



**National Parliament of Solomon Islands**

**Public Accounts Committee**

# Committee Report

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**Report on the 2021 Supplementary Appropriation  
Bill 2022**



**NP-Paper No. 31/2022**

**Presented on 30 August 2022**

**National Parliament Office**



## Committee Membership

The members of the **Public Accounts Committee** (11<sup>th</sup> Parliament) are:

**Hon. Douglas Ete, MP, Chairman**

**Hon. Matthew C. Wale, MP**

**Hon. John D. Kuku, MP**

**Hon. Rick N. Houenipwela, MP**

**Hon. Lilly Maefai, MP**

**Hon. John Maneniaru, MP**

**Hon. Alfred Efona, MP**

**Hon. Ethel Lency, MP**

**Hon. Commins Mewa, MP**

**Hon. Silas V. Tausinga, MP**

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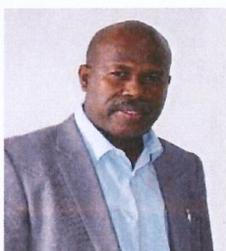
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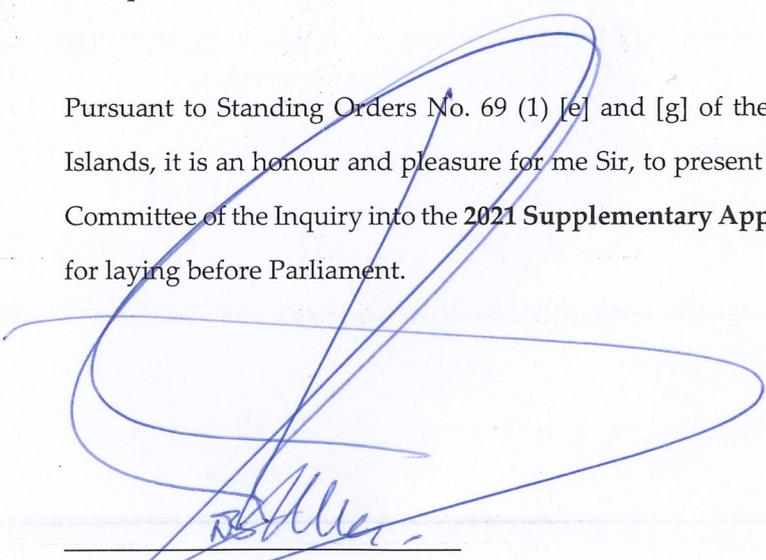
## Chair's Foreword

### 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 Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2022 (No.4 of 2022)** for laying before Parliament.



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**Honourable Douglas Ete, MP**

Chairman

Public Accounts Committee

30 August 2022

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## Executive Summary

The Public Accounts Committee (“the Committee”) completed its examination of the 2021 Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2022 (No.4 of 2022) from the 23 to 24 August and 51 witnesses appeared before the Committee.

The Bill seeks to appropriate an additional \$124,180,806 from the Consolidated Fund for the service of the financial year ending 31 December 2021. It seeks to regularize Contingency Warrants of \$350,000, Advance warrants for recurrent of \$115,830,806 and Advance warrants for development estimates \$8,000,000 for the services in the year ended 31 December, 2021.

The Committee makes a total of five (5) recommendations to the Solomon Islands Government:

### **Recommendation 1**

The Committee recommends that policies regarding implementation of infrastructure should be consistent and allow relevant Ministries with relevant skills to be responsible in line with their mandate

### **Recommendation 2**

The Committee is concerned with the increased mix of expensive shorter term domestic debt and the lack of details on specific use of debt funds including a published policy governing the use of funds from these bonds. The Committee recommends that the Debt Unit of the Ministry of Finance and Treasury publishes the details of all debt including their source, use, interest rate and term.

### **Recommendation 3**

The Committee recommends that the Mamara-Tasivarongo-Mavo Development Act be amended to require suitable safe guard measures which allow relevant government authorities to monitor developer’s activities and ensure compliance with relevant regulations.

### **Recommendation 4**

The Committee recommend to the Ministry of Finance and Treasury to look into this issue of lack of re-appropriation of unspent funds to the new financial year. In this case, such unspent money from year 2021 should be reflected in the 2022 Appropriation Bill 2022 which has now became an Act.

### **Recommendation 5**

The Committee recommends that a further supplementary appropriation is done for the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs to authorize the expenditure of the unutilized funds from 2021 not yet appropriated for in 2022.

## 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 Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2022 was received by the Speaker and certified on Friday 8 August, 2022. The Committee began its deliberations from 15 to 16 August, and held public hearings from 23 to 24 August to examine the Bill that seeks to appropriate an additional \$124,180,806 to the service of the year ending 31 December 2021.
- 1.3 In compliance with the Standing Orders, this Report has been prepared for the information of Members of Parliament to assist them in their debate on the Bill. It aims to draw the attention of the Members of Parliament on the Committee’s findings and recommendations after the conclusion of its detailed examination of the Bill.
- 1.4 The Committee considered evidence provided by Government Ministries, Statutory Bodies, and the Central Bank of Solomon Islands and sought advice from the Office of the Auditor General.
- 1.5 This Report outlines the findings of the Committee's examination of the Bill that comprises the Contingency Warrants (CWs) and Advance Warrants on the Recurrent and the Development Expenditures.
- 1.6 The Permanent Secretaries (PSs), Deputy Secretaries (DSs) and senior officials of various ministries who came before the Committee provided valuable information. The Committee also benefited immensely from the Office of the Auditor General. The Ministry of Finance and Treasury provided insight on the economic performance for 2021.

## **Inquiry Process**

- 1.7 In accordance with its mandate under Standing Orders 69 of the National Parliament, the Committee resolved at its meeting on 15 August, 2022 to commence the examination of the Bill from 23 to 24 August, 2022. The full terms of reference are included on the Appendices of this report.
- 1.8 The inquiry process included inviting key financial institution and government ministries to make written submissions and appearing at public hearings.
- 1.9 The Committee examined 12 government agencies, including 1 statutory bodies, and received 22 submissions. 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 - Background Information

This chapter outlines the brief background of the 2021 Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2022 (No.4 of 2022).

2.1 The Bill seeks to appropriate an additional \$124,180,806 for the service of the year ending 31 December 2021, which includes \$350,000 for Contingency Warrants and \$123,830,806 for Advance Warrants for the services in the year ended 31 December, 2021.

