years and older. The Committee is of the view that the rationale behind the creation of this category is unclear and should be removed.

**m) Clause 78G – Valid ID for purchase of SIM card under section 78F**
This clause is the fourth category of requirement for ID provided for by the Act. It is premised on the above clause 78F. The Committee also suggests that it be removed.

**n) Clause 78H – Content of valid ID that is a letter**
The Committee agrees with the proposals that this clause diminishes the value of a properly issued, formal or official identification document and therefore should be deleted as well.

**o) Clause 78I – Loss of SIM card**
This clause effectively establishes another complex layer of administration requirements on the agent, the service provider and the police, that is not only taxing, but excessive as a precondition to the reissuance of a new SIM Card. Arguably, it is already an established convention and accepted practice that if a phone is stolen, the owner attends at the service provider to request that their SIM Card be deactivated as has been the scenario presented to the Committee by service providers. The Committee is of the view that this is an administrative process that should not be a requirement in legislation.
p) Clause 78J – Offence of providing false or misleading information

The Committee heard that this provision is already protected under the Act. As such it is suggested that it should be removed from the draft bill.

q) Clause 78K – Confidential Information

Proposed law:

This clause provides for the protection of SIM Card subscriber information, and provides that where a service provider, or agent or employee or consultant of a service provider or agent discloses any information, the breach would attract 500,000 penalty units or 10 years imprisonment or both.

Issues with proposed law:

The Committee noted that confidential information is already protected by the Act as well as penalty for breaches of confidentiality. Technical and technological issues pertaining to the way in which information is stored and kept confidential must be properly determined in order to ensure that service providers and agents are capable to complying with confidentiality requirements. The Committee noted further that the penalty issued in this section is unreasonably excessive and inconsistent with the scale of penalties already provided for by the bill.

Recommendations

1. The Committee recommends the Telecommunications (Amendment) Bill 2021 (No.3 of 2021) be withdrawn in its entirety.

2. The Ministry be encouraged to commission fresh legislative review process under a term of reference that provides for the inclusion of all relevant stakeholders in a strategic working group, mandated to develop clearer policy positions and drafting instructions on SIM Card registration for Solomon Islands.

END OF REPORT
3.0 APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Witnesses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position &amp; Organisation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 13 July 2021</td>
<td>Ms. Ha’a Haurae,</td>
<td>Legislative Drafting Council, AGC</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ms. Victoria Aitken,</td>
<td>Legal Drafts Person, AGC</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr. Luke. Mua,</td>
<td>Deputy Secretary, MCA</td>
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<td>Mr. Alwyn. Danitofoa,</td>
<td>Director Communications, MCA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 4 August 2021</td>
<td>Ms. Christina Lasaqa</td>
<td>CEO (Ag), Solomon Telekom</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr. Wickley Faga</td>
<td>Legal Officer, Solomon Telekom</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr. Arvind Autar</td>
<td>TECH Manager, B-mobile Ltd</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr. Keith Bates</td>
<td>HR Manager, B-mobile Ltd</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr. Andrew Peter</td>
<td>National Sales, B-mobile Ltd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 5 August 2021</td>
<td>Mr Calvin Ziru</td>
<td>Interim Independent Regulator TCSI</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr Aaron Hopa</td>
<td>Manager Human Resource, TCSI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 10 August 2021</td>
<td>Mr Calvin Ziru</td>
<td>Interim Independent Regulator TCSI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 11 August 2021</td>
<td>Mrs. Linda Folia</td>
<td>Manager Financial Inclusion Unit, CBSI</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr. Junior Faka</td>
<td>Analyst, CBSI</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr. Marlon Houkaraua</td>
<td>Management Advisor, CBSI</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr. Michael Wate</td>
<td>Chief Executive Officer (CEO), SINPF</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr. Wilson Hano</td>
<td>Manager Operations, SINPF</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr. Don Fakarii</td>
<td>Manager IT, SINPF</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr. Stanley Hanu</td>
<td>Manager Legal Services, SINPF</td>
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<td>Mr. Giddings Qiço</td>
<td>Relieving Country Manager, BSP</td>
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Appendix 2: Minutes of Proceedings

NATIONAL PARLIAMENT OF SOLOMON ISLANDS

BILL AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

Minutes of Proceedings
Committee Hearing into the Telecommunications (Amendment) Bill 2021

Day 1 /2021

Friday 13th July 2021, CR II, Parliament House 10:18 am

1. Members Present
Hon. John Maneniaru, MP- Chairman
Hon. Matthew Wale, MP
Hon. Lily Maeafi, MP
Hon. Rick Houenipwela, MP
Hon. Peter Kenilorea Jr, MP

Absent/Apology
Hon. John Deane Kuku, MP
Hon. Stanley Sofu, MP
Hon. Derrick Manuari
Hon. Sam Shamuel Iduri

Secretariat
Mr. Heston Rence, Committee Secretary
Ms. Cordney Wale, Committee Secretary
Ms. Hazel Fafale, Hansard Reporter
Mr. Philemon Loe, Principal Media Officer

2. Prayer
The MP for East Areare, Hon. Peter Kenilorea Jnr said the opening prayer.

3. Welcome and Opening Remarks
The Chairman of the Bills and Legislation Committee, Hon. John Maneniaru made his opening remarks. The Chair informed the witnesses of the Parliamentary privileges.

