

NATIONAL PARLIAMENT OF SOLOMON ISLANDS PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Report on the 2009 Supplementary Appropriation (No.2) Bill 2009

NP-Paper No. 44/2009

Presented on 8 December 2009

National Parliament Office

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1 Introduction

The Public Accounts Committee (Committee) has concluded its review and report on the 2009 Supplementary Appropriation No. 2 Bill 2009 (Bill), introduced in the House by the Minister of Finance and Treasury. The Bill was submitted to the Speaker through the Clerk to Parliament as required under the *Standing Orders*¹. The Speaker examined the Bill,² endorsed it and the Bill was duly deemed to have been presented to Parliament according to Standing Order 46.

According to government business for the current (10th) meeting of Parliament, the Bill was read the first time on 7 December 2009. The Ministers second reading speech occurred today, Tuesday 8 December 2009.

On Friday 27 November 2009, the Committee resolved to have both the Hearings for the 2010 Appropriation Bill and this Bill concurrently. As such Hearings were held from 30 November to the 4 December 2009 where the Public Accounts Committee considered the 2010 Appropriation Budget Estimates and this Bill and heard evidence from relevant government Ministries. Following its review, the Committee makes this report to Parliament, with recommendations, for the information of Members and for Parliament's consideration.

Terms of Reference

Pursuant to its mandate under the *Standing Orders* the terms of reference of the Committee in this instance is to examine the **Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2009** and to report its observations and recommendations on the Bill to Parliament.

Standing Order 44 (1).

¹ Standing Order 44 (1).

Functions of the Committee

The Public Accounts Committee is established under *Standing Order* 69, an Order made pursuant to the *Constitution*³ and has the functions, together with the necessary powers to discharge such, to:

- (a) examine the accounts prescribed by Section 33 of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1978, 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.

3 Section 62 Constitution of Solomon Islands 10

Membership

The current members of the Public Accounts Committee (8th Parliament) are:

Hon. Francis Zama (Chair) MP

Hon. Peter Boyers, MP

Hon. Mark Kemakeza, MP

Hon. Trevor Olavae, MP

Hon. Peter Shanel, MP

Hon. Manasseh Sogavare, MP

Mr. Edward Ronia, Auditor General (Secretary)

2 Background

Section 101 of the Constitution defines the process and conditions in which funds may be withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund. Issuance of funds under a Supplementary Appropriation Bill (SAB) is provided for under section 101 (2) [b] of the Constitution; and also the provisions of sections 103 or 104 are satisfied.

The process is further detailed under section 15 (Contingency Warrants) of the Public Finance and Audit Act [Cap. 120], the provisions of Financial Instructions (FI) 182 to 186 and section 102 (3) of the Constitution. Intrinsically, this is designed to be a transparent process to ensure that public resources are safeguarded in the interest of those who own them – i.e. the people of Solomon Islands.

The Public Accounts Committee (Committee) is responsible for the examination of draft estimates that support Appropriation Bills. The Committee subsequently reports on its findings to Parliament for the purpose of properly informing Members of Parliament and raising matters that will assist them in their deliberations.

Objective

Aside from the parliamentary oversight responsibility that is often exercised by the Committee, the object of this report is to inform the Members of Parliament (MPs) on significant issues pertaining to the 2009 Supplementary Appropriation (No.2) Bill 2009, which were examined by the Committee.

The Committee undertakes its reviews and examinations on the Supplementary Appropriation (No.2) Bill within the parameters of the laws underpinning government finances. Furthermore, the Committee believes that its assessment must also be underpinned on sound economic strategies that are essential to achieving the common objective for which Parliament has allocated resources.

3 Review

Committee Process

In carrying out our examination of the Supplementary Appropriation (No.2) Bill 2009, the Committee undertook the following:

- Review of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill;
- Heard evidence from the Permanent Secretary for Finance and the Permanent Secretaries of the six Ministries which had obtained funding under Contingency Warrant since the hearings on the 2009 Supplementary Appropriations Bill 2009 and the Private Secretary to the Governor General. This evidence related to the contents and specific appropriations relevant to their portfolio and the details of expenditure provided through contingency warrant, and

The Parliament adjourned for a week in order that the Committee could undertake its inquiry into the Bill prior to the second reading debate in the House.