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>AMOUNT (\$)</b>
CONTINGENCY WARRANTS - RECURRENT	350,000
ADVANCE WARRANTS - RECURRENT	115,830,806
ADVANCE WARRANTS - DEVELOPMENT	8,000,000
<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATED EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>124,180,806</b>

### CONTINGENCIES WARRANTS

<b>RECURRENT</b>			
<b>Head</b>	<b>Ministry</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
14	Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	350,000	This amount provides additional funds to meet the cost of funeral and repatriation of late Honourable Titus Fika
	<b>Total Recurrent Contingency Warrants</b>	<b>350,000</b>	
<b>TOTAL CW</b>		<b>350,000</b>	

### ADVANCE WARRANTS

<b>RECURRENT</b>			
<b>Head</b>	<b>Ministry</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
03	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock	189,540	Budget Support Funded by Asian Development Bank (ADB) COVID-19 funds to meet the cost of SIG COVID-19 preparedness and response plan for the planned lockdown on 29 to 31 August 2021.
05	Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development	71,250	Budget Support Funded by Asian Development Bank (ADB) COVID-19 funds to meet the cost of SIG COVID-19 preparedness and response plan for the

			planned lockdown on 29 to 31 August 2021.
06	Ministry of Finance and Treasury	35,908,611	Budget Support collectively funded by Asian Development Bank (ADB) COVID-19 funds and the Government of New Zealand through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) towards Economic Stimulus Package to cushion the negative impacts of COVID-19, recapitalization of the SOEs namely Solomon Water, and Solomon Airlines. Also, support to assist improving Customs and Excise Division to carry out quarterly regular check-ups with logging activities in provinces
09	Ministry of Health and Medical Services	1,134,494	Budget Support collectively funded by Asian Development Bank (ADB) COVID-19 grants, Republic of China (ROC) and contributions from private businesses to meet the cost of the SIG COVID-19 preparedness and response plan
10	Ministry of Infrastructure Development	19,564	Budget Support funded by Asian Development Bank (ADB) COVID-19 funds to meet the cost of SIG COVID-19 preparedness and response plan for the planned lockdown on 29 to 31 August 2021.
14	Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	20,991,868	Budget Support funded by the Peoples Republic of China (PRC) towards the National Development Fund to support constituency projects including East Guadalcanal for road construction development and Vao/Sesepe community primary school development in Gizo and Kolombangara Constituency
16	Ministry of Police, National Security and Correctional Services	4,922,400	Budget Support funded by Asian Development Bank (ADB) COVID-19 funds to meet the cost of SIG COVID-19 preparedness and response plan for the planned lockdown on 29 to 31 August 2021., including support to Western Border COVID-19 operation separation and response plans
18	Ministry of Lands, Housing and Survey	30,891,578	Funded by SIG Development bond proceeds for the purpose of 50 houses at Mamara Housing Estate form Metro Polis Pacific

26	Ministry of Home Affairs	5,494,504	Budget Support funded by the Government of New Zealand through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) to support good governance and inclusion in Honiara
29	National Judiciary	503,437	Budget Support funded by the Government of Papua New Guinea (PNG) to meet the cost of the Magistrate court circuit needs
30	Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs	5,249,180	Budget Support collectively funded by Asian Development Bank (ADB) COVID-19 funds and the Government of New Zealand through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) to meet the cost of the SIG COVID-19 preparedness and response plan for the planned lockdown on 29 to 31 August 2021 and other support towards Youth empowerment on the 9 provinces including Honiara
32	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology	10,454,380	Budget Support Funded by Asian Development Bank (ADB) COVID-19 funds to meet the cost of SIG COVID-19 preparedness and response plan for the planned lockdown on 29 to 31 August 2021. Also support to meet the cost of the COVID-19 ongoing camp management operations including support towards Western Borders outstanding costs for catering, rental, housekeeping, utilities and stationaries
	<b>Total Recurrent Advance Warrants</b>	<b>115,830,806</b>	

<b>DEVELOPMENT</b>			
<b>Head</b>	<b>Ministry</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
10	Ministry of Infrastructure Development	8,000,000	Budget Support funded by SIG development bond towards National Transport Fund (NTF) to build three (3) bridges in West Guadalcanal
	<b>Total Development Advance Warrants</b>	<b>8,000,000</b>	

## Chapter 3 - Issues of Concern

### 03 Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development

#### 1. Variation in Appropriation

##### Recurrent Budget - Advanced Warrant

Subhead/item	Description	Original Estimate	Supplementary Estimate (\$)	Revised Estimates (\$)
218-001- 0000-22212	Disaster preparedness & relief	Nil	189,540	189,540
<b>Total</b>		<b>Nil</b>	<b>189,540</b>	<b>189,540</b>

Funded by Asian Development Bank (ADB) COVID-19 funds to meet the cost of SIG

COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan for the planned lockdown on 29 to 31 August 2021.

#### 2. Appropriateness of expenditure

The Advanced Warrant was signed and issued on 26th August 2021 by Minister of Finance.

#### 3. Issues of Concern

Matters raised during the public inquiry includes the following:

- 3.1 **COVID-19 Response lesson learnt** – the Committee asked what lesson had been learnt by the Ministry from the mock lockdown. The Ministry informed the Committee that with the mock lockdown, the Ministry was able identify gaps within the current SOPs, update and create new SOPs to be more prepared for any events that might occur in the future.
- 3.2 **Food relief** - the Committee asked who were the beneficiaries of the food relief. The Ministry informed the Committee that during the mock lockdown they were able to supply 200 houses for the 3 constituents within the Honiara City, West, Central and East Honiara. The aim was to identify weakness during the exercises and understand improvements to be more prepared in future.

## 05 Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development

### 1. Variation in Appropriation

#### Recurrent Budget - Advanced Warrant

Subhead/item	Description	Original Estimate	Supplementary Estimate (\$)	Revised Estimates (\$)
218-001- 0000-22212	Disaster preparedness & relief	Nil	71,250	71,250
Total		Nil	71,250	71,250

Funded by Asian Development Bank (ADB) COVID-19 funds to meet the cost of the SIG COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan for the planned lockdown on 29 to 31 August 2021.

### 2. Appropriateness of expenditure

The Advanced Warrant was signed and issued on 22nd August 2021 by Minister of Finance. The Advanced Warrant approved by the Minister covered a budget for a range of Ministries and the source of funding. This warrant is annotated by hand to a lower amount for each Ministry and initialled by the Minister.

### 3. Issues of Concern

Matters raised by the Committee includes the following:

- 3.3 **Lockdown learning** - the Ministry noted that the advanced warrant related to the repatriation costs of students in 2021 from UK and Philippians. The Committee asked for details of the expenditure under the budget line item given the amount here related to the August lockdown and a budget of only \$71,250. The Committee asked for an update on those students who had been repatriated from the Philippines. The Ministry confirmed that of the 400 students repatriated most had now completed their studies and graduated. The Ministry was continuing to support around 20 students to complete their studies.
- 3.4 **Consistency of scholarship support** - the Committee asked the Ministry to explain why some scholarship students are on 50% of their pay when others not. The Ministry confirmed that teachers are still fully supported through their studies. The Ministry

noted that the Ministry of Public Service is better placed to address the policy decision which made the change affecting those in the public service.