4. Inquiry into the Telecommunication (Amendment) Bill 2021 (No.3 of 2021)
The Hearing proper commenced and the following witnesses from the Ministry of Communication and Aviation and Legal drafts persons from the Attorney General’s Chamber were admitted:

Hearing 1 Witnesses

i. Ms. Ha’a Haurae, Legislative Drafting Council, AGC
ii. Ms. Victoria Aitken, Legal Drafts Person, AGC
iii. Mr. L. Mua, Deputy Secretary, MCA
iv. Mr. Alwyn. Danitofea, Director Communications, MCA

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

4. Closing prayer
Closing prayer said by Hon. Houenipwela.

5. Adjournment:
The committee adjourned hearing at 1:23 pm

6. Documents Tabled
None

Day 2/2021

Wednesday 4th August 2021, CR II, Parliament House 10:17 am

1. Members Present
Hon Matthew Wale, MP – Chairman (Ag)
Hon. John Deane Kuku, MP
Hon. Rick Houenipwela, MP
Hon. Stanley Sofu, MP
Hon. Peter Kenilorea Jr, MP

Absent/Apology
Hon. John Maneniaru, MP – Chairman
Hon. Lily Maeuai, MP
Hon. Derrick Manu’ari, MP
Hon. Sam Iduri, MP

Secretariat
Mr. Gregory Fineanganofo, Director Committees
Mr. Wilson Antii, Committee Secretary
Mr. Whitmon Tabiru, Committee Secretary
Ms. Salome Pilumate, Committee Secretary
Ms. Ivory Iruha’a, Committee Secretary
Ms. Cordney Wale, Committee Secretary
Mr. Wilson Orisi, Committee Secretary
Mr. Greg Kinimete, Hansard Reporter
Mr. Philemon Loe, Principal Media Officer

2. Prayer
The MP for North New Georgia, Hon. John Deane Kuku said the opening prayer.

3. Welcome and Opening Remarks
The Chairman (Ag) of the Bills and Legislation Committee, Hon. Matthew Wale made his opening remarks. The Chair informed the witnesses of the Parliamentary privileges.

4. Inquiry into the Telecommunications (Amendment) Bill 2021 (No. 3 of 2021)
The Hearing proper commenced and the following witnesses from the Telecommunication and Be-mobile were admitted:

Hearing 2. Witnesses

v. Ms. Christina Lasaqa, CEO (Ag), Solomon Telekom
vi. Mr. Wickley Foga, Legal Officer, Solomon Telekom
vii. Mr. Arvind Autar, TECH Manager, Be-mobile Ltd
viii. Mr. Keith Bates, HR Manager, Be-mobile Ltd
ix. Mr. Andrew Peter, National Sales, B-mobile Ltd
The witnesses made their presentations before the committee.
The committee questioned the witnesses based on the evidences presented.
The examination concluded

4. Closing prayer
Closing prayer said by Hon. Stanley Festus Sofu

5. Adjournment:
The committee adjourned hearing at 12:14pm

6. Documents Tabled

None

Minutes of Proceedings
Committee Inquiry into the Telecommunications (Amendment) Bill 2021 (No. 3 of 2021)

Day 3 /2021

Thursday 5th August 2021, CR II, Parliament House 10:09 am

1. Members Present
Hon. Matthew Wale- Chairman (Ag)
Hon. Stanley Sofu, MP
Hon. Peter Kenilorea (Jr), MP
Hon. Rick Houenipwela, MP
Hon. John Dean Kuku, MP

Absent/Apologies
Hon. John Maneniaru, MP, Chairman
Hon. Lilly Maefai, MP
Hon. Derrick Manu’ari, MP
Hon. Sam Iduri, MP

Secretariat
Mr. Gregory Fineanganofo, Director Committees
Ms. Cordney. M. Wale, Committee Secretary
Mr. Wilson Anii, Committee Secretary
Mr. Heston Renco, Committee Secretary
Ms. Sherilyn Ragoso Hansard Reporter
Mr. Lawrence Scott, Senior Media Officer
Mr. Philemon Loe, Principal Media Officer

2. Opening prayer by Mr Calvin Ziru

3. Welcome and Opening Remarks
The Chairman (Ag) of the Bills and Legislation Committee Hon. Matthew Cooper Wale made his opening remarks. The Chair informed the witnesses of the Parliamentary privileges.