4 Summary Report

2009 Supplementary Appropriation (No.2) Bill 2009

The Committee commenced its deliberation into the Supplementary Appropriation (No.2) Bill on Monday 30 November 2009 in conjunction with its deliberation on the 2010 Draft Estimates. The Bill seeks to authorise the legal authorization on supplementary expenditure of \$32,863,460 as issued under Contingency Warrants, of which \$24,711,460 is recurrent expenditure and \$8,125,000 is development expenditure.

Legitimizing Legal Authorization

Solomon Islands Constitution 103 (2) states:

"Where in respect of any financial year the Minister is satisfied that and urgent and unforeseen need has risen to authorise for any purpose issues from the Consolidated fund for expenditure in excess of the sum appropriated for that purpose by an Appropriation Act, or for a purpose for which no sum has been appropriated, he may, subject to the provisions of any law or regulations for the time being in force in that regard, authorise, with the prior approval of the Cabinet, such issues by warrant and shall include such amount in a Supplementary Appropriation Bill for appropriation at the meeting of Parliament next following the date on which the warrant was issued:

Provided that if there shall be no further meeting in the same financial year, the Bill may be deferred to any meeting held before the end of the following financial year."

The public officers informed the Committee on the intention of the Bill, that is, Parliament to authorise the legal authorization of these funds.

Contingency Warrants

The PAC noted that in many cases the Contingency Warrants which had been approved by the Minister for Finance were not for items which were "urgent and not reasonably foreseeable"⁴. The Committee has for several years called on Ministries to seek funding for

⁴ Section 103 of The Constitution of the Solomon Islands 1078

necessary expenditure during the annual budget process rather than seeking Contingency Warrant approval to permit expenditure which was able to be foreseen. The Committee is of the view that the Minister must make it clear to Permanent Secretaries that contingency warrants will not be approved without appropriate and convincing justification of how the request complies with the requirements of the Constitution.

In the cases examined by the Committee during the hearings the Ministry of Finance and Treasury had pre-empted Parliament's role in authorising future expenditure by improper use of Contingency Warrants. As previously noted Section 103 of the Constitution stipulates that the Minister needs to be satisfied that there is an urgent and unforeseen need before authorising expenditure by contingency warrant.

Communication of Outcomes

As in previous years it was apparent that many of the requests for supplementation had not been accepted by Cabinet and were consequently not included in the Bill. Permanent Secretaries appeared to be aware of which bids had been accepted although did not seem to have much information on why bids were rejected and in some cases were confused by the decisions made.

The Committee was assured by the Ministry of Finance that the necessary consultation processes were done, in which all government ministries were invited to make submissions for additional funding. The Ministry then made consultations with the ministries following the submissions on the necessity and importance of each bid. The Committee was informed that it is difficult for the Ministry to be able to make immediate changes in the budget process more especially in light of the global economic crisis.

Although the Committee is pleased that the level of consultations has improved according to the Committee's recommendations, it still is of the view that the budget process can be streamlined and improvements made in terms of the way submissions are assessed and either included or excluded.

Budget Process

The Committee noted that Permanent Secretaries frequently indicated that the 35% reservation of funds instituted earlier this year was the main reason they were making a bid for supplementary funding. Permanent Secretaries claimed that the reservation and the

limits placed on the virement process has restricted their flexibility so that they were required to request supplementary funding even though the budget for their Ministry was likely to be underspent for the year.

The Committee also noted that on some occasions the original 2009 estimate was significantly less than the level of previous expenditure and the Ministry is now seeking to supplement that estimate. This indicated either a lack of rigour or undue optimism in the budget process and the Committee again reminds all Ministries to be diligent in the development of their annual budget, taking due note of historical levels of expenditure and expected activity.

The Committee is also concerned that certain key Ministries are being hampered in delivering their key services due to constrains in the budget process as well as a lack of set criteria's to which additional funding can be sort.

Communicating political will

The Committee appreciate the many challenges faced by the Finance Ministry in the effort to manage the economy within its capacity. The Committee raised concern that the Ministry is and will always be faced with significant pressure on the level of implementing the budget. The Committee raises concern that should an eventual increase in the number of constituencies as anticipated for next, it will definitely put more pressure for further use of the Contingency Warrant. Given the 1% forecast growth revealed by the Governor of Central Bank for 2010 the Committee is of the view that the Finance Ministry advice government that a further increase on the number of constituencies next year 2010 will have a considerable negative impact on the economy.