- 3.5 **Constituency scholarships** - the Committee asked the Ministry to explain the process for confirming students applying for constituency scholarships. The Ministry explained that if a student passed the selection process they would appear on the constituency list. If they are not on the list, this would be because they did not fulfil all the requirements and were not given the award. Some students may have been given a conditional award. These conditions need to be fully met to receive a full award. The conditions could be for GPA requirements or submission of a transcript. If applicants were unsuccessful at this stage, the Ministry advises them to ensure they meet the pre-requisite criteria and reapply in the next cycle. The Ministry noted that deferrals are only for those who have been awarded the scholarship.
- 3.6 The Committee also sought clarification from the Ministry why some students are being recorded under a constituency when they are not. The Ministry clarified that they undertake certain checks on submissions for example that the applicants are Solomon Island citizens or have academic transcripts. In relation to the constituency however, the Ministry provide a list to the Members of Parliament for their confirmation. The Committee were nonetheless concerned that despite providing feedback on this list, changes were not made. The Ministry acknowledged the feedback and would consider strengthening this process in future cycles.
- 3.7 The Committee also encouraged the Ministry to engage early with Members of Parliament when developing the areas of opportunity for scholarships. The needs of different constituencies might be different and this should be factored into the development of opportunities offered.
- 3.8 The Committee asked the Ministry to clarify what the process was for late submissions. The Ministry noted that under the Act the process for awards has changed. This process is now managed online with a fixed cut-off in the system. If the submission deadline is missed applicants are advised to reapply in the next cycle. The Ministry has had some feedback around the time the applications were open and the Board will be considering extending this period in future cycles. If conditional offers have been made, the timeframe to submit further evidence was 14 days. This however was extended this year and only recently closed. The Committee asked that better flow of information be provided to the Members of Parliament and applicants so that all understand the process and status of applications.

- 3.9 The Ministry confirmed in response to the Committee's enquiry that the timelines for 2023 are expected to enable successful students to commence semester one in 2023.

## 06 Ministry of Finance and Treasury

### 1. Variation in Appropriation

#### Recurrent Budget - Advanced Warrant

Subhead/item	Description	Original Estimate	Supplementary Estimate (\$)	Revised Estimates (\$)
202-158- 0000-22517	Others - Local Other Costs	Nil	500,000	500,000
218-150- 0000-29001	ESP Relief Support for Grants	10,000,000	60,000	10,060,000
218-150- 0000-29002	ESP Support to Productive and Resource Sector	Nil	4,940,000	4,940,000
218-150- 0000-29004	ESP Support to Infrastructure Initiatives	51,000	8,430,591	8,481,591
202-150- 0000-22804	SOE Recapitalisation	Nil	21,978,020	21,978,020
<b>Total</b>		<b>10,051,000</b>	<b>35,908,611</b>	<b>45,959,611</b>

Budget Support collectively funded by Asian Development Bank (ADB) COVID19 Funds and the Government of New Zealand through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) towards Economic Stimulus Package to cushion the negative impacts of the COVID-19, recapitalization of the SOEs namely Solomon Water, and Solomon Airlines. Also, support to assist improving Customs and Excise Division to carry out quarterly regular check-ups with logging activities in provinces.

### 2. Appropriateness of expenditure

The Advanced Warrant was signed and issued in August and November 2021 by Minister of Finance.

### 3. Issues of Concern

Matters raised by the Committee includes the following:

- 3.10 **Economic Stimulus Package (ESP)** – the Committee asked if there were any reports or assessment done on the impact of the ESP under the productive sectors, resource sector and State Owned Enterprises (SOEs). In addition, the Committee asked if there any reports from SOEs on the impact of recapitalisation funds provided to them specifically Solomon Airlines and Solomon Water. The Committee understands that these two SOEs have been having cash flow issues for a number of years asked what the cash flow situation was for both SOEs.
- 3.11 The Ministry informed the Committee that they engaged ADB to do an assessment of the impact of ESP and ADB hired consultants (1 local and 1 international) including volunteers (15) to carry out the assessment of the ESP. The assessment started late last year and visited a number of provinces excluding Western and Choiseul Provinces. The assessment reports should be ready by the end of August. In relation to SOE recapitalisation, the fund is provided by the donor as a grant to support the two SOEs to overcome the challenges they face after the crisis late last year. The Ministry was not able to provide information on the cash flow of those SOEs due to no reports.
- 3.12 The Committee asked whether the SOEs submitted applications for government grant assistance. The Ministry informed the Committee that SOEs still apply for grants for community under the community service obligation and the government continues to support them.
- 3.13 **Funeral Expenses** – the Committee asked whether there was a policy or guideline in place for funeral expenses of the MPs to support what is expended from the consolidated fund. The Ministry informed the Committee that the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (OPMC) is coordinating the policy and they had consulted the Ministry last year.
- 3.14 **Infrastructures funded under OPMC** – the Committee raised concern on the process by which infrastructure projects had been funded by OPMC rather Ministry of Infrastructure or Ministry of Rural Development. The Ministry informed the Committee that the fund is provided by Peoples Republic of China (PRC) for OPMC and that constituencies can apply thru OPMC to access the fund. Also, the fund is dispensed under the OPMC rather than being implemented by any Ministry due to a policy decision.

**Recommendation 1**

The Committee recommends that policies regarding implementation of infrastructure should be consistent and allow relevant Ministries with relevant skills to be responsible in line with their mandate

- 3.15 **Development bond for Mamara Housing purchase** – the Committee asked which SOE had provided the funding through the development bond. The Committee was also concerned that this purchase was not planned as the Committee had not previously been informed of this borrowing.
- 3.16 The Ministry confirmed that they had already signed the sale and purchase agreement for 50 houses at value of \$ 34 million. They had already paid up to 90% of the total cost, 10% was still outstanding as this related to retention cost which they can claim if no defect noted after occupants occupy those houses. The 90% of the cost is financed by funds raised domestically as the Ministry received over \$200 Million in bonds in 2021.
- 3.17 The Ministry noted a new debt strategy that was approved by Cabinet in 2021 in which they revised the annual borrowing limit from \$ 500 million to \$ 650 Million to cater for the supplementary budget pressures. This move was consistent with the new debt strategy.
- 3.18 The Committee asked what were the terms of the bond issued, who are the holders of the bond and on what interest rate. Furthermore, the Committee was very concerned that the promised had been made by the Government to provide 5000 houses for the public servants and sought the Ministry's view of this.
- 3.19 The Ministry informed the Committee that there are four entities that purchased the government bond in 2021. SIPA - \$ 60 million, Solomon Power - \$ 60 million, SINPF - \$ 120 million and POB - \$ 20 million. The terms of the bonds are at the interest rate of 4 to 5% for 5 years. The Ministry confirmed no public servants occupy the houses but the agreement did allow for this.

#### **Recommendation 2**

The Committee is concerned with the increased mix of expensive shorter term domestic debt and the lack of details on specific use of debt funds including a published policy governing the use of funds from these bonds. The Committee recommends that the Debt Unit of the Ministry of Finance and Treasury publishes the details of all debt including their source, use, interest rate and term.

- 3.20 **Mamara-Tasivarongo-Mavo Development Act** – the Committee was concerned with the development of the Mamara housing and that in line with the Act they are not required to report or provide development plans to either Guadalcanal Provincial Government or the Solomon Island Government; and there is no requirement for a local planning scheme. The Committee were concerned that this meant they have no obligation to anyone but themselves and yet the Government is purchasing property from them. The Committee

view this as lack of duty as those houses or properties should at least comply to health and environment requirements.