4. Inquiry into the Telecommunications (Amendment) Bill 2021 (No. 3 of 2021)
The Hearing proper commenced and the following witnesses from the Telecommunications Commission of the Solomon Islands were admitted:
Hearing 3 Witnesses

i. Mr Calvin Ziru, Interim Independent Regulator TCSI
ii. Mr Aaron Hopa, Manager Human Resource, TCSI

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

5. Adjournment
Closing prayer by Hon. Peter Kenilorea Jnr.
The committee adjourned hearing at 10:42am

6. Documents Tabled

None

Day 4/2021

Tuesday 10th August 2021, CR II, Parliament House 01:43 pm

1. Members Present
Hon. Matthew Wale - Chairman (Ag)
Hon. John Dean Kuku, MP
Hon. Lilly Maefai, MP

Absent/Apologies
Hon. John Maneniaru, MP, Chairman
Hon. Derrick Manu’ari, MP
Hon. Sam Iduri, MP
Hon. Peter Kenilorea (Jr), MP
Hon. Rick Houenipwela, MP
Hon. Stanley Sofu, MP

Secretariat
Mr. Wilson Anii, Committee Secretary
Ms. Cordney. M. Wale, Committee Secretary
Ms. Salome Pilumate, Committee Secretary
Ms. Theresa. Nori, Hansard Reporter
Mr. Philemon Loe, Principal Media Officer

2. Opening prayer by Hon John Dean Kuku

3. Welcome and Opening Remarks
The Chairman (Ag) of the Bills and Legislation Committee Hon. Matthew Cooper Wale made his opening remarks. The Chair informed the witnesses of the Parliamentary privileges.

4. Inquiry into the Telecommunications (Amendment) Bill 2021 (No. 3 of 2021)

The Hearing proper commenced and the following witnesses from the Telecommunications Commission of the Solomon Islands were admitted:

Hearing 4 Witnesses (Recalled)

iii. Mr Calvin Ziru, Interim Independent Regulator TCSI
The witness made their presentations before the committee. The committee questioned the witness based on the evidences presented. The examination concluded.

5. Adjournment
Closing prayer by Hon. Lily Maefai
The committee adjourned hearing at 2:30pm

6. Documents Tabled
None

Day 5 /2021

Wednesday 11th August 2021, CR II, Parliament House 10:14am

1. Members Present
Hon. Matthew Wale- Chairman (Ag)
Hon. John Dean Kuku, MP
Hon. Lilly Maefai, MP
Hon. Peter Kenilorea Jr

Absent/Apologies
Hon. John Maneniaru, MP, Chairman
Hon. Derrick Manu’ari, MP
Hon. Sam Iduri, MP
Hon. Rick Houeniipwela, MP
Hon. Stanley Sofu, MP

Secretariat
Mr. Wilson Anii, Committee Secretary
Ms. Salome Pilumate, Committee Secretary
Ms. Cordney. M. Wale, Committee Secretary
Ms. Hazel Fafia, Hansard Reporter
Mr. Philemon Loe, Principal Media Officer

2. Opening prayer by the MP for East Are’Are, Hon. Peter Kenilorea Jr

3. Welcome and Opening Remarks
The Chairman (Ag) of the Bills and Legislation Committee Hon. Matthew Cooper Wale made his opening remarks. The Chair informed the witnesses of the Parliamentary privileges.

4. Inquiry into the Telecommunications (Amendment) Bill 2021 (No. 3 of 2021)

The Hearing proper commenced and the following witnesses from the Bank South Pacific (BSP), Central Bank of Solomon Islands (CBSI) and Solomon Islands National Provident Fund (SINPF) were admitted:

Hearing 5 Witnesses

i. Mrs. Linda Folia, Manager Financial Inclusion Unit, CBSI
ii. Mr. Junior Faka, Analyst, CBSI
iii. Mr. Marlon Houkurauna, Management Advisor, CBSI
iv. Mr. Michael Wate, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), SINPF
v. Mr. Wilson Hano, Manager Operations, SINPF
vi. Mr. Don Fakarii, Manager IT, SINPF
vii. Mr. Stanley Hanu, Manager Legal Services, SINPF
viii. Mr. Giddings Qiqo, Relieving Country Manager, BSP
The witness made their presentations before the committee.
The committee questioned the witness based on the evidences presented.
The examination concluded.

5. Adjournment
Closing prayer by MP for East Makira, Hon. Lily Maefai
The committee adjourned hearing at 11:11am.

6. Documents Tabled

None