5. Detailed Examination

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) invited hearings in the week beginning 30 November 2009 from all Permanent Secretaries to discuss their bids for funding in the 2010 Budget. During these discussions the Members of the PAC where also free to question those Permanent Secretaries who had bids to ratify funding under Contingency Warrants in the current financial year which were being appropriated in the 2009 Supplementary Appropriation (No.2) Bill

Whilst the full details of the hearings are in Hansard the following is a summary of the more significant matters that arose during these hearings under each Ministry for the Contingency Warrant bids.

Head 273 Ministry of Finance and Treasury

Supplementary Appropriation – Recurrent	\$16,000,000

This amount provides for the cost of the Government's contribution to the compensation for Telekom for the loss of its monopoly status.

The Permanent Secretary of MoFT indicated that \$16m is to cater for a part payment to Solomon Telekom. In August this year the National Parliament passes the Telecommunications Act 2009 removing Solomon Telekom's 15 year exclusive license. As compensation the government was required to pay \$24m upfront that is part of the \$120m negotiated settlement. The Permanent Secretary stated that such undertaking caught the government unexpected thus the use of Contingency Warrant.

Head 275 Office of the Governor General

Supplementary Appropriation – Recurrent	\$300,000

The PAC heard that the Office of the Governor General requested this amount and is authorized under Contingency Warrant to cater for the cost of the visiting New Zealand Governor General's in the Capital, Honiara, in October this year, 2009.

Head 291 Ministry of Public Service

Supplementary Appropriation – Recurrent	\$4,500,000

This amount provides for the cost of making ex-gratia payments to government employees who were victims of the earthquake and tsunami in Western Province and Choiseul.

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Public Service revealed that the ex-gratia payments are outstanding payments payable to public officers in Gizo in the Western Province and Choiseul who become victims of the devastating tsunami that hit

Head 293 Ministry of Home Affairs

Supplementary Appropriation – Recurrent	\$3,099,000

This amount provides for the cost of providing disaster relief assistance to flood victims in Taiwan and tsunami victims in Western Samoa and Tonga and providing assistance to the Solomon Islands Contingent to the Pacific Mini Games in the Cook Islands in September 2009.

Head 294 Ministry of National Unity, Reconciliation and Peace

Supplementary Appropriation – Recurrent	\$500,000

The PAC was enlightened by the Permanent Secretary that this amount provides for additional funding needed by the Ministry to meet cost associated with the operations of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee for the remainder of 2009.

Head 297 Ministry of Women, Youth and Children's Affairs

Supplementary Appropriation – Recurrent	\$312,460

This amount provides for the cost of the National Youth Parliament.

Head 270 Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock

Supplementary Appropriation – Development	\$2,285,000

The PAC learnt that this amount provides for the cost of additional funding for the Auluta Oil Palm Project.

The Committee heard from the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture that need for additional funding under this head came following governments concern to expand more on Palm Oil projects in the country. The Permanent Secretary stated that Palm Oil is now earning increasing returns for the economy and it is expected to continue to increase thus, the need for further investment on that commodity.

The Permanent Secretary stated that the CNURA government through the Ministry plan to have for the next ten to fifteen years forty thousand hectares, expanding from Guadalcanal province, GPPOL, to other provinces including Vangunu in the Western Province to the Shortlands, Choiseul Province and later to Isabel and Makira.

Head 273 Ministry of Finance and Treasury

Supplementary Appropriation – Dev	relopment	\$5,000,000

This amount provides for the costs associated with undertaking the 2009 National Population Census.

Head 285 Ministry of Lands Housing and Survey

The PAC gather that this amount provides for the costs associated with the expansion of the National Cemetery at Kolaridge.

6. Recommendations

Upon completion of the hearing on the 2009 Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2009, the Committee recommends that:

- Consultation is done with each line Ministry to develop budgets based on realistic expectations of accurate costs required to operate the Ministry's portfolio.
- The Ministry of Finance and Treasury further improve the budget processes to ensure all requests for additional funding meet certain public benefit criteria before approval with appropriate feedback on the outcomes of their submissions. This should include a written report indicating the final amounts to be included in the Bill.
- That Ministries use more care in undertaking annual planning so that items which are foreseeable and can be estimated in that planning process are identified at that time and are not required to be funded by Contingency Warrant.
- That given the near stagnant state of the economy, the Ministry of Finance and Treasury to advice government that the economy may not be able to finance a foreseeable increase on the number of constituencies next year, 2010.