### **Recommendation 3**

The Committee recommends that the Mamara-Tasivarongo-Mavo Development Act be amended to require suitable safe guard measures which allow relevant government authorities to monitor developer's activities and ensure compliance with relevant regulations.

- 3.21 **Deficit budget** – the Committee was concerned that the deficit budget is increasing and this may cause pressure to the annual borrowing limit and future budget. The Committee asked if there was any strategy or policy to improve domestic revenue collection to support the deficit rather than rely on donors to meet the difference. The Ministry noted the concern raised by the Committee.

## **09 Ministry of Health and Medical Service**

### **1. Variation in Appropriation**

#### **Recurrent Budget - Advanced Warrant**

<b>Subhead/item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Original Estimate</b>	<b>Supplementary Estimate (\$)</b>	<b>Revised Estimates (\$)</b>
218-001- 0000-22212	Disaster, preparedness & relief	Nil	151,000	151,000
215-209- 0000-22301	Maintain - Non Residential Buildings	Nil	803,494	803,494
001-209- 0000-22301	Maintain - Non Residential Buildings	Nil	180,000	180,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>Nil</b>	<b>1,134,494</b>	<b>1,134,494</b>

Budget Support collectively funded by Asian Development Bank (ADB) COVID-19 grant, Republic of China (ROC) and contributions from private businesses to meet the cost of the SIG COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan 7 towards the planned lockdown on 29 to 31 August 2021 and including other National Referral Hospital projects.

## 2. Appropriateness of expenditure

The Advanced Warrants were signed by the Minister in August 2021.

The Advanced Warrant approved by the Minister related to the August 2021 lockdown covered a budget for a range of Ministries and the source of funding. This warrant is annotated by hand to a lower amount for each Ministry and initialled by the Minister.

## 3. Issues of Concern

Matters raised by the Committee includes the following:

- 3.22 The Ministry outlined the details of the advanced warrant and how this had been expended in 2021. In particular, the Ministry noted that the costs in relation to the Mental Health facility had been deferred to 2022. This related to a contracting issue which had now been resolved. It was hoped that the building would be completed in the next 4-5 months.
- 3.23 The Committee asked for an update on the flu outbreak. The Ministry confirmed that this was now trending downward with a reduction in presentations. The Ministry's advice was to continue with good public health hygiene measures.

## 10 Ministry of Infrastructure Development

### 1. Variation in Appropriation

#### Recurrent Budget - Advanced Warrant

Subhead/item	Description	Original Estimate	Supplementary Estimate (\$)	Revised Estimates (\$)
218-001- 0000-22212	Disaster preparedness & relief	Nil	19,564	4,418,932
<b>Total</b>		<b>Nil</b>	<b>19,564</b>	<b>4,418,932</b>

Funded by Asian Development Banks (ADB) COVID-19 funds to meet the cost of the SIG COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan for the planned lockdown on 29 to 31 August 2021.

#### Development Budget – Advance Warrant

Subhead/item	Description	Original Estimate	Supplementary Estimate (\$)	Revised Estimates (\$)
102-250- 0034-22318	National Transport Fund	Nil	8,000,000	8,000,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>Nil</b>	<b>8,000,000</b>	<b>8,000,000</b>

Budget Support funded by SIG Development Bond Proceeds towards National Transport Fund (NTF) to build three (3) bridges in West Guadalcanal.

#### 2. Appropriateness of expenditure

The Advanced Warrants were approved by the Minister in August and December 2021.

The Advanced Warrant approved by the Minister relating to the August 2021 lockdown covered a budget for a range of Ministries and the source of funding. This warrant is annotated by hand to a lower amount for each Ministry and initialled by the Minister.

#### 3. Issues of Concern

Matters raised by the Committee includes the following:

- 3.24 The Ministry presented the details of the two advanced warrants. The Ministry noted that the budget had been spent on maintenance and quarantine sites and provided a breakdown for years 2018, 2020, 2021 and 2022. 2019 was not available. The second item related to work to repair damage to bridges which had occurred in 2021.
- 3.25 The Committee also noted errors in the Bill which have been referred to the Budget Unit for correction.

## 14 Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

### 1. Variation in Appropriation

#### Recurrent Budget – Contingency Warrant

Subhead/item	Description	Original Estimate	Supplementary Estimate (\$)	Revised Estimates (\$)
101-304- 0000-22503	MP's and MPA's - Local Other Costs	Nil	350,000	350,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>Nil</b>	<b>350,000</b>	<b>350,000</b>

This amount provides additional funds to meet the costs of funeral and repatriation of late Honourable Titus Fika.

#### Recurrent Budget – Advance Warrant

Subhead/item	Description	Original Estimate	Supplementary Estimate (\$)	Revised Estimates (\$)
228-304-0000-25009	Subventions and Grant	Nil	20,991,868	20,991,868
<b>Total</b>		<b>Nil</b>	<b>20,991,868</b>	<b>20,991,868</b>

Budget support funded by the Peoples Republic of China (PRC) towards the National Development Fund to support constituency projects including East Guadalcanal for road construction development and Vao/Sesepe Community Primary School development in Gizo and Kolombangara Constituency.

### 2. Appropriateness of expenditure

The Advanced Warrants were signed by the Minister (and Acting Minister) in August, October, November, and December 2021. The Contingency Warrant was signed by the Prime Minister and Minister in November 2021.

### 3. Issues of Concern

Matters raised by the Committee includes the following:

- 3.26 **Funeral policy for Members of Parliament (MP) and former MPs** – the Committee asked whether there is a policy drafted or in place to guide provision of funeral expenses. The Office confirmed that they are currently working on a draft policy for such events. They are considering including not only the National MPs, but Premiers, Governor General, former Governor General and Constitutional post holders. These gaps were noted during consultation undertaken by the Office. Another thing that is being considered in the policy is cost sharing from constituencies and provinces. The policy should be finalised by end of the year.
- 3.27 **National Development Fund (NDF)** – the Committee asked whether the funds dispensed under the NDF were paid to the 39 MPs personal bank accounts or the constituency bank account. The Office stated it would provide this information after confirming with MOFT.
- 3.28 The SPM responded in a letter dated 23<sup>rd</sup> August confirming that funds were disbursed in line with the established practice of previous governments, the NDF being a discretionary fund was paid into the personal accounts of eligible MPs. The Office further confirmed that the NDF had lapsed in 2021 and that no further payments from this fund was expected after 2021. A copy of the letter is attached in the appendices.
- 3.29 The Committee asked why the fund was not included within the normal appropriation rather than as an advance warrant. The Office informed the Committee that as the fund comes under the political office it is not very predictable. Concerning the fund, Peoples Republic of China (PRC) have three years' grace period that they will still use the same model of funding used by Republic of China (ROC) to dispense funds. After that PRC will use the provinces and constituencies. For constituencies to access the funds, they must have plans in place for the funds to be disbursed. This is consistent with other donors.

## 16 Ministry of Police, National Security and Correctional Services

### 1. Variation in Appropriation

#### Recurrent Budget – Advanced Warrant

Subhead/item	Description	Original Estimate	Supplementary Estimate (\$)	Revised Estimates (\$)
218-330- 0000-22212	Disaster preparedness & relief	Nil	35,400	35,400

218-333- 0000-22212	Disaster preparedness & relief	Nil	4,887,000	4,887,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>Nil</b>	<b>4,922,400</b>	<b>4,922,400</b>

Funded by Asian Development Bank (ADB) COVID-19 funds to meet the cost of the SIG COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan for the planned lockdown on 29 to 31 August 2021 including support to Western Border COVID-19 operation separation and response plans.

## 2. Appropriateness of expenditure

The Advanced Warrants were signed by the Minister 22 August, 15 November and one was undated. The Advanced Warrant approved by the Minister relating to the August 2021 lockdown covered a budget for a range of Ministries and the source of funding. This warrant is annotated by hand to a lower amount for each Ministry and initialled by the Minister.

## 3. Issues of Concern

- 3.30 **Funds for boarder security in Shortland’s and Malaita outer Islands** – the Committee enquired into how the funds have been utilized with regards to the border security in Shortland’s and Malaita Outer Islands. The Ministry explained that the monthly estimate for boarder deployment in Shortland’s is estimated at \$1.4 million and \$180,186 for the Malaita outer Islands.
- 3.31 **Level of risk in terms of boarder security and COVID-19** – the Committee is concerned about the level of risk at the boarder as well as the risk of COVID-19. The Ministry stated that there is a risk both for boarder security and COVID-19 but the Ministry is working with other law enforcement agencies to see how best to implement the Ministry’s strategy for the boarder protection and keep the risk level at a minimum.
- 3.32 **Length of the ADB assistance**– the Committee enquired whether the ADB funding for the Ministry’s Advance Warrant will continue. The Ministry stated that the funding from ADB is only for last year. For 2022, it is funded by SIG.
- 3.33 **Ministry’s special account**– the Committee enquired whether the Ministry’s past Advance Warrants are kept in a special account or is it accessed straight from the Ministry of Finance. The Ministry stated that the budget is still with the Ministry of Finance and most of the Ministry’s purchase is done through the normal procurement process.

However, the Ministry does have a standby imprest account which supports the RSIPF with any urgent situation that may arise.

- 3.34 The Committee also enquired into how big the standing imprest is and how often the Ministry replenishes this standing imprest.
- 3.35 The Ministry clarified that the threshold for the standing imprest is at \$500,000 and the Ministry does replenish it from time to time. At the end of each year the Ministry does an acquittal and request for a new standing imprest for the new financial year.
- 3.36 The Committee further enquired into whether the standing imprest comes in the form of cash or is drawn down from the Ministry of Finance or does the Ministry have an account in place.
- 3.37 The Ministry stated that it does have an account with the ANZ and BSP and the main signatories are the Executive members from the Ministry.

## 27 Ministry of Lands Housing and Survey

### 1. Variation in Appropriation

#### Recurrent Budget - Advanced Warrant

Subhead/item	Description	Original Estimate	Supplementary Estimate (\$)	Revised Estimates (\$)
101-354- 0000-23001	Capex - land	Nil	30,891,578	30,891,578
<b>Total</b>		<b>Nil</b>	<b>30,891,578</b>	<b>30,891,578</b>

Funded by SIG Development Bond Proceeds for the purchase of 50 houses at Mamara Housing Estate from Metro Polis Pacific.

### 2. Appropriateness of expenditure

The Advanced Warrant was approved 18 November 2021.

### 3. Issues of Concern

Matters raised by the Committee includes the following:

- 3.38 **Cost of Mamara Project** – the Committee enquired how the Mamara project was paid for. The Ministry advised that payment was made in three instalments with a total cost of \$34,323,975 for 50 houses. The purchase is for both land and house with the Commissioner of Lands holding the perpetual estate title. The remaining land is on 75 years FTE under the Act owned by the Company. There is likely to be another 30 houses coming.
- 3.39 **Quality of the Housing** - the Committee queried if the proposed public service housing policy is effective and whether the houses were good value for money and good quality. The Ministry advised that the policy is under the Ministry of Public Service. If any public servant already has the money however they can purchase a house in Mamara. The houses have been inspected by the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and the Ministry of Public Service. The Ministry undertook to provide a copy of the reports to the Committee. As at the date of this report the material requested by the Committee had not been received.
- 3.40 **Alternative Investor Model** - the Committee queried the use of Private Public Partnership (PPP) in the Marmara development project. The Ministry advised that PPP arrangements usually don't proceed due to the high establishment costs for these sort of developments including bring the necessary utilities to site. The developer of Mamara did all of these themselves at their own cost. If the Government were to provide these basic services then it would be likely that more investors would be attracted.

## 26 Ministry of Home Affairs

### 1. Variation in Appropriation

#### Recurrent Budget - Advanced Warrant

Subhead/item	Description	Original Estimate	Supplementary Estimate (\$)	Revised Estimates (\$)
202-001- 0000-22105	Consultancy fees	Nil	800,000	800,000
202-001- 0000-22109	Printing, stationary & photocopy	Nil	300,000	300,000
202-001- 0000-22110	Publicity & promotions	Nil	300,000	300,000
202-001- 0000-22314	Software support and maintenance	Nil	200,000	200,000

202-001- 0000-22401	Conferences, seminars and workshop	Nil	1,000,000	1,000,000
202-001- 0000-22508	Public servants – Local fares	Nil	350,000	350,000
202-001- 0000-22510	Public servants – Local other costs	Nil	300,000	300,000
202-001- 0000-22807	Legislation review	Nil	2,044,504	2,044,504
202-001- 0000-23011	Capex – Office equipment	Nil	200,000	200,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>Nil</b>	<b>5,494,504</b>	<b>5,494,504</b>

Budget Support funded by the Government of New Zealand through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) to support good governance and inclusion in Honiara.

## 2. Appropriateness of expenditure

The Advanced Warrant was approved by the Minister on 22 August 2021.

## 3. Issues of Concern

Matters raised by the Committee includes the following:

- 3.41 **Work Plan for 2021** – the Committee was interested to hear the achievements of the Ministry’s work plan by the end of the 2021 financial year. The Ministry confirmed they had expended \$363,064 by the end of 2021. In terms of the work plan, the Ministry noted they had been able to purchase computers hardware, printing & photocopying and developed an Accounting System for the National Sports Council (NSC) that tracks payments from NSC to the Ministry to the Ministry of Finance and Treasury.
- 3.42 **Advance Warrant \$5,494,504** – the Committee enquired into this unspent money, whether it is kept with the Ministry of Finance and Treasury or Ministry of Home Affairs and if it is with the Ministry of Home Affairs, whether it is kept in a Special Account. The Ministry responded that the funding is from the New Zealand government and it comes through the Central Bank of Solomon Islands. When the Ministry needs to process any payments, they apply the normal processes at the Ministry of Finance and Treasury.
- 3.43 The Committee was also informed that one of the reasons for the recurrence of the Advance Warrant is because of the nature of the project. It comes under Civil Registration

and if the Ministry spent beyond \$706,000 under this head, Ministry of Home Affairs must automatically apply for an Advance Warrant.