Hon. Francis Zama

Chairman

Public Accounts Committee

7 December 2009

Appendix 1: Minutes



PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

NATIONAL PARLIAMENT OF SOLOMON ISLANDS

Minutes of Proceedings

Meeting No. 3

Monday 30 November 2009, Parliament House, 11:25am

1. Members Present

Hon. Francis Zama (Chair) MP

Hon. Manasseh Sogavare MP

Hon. Peter Boyers, MP

Hon. Peter Shannel Agovaka, MP

Hon. Mark Kemakeza, MP

Witnesses

Mr. Sharach Fanega, Permanent Secretary – Ministry of Finance & Treasury

Ms. Elizabeth Kausimae, Under Secretary - Finance

Mr. Mark Wigging, under secretary -

Mr. Andrew Minto, Commissioner of In Land Revenue

Mr. George Tapo, Deputy Commissioner of In land Revenue (Ag)

Mr. Donna Hargreaves – Accountant General (Ag)

Mr. Denty Tuke, Deputy Accountant General (Ag)

Mr. Nathan Kama, Controller Customs

Mr. Andrew Idute'e, Director Budget Unit

Secretariat

Mr. Peter Johnson, (Secretary) Acting Auditor General

Ms. Alice Willy, Committee Secretariat, Clerk to PAC

In-Attendance

Mr. Ben Mendo, Under Secretary (Establishment), Public Service

Ms. Janny Bently, Hansard, National Parliament Office

2. Inquiry into the 2010 Budget Estimates and 2009 Supplementary Appropriation (No.2) Bill 2009

The Permanent Secretary and his officials of the Ministry of Finance and Treasury appeared before the Committee.

The Chair welcomed the Permanent Secretary to brief the committee on the Ministry's Budget.

The Committee questioned the PS and his Officials.

Evidence concluded.

The Committee deliberated.

3. Close

Committee suspend at 12:45am

Minutes of Proceedings

Meeting No. 4

Monday 30 November 2009, Parliament House, 1:30pm

1. Members Present

Hon. Francis Zama (Chair) MP

Hon. Manasseh Sogavare MP

Hon. Peter Boyers, MP

Hon. Peter Shannel Agovaka, MP

Witnesses

Ms. Jane Waetara, Permanent Secretary – Ministry of Development Planning and Aid Coordination

Mr. Allen Daonga, Under Secretary - MDPAC

Ms. Lyn Legua, MDPAC

Secretariat

Mr. Peter Johnson, (Secretary) Acting Auditor General

Mr. Noel Matea, Committee Secretariat

In-Attendance

Mr. Andrew Idute'e, Director Budget Unit

Ms. Janny Bently, Hansard, National Parliament Office

2. Inquiry into the 2010 Budget Estimates and 2009 Supplementary Appropriation (No.2) Bill 2009

The Permanent Secretary and her officials of the Ministry of Development Planning and Aid Coordination appeared before the Committee.

The Chair welcomed the Permanent Secretary to brief the committee on the Ministry's Budget.

The Committee questioned the PS and his Officials.

Evidence concluded.

The Committee deliberated.

3. Close

Committee suspend at 3:10pm

Minutes of Proceedings

Meeting No. 6

Monday 30 November 2009, Parliament House, 4:20pm

1. Members Present

Hon. Francis Zama (Chair) MP

Hon. Manasseh Sogavare MP

Hon. Peter Boyers, MP

Hon. Peter Shannel Agovaka, MP

Hon. Mark Kemakeza, MP

Witnesses

Mr. Edward Kingmele, Permanent Secretary – Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock

Mr. John Horunari, Under Secretary (Technical), MAL

Alfred Maesulia, Under Secretary (Administration), MAL

Mr. Billy Toate'pe, Chief Accountant, MAL

Dr. Rovindra Joshi, Advisor, MAL

Ms. Jacquelyn Qaloboe, Human Resources Manager, MAL

Secretariat

Mr. Peter Johnson, (Secretary) Acting Auditor General

Mr. Noel Matea, Committee Secretariat

2. Inquiry into the 2010 Budget Estimates and 2009 Supplementary Appropriation (No.2) Bill 2009

The Permanent Secretary and his officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock appeared before the Committee.