- 3.44 **Lack of Reappropriation of Unspent Money to the 2022 Appropriation Budget** – the Committee asked if this unspent money from 2021 has been reappropriated in the new financial year of 2022. The Committee was informed that such unspent money has not been re-appropriated to the next financial year. This is an issue for few other line ministries as well.

**Recommendation 4**

The Committee recommend to the Ministry of Finance and Treasury to look into this issue of lack of re-appropriation of unspent funds to the new financial year. In this case, such unspent money from year 2021 should be reflected in the 2022 Appropriation Bill 2022 which has now become an Act.

## 29 National Judiciary

### 1. Variation in Appropriation

#### Recurrent Budget – Advanced Warrant

Subhead/item	Description	Original Estimate	Supplementary Estimate (\$)	Revised Estimates (\$)
221-533- 0000-22514	Public Servants - Annual Leave Fares	Nil	146,850	146,850
221-534- 0000-22514	Public Servants - Annual Leave Fares	Nil	126,148	126,148
221-535- 0000-22514	Public Servants - Annual Leave Fares	Nil	80,040	80,040
221-536- 0000-22514	Public Servants - Annual Leave Fares	Nil	58,982	58,982
221-533- 0000-22509	Public Servants - Local Accommodation	Nil	49,490	49,490
221-535- 0000-22509	Public Servants - Local Accommodation	Nil	27,320	27,320

221-536- 0000- 22509	Public Servants - Local Accommodation	Nil	14,607	14,607
<b>Total</b>		<b>Nil</b>	<b>503,437</b>	<b>503,437</b>

Budget Support funded by the government of Papua New Guinea (PNG) to meet the costs of the Magistrate Court circuit needs.

## 2. Appropriateness of expenditure

The Advanced Warrant was approved by the Minister on 11 November 2021.

## 3. Issues of Concern

Matters raised by the Committee includes the following:

- 3.45 **Budget support from the PNG government** - the Committee asked whether this budget support is ongoing. The Ministry informed the Committee that the budget support is ongoing bilateral support towards the National Judiciary. It is a judiciary to judiciary type of arrangement.
- 3.46 **Backlog of court cases** - the Committee noted that the backlog of court cases has been a long-time and ongoing issue for the judiciary. The Committee asked the Ministry to provide the data of all the backlog court cases for the Local Courts, Customary Land Appeal Court, Magistrates' Courts, High Court and Court of Appeal.
- 3.47 The Ministry informed the Committee that for the Court of Appeal, there is an improvement with regards to the backlog of cases. However, the only setback for the slowness in dealing with the backlog of cases is the lack of financial support from the Government. Other reasons for such backlog are insufficient resources such as limited courtrooms and manpower shortage in terms of the number of judges to preside over these backlog cases.
- 3.48 The Magistrate Court's disposal rate with regards to the backlog of cases has been improved and has maintained the rate of disposing of the court cases.
- 3.49 **Status of court facilities** - the Committee asked the Ministry to give an update on the court facilities within the country. The Ministry informed the Committee that there is work

underway within the Ministry to ensure that access to justice by the rural communities is made available.

- 3.50 The Committee have asked a number of reports from the witness to be furnished as outlined below, these documents will be provided to PAC secretariat later.
- 3.50.1.1 Whether the budget support given by the PNG government is for the Magistrate Court alone or does it cover the other courts?
- 3.50.1.2 The Committee requests data for all the backlog of cases for the Local Courts, Customary Land Appeal Court, Magistrates' Courts, High Court and Court of Appeal.
- 3.50.1.3 The disposal rate vs the number of judges (number of cases per Judge)
- 3.50.1.4 Specify the timeframe for discharging court decisions after a matter has been heard, is there a guideline or court rule for disposing of court decisions within a specified timeframe (3 months)?
- 3.50.1.5 Case statistics: how many cases have been heard and have gone beyond 3 months? And how many cases have been decided within the 3 months period?
- 3.50.1.6 The Committee recommends that ministry to look at each individual judge's productivity to get a pretty clear view of what is the cause of the productivity. And form a general assessment tool and submit it to the Committee.
- 3.50.1.7 Data of all the court facilities available within the country plus their location.
- 3.51 The Committee noted the written submission provided by the National Judiciary received on 26th August 2022. This submission is included in the appendices of this report.

## 30 Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs

### 1. Variation in Appropriation

#### Advanced Warrant

Subhead/item	Description	Original Estimate	Supplementary Estimate (\$)	Revised Estimates (\$)
202-550-0000-22105	Consultancy Fees	Nil	1,823,713	1,823,713

202-550-0000-22110	Publicity & promotions	Nil	368,467	368,467
202-550-0000-22205	Office Stationery	Nil	125,000	125,000
202-550-0000-22401	Conferences, Seminars and Workshop	Nil	1,805,000	1,805,000
202-550-0000-22651	Electricity	Nil	148,000	148,000
202-550-0000-22655	Telephone and Faxes	Nil	90,000	90,000
202-550-0000-23011	Capex - Office Equipment	Nil	320,000	320,000
202-550-0000-23013	Capex - Computer Software and Hardware	Nil	51,600	51,600
202-550-0000-27004	Office Rent	Nil	488,000	488,000
218-001-0000-22212	Disaster preparedness & relief	Nil	29,400	29,400
<b>Total</b>		<b>Nil</b>	<b>5,249,180</b>	<b>5,249,180</b>

Budget Support collectively funded by Asian Development Bank (ADB) COVID19 funds and the Government of New Zealand through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) to meet the cost of the SIG COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan for the planned lockdown on 29 to 31 August 2021 and other support towards youth empowerment in the 9 provinces including Honiara.

## 2. Appropriateness of expenditure

The Advanced Warrants were approved by the Minister on 11 and 22 August 2021.

The Advanced Warrant approved by the Minister relating to the August 2021 lockdown covered a budget for a range of Ministries and the source of funding. This warrant is annotated by hand to a lower amount for each Ministry and initialled by the Minister.

## 3. Issues of Concern

Matters of concern raised by the Committee includes the following:

- 3.52 **Advanced Warrant** - the Committee queried how the money allocated to the Ministry was spent. The Ministry advised that \$2 million was used to finance operational cost of youth congress for recruitment, salary staff plus support secretariat board meeting costs. This money also supported five youth councils in the provinces.
- 3.53 \$1.8 million is for national and provincial events plus conferences, networking and upskilling for youth in the Provinces. \$130,000 is allocated for YECSI to support their activities, Provincial grants of \$206,236 is to assist them with their annual work plans for youth in the Provinces. Lastly there is \$1.1 million to support small projects to empower youth throughout Provinces. As indicated in the Bill, the total cost of \$5,249,180.
- 3.54 The Committee queried if all funds were utilized in 2021 and if not why. The Ministry advised that some funding for entrepreneurship funding remains of approximately \$200,000 which are still in the Project account.

**Recommendation 5**

The Committee recommends that a further supplementary appropriation is done for the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs to authorize the expenditure of the unutilized funds from 2021 not yet appropriated for in 2022.

## 32 Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology

### 1. Variation in Appropriation

#### Recurrent Budget – Advanced Warrant

Subhead/item	Description	Original Estimate	Supplementary Estimate (\$)	Revised Estimates (\$)
218-571- 0000-22212	Disaster preparedness & relief	Nil	10,454,380	10,454,380
<b>Total</b>		<b>Nil</b>	<b>10,454,380</b>	<b>10,454,380</b>

Funded by Asian Development Bank (ADB) COVID-19 funds to meet the cost of the SIG COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan for the planned lockdown on 29 to 31 August 2021. Also, support to meet the costs of the COVID-19 ongoing camp management operations including support towards Western Borders outstanding costs for catering, rental, housekeeping, utilities and stationeries.

## 2. Appropriateness of expenditure

The Advanced Warrant was approved by the Prime Minister as Acting Minister of Finance and the Minister of Finance in August, September, October, November and December 2021.

The Advanced Warrant approved by the Minister relating to the August 2021 lockdown covered a budget for a range of Ministries and the source of funding. This warrant is annotated by hand to a lower amount for each Ministry and initialled by the Minister.

## 3. Issues of Concern

Matters raised by the Committee include the following:

- 3.55 **The Ministry's National Disaster Council (NDC) special account** – the Committee enquired into whether the total of \$10.5 million had already been paid into the Ministry's NDC special account and if not how much had been paid in portions.
- 3.56 The Ministry stated that the funds have been paid in portions, some of the funds were paid into the NDC special account, however, the bulk of it was paid through normal payments that has been raised through the Ministry of Finance. All these funds have totalled up to the \$10.5 million.
- 3.57 The Committee further inquired into whether the Ministry has a NDC special fund set up which is called for under the Act and whether there are any funds left. The Ministry stated that though this is called for under the Act, the NDC special account has not been set up, the Ministry is still using an imprest account which is part of the consolidated fund. The Ministry further stated that there are no funds left under this account because they were also carry forward costs from 2021.

END OF REPORT

## Appendices

### Committee Functions

The Committee is established under *Standing Order 69*; an Order made pursuant to the *Constitution*<sup>1</sup> 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Section 62, *Constitution of Solomon Islands* 1978.

## APPENDICES

### Minutes of Proceedings



NATIONAL PARLIAMENT OF SOLOMON ISLANDS

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**

P.O. Box G19,  
Honiara.  
Tel: 28520/23424.  
Fax: 24272

### Minutes of Proceedings

#### Committee Inquiry into the 2021 Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2022 (No.4 of 2022)

Day 1/2022

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August, CRII, Parliament Building, 09:40 AM

**1. Members Present**

Hon. Douglas Ete, MP- Chairman

Hon. Matthew Wale, MP

Hon. John Dean Kuku, MP

Hon. Rick Houenipwela, MP

Hon. John Maneniaru, MP

Hon. Commins Mewa, MP

**2. Apologies**

Hon. Ethel Vokia, MP

Hon. Silas Vaqara Tausinga, MP

Hon. Alfred Efona, MP

Hon. Lilly Maefai, MP

**3. Secretary**

Mr. Johnson Lobo, Manager Auditor

**4. Secretariat**

Mr. Heston Rence, Committee clerk

Ms. Salome Pilumate, Committee Secretary

Ms. Cordney Wale, Committee Secretary

Ms. Sherilyn Ragoso, Hansard Officer

Mrs. Hazel Fafale, Hansard Officer

Mr. Greg Kinimete, Hansard Officer

Ms. Theresa Nori, Hansard Officer

Mr. Sunjay Dhari, IT Officer

Mr. Lawrence Scott, Media Officer

**5. Prayer**

Hon. John Maneniaru said the opening prayer.

**6. Welcome/ Opening remarks**

The Chairman of the PAC welcomes members of the committee, witnesses, committee secretariat and supporting staff and then said his opening remarks. The Chair informs the witnesses of the Parliamentary privileges.

**7. Inquiry into the 2021 Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2022 (No.4 of 2022)**

The Hearing proper commenced and the following witnesses from the Ministry of Finance and Treasury were admitted.

**Hearing 1 Witnesses**

- i. Mr. McKinnie Dentana, PS
- ii. Mr. Coswal Nelson, DS Fiscal
- iii. Mr. Paula Uluinaceva, Accountant General
- iv. Mr. Jim Sutton, Comptroller of Customs
- v. Mrs. Marcellina Loe Iro, Director (Ag) Budget

The witnesses made their presentation before the Committee.

The Committee questioned the witnesses based on evidences presented. Discussion ensued. Evidence concluded and witnesses withdrew.

*Hearing suspends for lunch at 10.53am*

The Hearing proper resumed at 11:03am and the following witnesses from the Office of the Prime Minister were admitted:

**Hearing 2 Witnesses**

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- i. Mr. Jimmy Rodgers, SPM
- ii. Mr. Leonard Ofainu, DSPM
- iii. Mr. Malcom F Soai, FC(Ag)

The witnesses made their presentations before the Committee.

The Committee questioned the witnesses based on evidences presented. Discussion ensued. Evidence concluded and witnesses withdrew.

*Hearings suspends for lunch at 11:26pm*

The Hearing proper resumed at 11:27pm and the following witnesses from the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock were admitted:

**Hearing 3 Witnesses**

- i. Miss. Ethel Francis, PS
- ii. Ms. Elda L Wate, DSC
- iii. Mr. Michael Ho'ota, DST
- iv. Mr. Paul Greg, FC
- v. Mr. Andrew Melaiulu, Director

The witnesses made their opening presentation before the Committee.

The Committee questioned the witnesses based on evidences presented. Discussion ensued. Evidence concluded and witnesses withdrew.

*Hearings suspends at 11:41am*

The Hearing proper resumed at 1:52pm and the following witnesses from the Ministry of Education and Human Resources were admitted:

**Hearing 4 Witnesses**

- i. Mr. Franco Rodie, PS
- ii. Mr. Chris Saliri, DSES
- iii. Mrs. Linda Wate, DST & L
- iv. Mr. Coldrin Kolae DSC
- v. Mrs. Merylyn Kodoleke, DF

- vi. Mr. Constance Nasi (CE) SITESA
- vii. Mr. Goldie Lusi, SITESA (Director) SITESA
- viii. Mr. Gibson Philip, SITESA (Director) SITESA

The witnesses made their opening presentation before the Committee.

The Committee questioned the witnesses based on evidences presented. Discussion ensued. Evidence concluded and witnesses withdrew.

*Hearing suspend at 2:49pm*

The Hearing proper resumed at 2:55pm and the following witnesses from the Health and Medical Services were admitted:

**Hearing 5 Witnesses**

- i. Ms. Pauline Mcneil, PS
- ii. Mr. Lazarus Neko, DSC
- iii. Ms. Esther Tekulu, FC (S)
- iv. Mr. Gorge Malefoasi, CEO/NRH
- v. Mr. Leyton Jacob, Proc Manager

The witness made their opening presentation before the Committee.