The Chair welcomed the Permanent Secretary to brief the committee on the Ministry's Budget.

The Permanent Secretary tabled the following documents:

- Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Corporate Plan 2009 2010
- National Agriculture and Livestock Sector Policy 2009 2014
- National Rural Development Programme Annual Report 2008
- Local Vegetable Food "Kakai" Recipes in Solomon Islands

The Committee questioned the Permanent Secretary and his Officials.

Evidence concluded.

The Committee deliberated.

3. Close

Committee adjourned at 5:35pm

Minutes of Proceedings

Meeting No. 7

Tuesday 1 December 2009, Parliament House, 9:40am

1. Members Present

Hon. Francis Zama (Chair) MP

Hon. Manasseh Sogavare MP

Hon. Peter Boyers, MP

Hon. Peter Shannel Agovaka, MP

Hon. Mark Kemakeza, MP

Hon. Trevor Olavae, MP

Witnesses

Mr. Ishmael Avui, Permanent Secretary – Ministry of Public Service

Mr. Elda Wate, Chief Accountant

Mr. Luke Mua, Undersecretary/ Strategic Policy

Mr. Walter H. Rhein, Policy Advisor

Secretariat

Mr. Edward Ronia, (Secretary) Auditor General

Ms. Alice Willy, Clerk to Committee

2. Inquiry into the 2010 Budget Estimates and 2009 Supplementary Appropriation (No.2) Bill 2009

The Permanent Secretary and his officials of the Ministry of Public Service appeared before the Committee.

The Chair welcomed the Permanent Secretary and asked him to brief the committee on the Ministry's Budget and 2009 Supplementary Appropriation (No. 2) Bill 2009.

The Committee questioned the PS and his Officials.

Evidence concluded.

The Committee deliberated.

3. Close

Committee suspend at 11:00 am

Minutes of Proceedings

Meeting No. 19

Wednesday, 2 December 2009, Parliament House, 5:05pm

1. Members Present

Hon. Francis Zama (Chair) MP

Hon. Manasseh Sogavare MP

Hon. Peter Shannel Agovaka, MP

Witnesses

Mr. Evans Tuhagenga, Under Secretary, Ministry of Women, Youth and Children Affairs

Ms. Salome Ramo, Human Resources Officer

Secretariat

Mr. Edward Ronia, Auditor General

Mr. Noel Matea, Committee Secretariat

2. Inquiry into the 2010 Budget Estimates and 2009 Supplementary Appropriation (No.2) Bill 2009

The Under Secretary and his official of the Ministry of Women, Youth and Children Affairs appeared before the Committee.

The Chair welcomed the Under Secretary to brief the committee on the Ministry's Budget.

The Under Secretary tabled the following documents:

- MWYCA Presentation of 2010 Budget Estimates
- SIG Recurrent Estimates 2010 Explanatory Notes

The Committee questioned the Under Secretary and his Official.

Evidence concluded.

The Committee deliberated.

3. Close

Committee adjourned at 5:28pm

Minutes of Proceedings

Meeting No. 23

Thursday, 3 December 2009, Parliament House, 2:28pm

1. Members Present

Hon. Francis Zama (Chair) MP

Hon. Manasseh Sogavare MP

Hon. Peter Shannel Agovaka, MP

Hon. Peter Boyers, MP

Hon. Mark Kemakeza, MP

Witnesses

Ms Joy Kere, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Unity, Reconciliation & Peace

Ms. Jessy S Kuali, Chief Accountant, Truth and Reconciliation

Mr. Bob Ramo, Chief Accountant, Ministry of National Unity, Reconciliation & Peace

Secretariat

Mr. Edward Ronia, Auditor General

Mr. Noel Matea, Committee Secretariat

2. Inquiry into the 2010 Budget Estimates and 2009 Supplementary Appropriation (No.2) Bill 2009

The Permanent Secretary and his official of the Unity, Reconciliation & Peace appeared before the Committee.

The Chair welcomed the Permanent Secretary to brief the committee on the Ministry's Budget.

The Permanent Secretary tabled the following document:

Umi tugeda go fo Peace: Reconciliation and Healing for Kandere blo iumi,
 Solomon Islands

The Committee questioned the Permanent Secretary and her Officials.

Evidence concluded.