The Committee questioned the witnesses based on evidences presented. Discussion ensued. Evidence concluded and witnesses withdrew.

*Hearing suspend at 3:05pm*

The Hearing proper resumed at 3:07pm and the following witnesses from the Ministry of Infrastructure Development were admitted:

**Hearing 6 Witnesses**

- vi. Mr. Stephen Maesiola, PS
- vii. Mr. Paul Ne'e, FC

The witness made their opening presentation before the Committee.

The Committee questioned the witnesses based on evidences presented. Discussion ensued. Evidence concluded and witnesses withdrew.

## **8. Adjournment**

No closing prayer was said.

The hearing adjourned at 3:10 pm

### **Day 2/2022**

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August, CRII, Parliament Building, 9:33am

#### **1. Members Present**

Hon. Douglas Ete, MP- Chairman

Hon. Matthew Cooper Wale, MP

Hon. John Maneniaru, MP

Hon. Rick Houenipwela, MP

Hon. Ethel Vokia, MP

Hon. Lilly Maefai, MP

Hon. Commins Mewa, MP

#### **2. Apologies**

Hon. Silas Vaqara Tausinga, MP

Hon. Alfred Efona, MP

Hon. John Dean Kuku, MP

#### **3. Secretary**

Mr. David Dennis, Auditor General

#### **4. Secretariat**

Mr. Heston Rence, Committee clerk

Ms. Ivory Iruha'a, Committee clerk

Ms. Cordney M Wale, Committee Clerk

Mr. Whitmon Tabiru, Committee clerk

Ms. Theresa Nori, Hansard Officer

Ms. Sherilyn Ragoso, Hansard Officer

Mrs. Esther Turangaluvu, Hansard Officer

Mr. Greg Kinimete, Hansard Officer

Mr. Sunjay Dhari, IT Officer

Mr. Lawrence Scott, Media Officer

Mr. Philemon Loe, Media Officer

#### **5. Prayer**

Hon. Rick Hounipwela said the opening prayer.

#### **6. Welcome/ Opening remarks**

The Chairman of the PAC welcomes members of the committee, witnesses, committee secretariat and supporting staff and then said his opening remarks. The Chair informs the witnesses of the Parliamentary privileges.

#### **7. Inquiry into the 2021 Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2022 (No.4 of 2022)**

The Hearing proper commenced and the following witnesses from the National Judiciary were admitted.

#### **Hearing 7 Witnesses**

- i. Ms. Karen Galokale, Permanent Secretary (Supervising)
- ii. Mr. Jack Lafisi, Deputy Registrar
- iii. Mr. Joseph Bibiasi, HRM/CEO
- iv. Mr. Paul Kapakeni, FC
- v. Mr. Thompson Mae, Deputy Registrar

The witnesses made their presentation before the Committee.

The Committee questioned the witnesses based on evidences presented. Discussion ensued. Evidence concluded and witnesses withdrew.

*Hearing suspends at 10:02am*

The Hearing proper resumed at 10:12am and the following witnesses from the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs were admitted:

**Hearing 8 Witnesses**

- i. Mr. Cedric Alependava, Permanent Secretary
- ii. Mr. Aeron Pitaqae, DS,
- iii. Mr. Malcolm Mataifo, Finance Controller
- iv. Ms. Sarahlyn Houla, Intern
- v. Mr. Jackson Tasa, Director Family Affairs

The witnesses made their presentation before the Committee.

The Committee questioned the witnesses based on evidences presented. Discussion ensued. Evidence concluded and witnesses withdrew.

*Hearings suspends at 10:27am*

The Hearing proper resumed at 10:32am and the following witnesses from the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology were admitted:

**Hearing 9 Witnesses**

- i. Mr. Melchor Mataki, Permanent Secretary
- ii. Mr. Jacob Akao, Financial Controller
- iii. Mr. Jonathan Tafiariki, Director, NDMO

The witnesses made their opening presentation before the Committee.

The Committee questioned the witnesses based on evidences presented. Discussion ensued. Evidence concluded and witnesses withdrew.

*Hearings suspends for lunch at 10:39am*

The Hearing proper resumed at 1:35pm and the following witnesses from the Ministry of Police, National Security and Correctional Services were admitted:

**Hearing 10 Witnesses**

- i. Ms Karen Galokale, PS – MPNSCS
- ii. Ms. Julia Turamasi, DSCS
- iii. Mr John Vaefa, FC
- iv. Mr. Gabriel Manelusi, Commissioner, CSSI
- v. Mr. Michael Nagu, Deputy Commissioner

vi. Ms. Evelyn Thugea, RSIPF

The witnesses made their opening presentation before the Committee.

The Committee questioned the witnesses based on evidences presented. Discussion ensued. Evidence concluded and witnesses withdrew.

*Hearing suspend at 1:48pm*

The Hearing proper resumed at 2:04pm and the following witnesses from the Ministry Home Affairs were admitted:

**Hearing 11 Witnesses**

i. Mr. Jeffery D Sade, PS

The witnesses made their opening presentation before the Committee.

The Committee questioned the witnesses based on evidences presented. Discussion ensued. Evidence concluded and witnesses withdrew.

*Hearing suspend at 2:18pm*

The Hearing proper resumed at 2:21pm and the following witnesses from the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Survey were admitted:

**Hearing 12 Witnesses**

i. Mr. Stanley Waleania, PS

ii. Mr. Jerald Musi, FC

The witnesses made their opening presentation before the Committee.

The Committee questioned the witnesses based on evidences presented. Discussion ensued. Evidence concluded and witnesses withdrew.

**8. Adjournment**

No closing prayer was said.

The public hearings for the Bill concluded at 2:48 pm

## List of Submissions

### Submission during Hearings

Submission#1, MECDM, NDC Fund.

Submission#2, MECDM, Special Imprest Fund

Submission#3, NJ, Information requested by PAC

Submission#4, OPMC, Letter to the PAC Chairman

Submission#5, MWYCFA, 2021SAB2022

Submission#6, MEHRD, Teachers Entitlement Information

Submission#7, MID, 2018 Grants

Submission#8, MID, List Final 2021

Submission#9, MID, Pay List 2020

Submission#10, 2022, MOFT, SIWA CSO Application

Submission#11, MOFT, Drafted Unaudited FS report

Submission#12, MOFT, SAL, Financial Statements 2019

Submission#13, MOFT, SIWA, Financial Statements 2020

### List of PAC Generic Submissions

1. MECDM, PAC Generic Template 2021SAB2022
2. MEHRD, PAC Generic Template 2021SAB2022
3. MHMS, PAC Generic Template 2021SAB2022
4. MHA , PAC Generic Template 2021SAB2022
5. MPNSCS, PAC Generic Template 2021SAB2022
6. OPMC, PAC Generic Template 2021SAB2022
7. NJ, PAC Generic Template 2021SAB2022
8. MID, PAC Generic Template 2021SAB2022
9. MLHS, PAC Generic Template 2021SAB2022