The Committee deliberated.

3. Close

Committee suspend at 3:01pm.

Minutes of Proceedings

Meeting No. 28

Friday, 4 December 2009, Parliament House, 11:55am

1. Members Present

Hon. Francis Zama (Chair) MP

Hon. Manasseh Sogavare MP

Hon. Peter Shannel Agovaka, MP

Hon. Peter Boyers, MP

Hon. Mark Kemakeza, MP

Witnesses

Mr. Nigel Maezama, Private Secretary, Office of the Governor General

Ms. Connie Tehe, Senior Accountant

Secretariat

Mr. Edward Ronia, Auditor General

Ms. Alice Willy, Clerk to Committee

2. Inquiry into the 2010 Budget Estimates and 2009 Supplementary Appropriation (No.2) Bill 2009

The Private Secretary and his official of the Office of the Governor General appeared before the Committee.

The Chair welcomed the Private Secretary to brief the committee on the Ministry's Budget.

The Committee questioned the Private Secretary and his Official.

Evidence concluded.

The Committee deliberated.

3. Close

Committee suspend at 12:15am.

Meeting No. 30

Friday, 4 December 2009, Parliament House, 3:00pm

1. Members Present

Hon. Francis Zama (Chair) MP

Hon. Manasseh Sogavare MP

Hon. Peter Shannel Agovaka, MP

Hon. Peter Boyers, MP

Witnesses

Ms. Ruth Liloquila, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Lands, Housing & Survey

Mr. Charles Afia, Human Resources Manager

Ms. Beverly Maezama, Chief Accountant

Secretariat

Mr. Edward Ronia, Auditor General

Mr. Noel Matea, Clerk to Committee

2. Inquiry into the 2010 Budget Estimates and 2009 Supplementary Appropriation (No.2) Bill 2009

The Permanent Secretary and his official of the Ministry of Lands, Housing & Survey appeared before the Committee.

The Chair welcomed the Permanent Secretary to brief the committee on the Ministry's Budget.

The Committee guestioned the Permanent Secretary and her officials.

Evidence concluded.

The Committee deliberated.

3. Close

Committee suspend at 4:00pm.

Minutes of Proceedings

Meeting No. 30

Friday, 4 December 2009, Parliament House, 4:05pm

1. Members Present

Hon. Francis Zama (Chair) MP

Hon. Manasseh Sogavare MP

Hon. Peter Shannel Agovaka, MP

Hon. Peter Boyers, MP

Witnesses

Mr. Fred Fakarii, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs

Mr. John Fote'e, Undersecretary Technical

Mr. Godwin Fagatea, Chief Accountant

Secretariat

Mr. Edward Ronia, Auditor General

Mr. Noel Matea, Clerk to Committee

2. Inquiry into the 2010 Budget Estimates and 2009 Supplementary Appropriation (No.2) Bill 2009

The Permanent Secretary and his officials of the Ministry of Homes Affairs appeared before the Committee.

The Chair welcomed the Permanent Secretary to brief the committee on the Ministry's Budget.

The Committee guestioned the Permanent Secretary and his officials.

Evidence concluded.

The Committee deliberated.

3. Close

Committee suspend at 5:04pm.

Minutes of Proceedings

Meeting No. 30

Friday, 4 December 2009, Parliament House, 4:05pm

1. Members Present

Hon. Francis Zama (Chair) MP

Hon. Manasseh Sogavare MP

Hon. Peter Shannel Agovaka, MP

Hon. Peter Boyers, MP

Witnesses

Mr. Sharach Fanega, Permanent Secretary – Ministry of Finance & Treasury

Mr. Mark Wigging, Under Secretary - Advisor

Mr. Andrew Minto, Commissioner of In-land Revenue

Mr. George Tapo, Deputy Commissioner of In-land Revenue (Ag)

Mr. Donna Hargreaves – Accountant General (Ag)

Mr. Denty Tuke, Deputy Accountant General (Ag)

Mr. Andrew Idute'e, Director Budget Unit

In – Attendance

Ms. Jane Waitara, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Planning & Development

Secretariat

Mr. Edward Ronia, Auditor General

Mr. Noel Matea, Clerk to Committee

2. Inquiry into the 2010 Budget Estimates and 2009 Supplementary Appropriation (No.2) Bill 2009

The Permanent Secretary and his officials of the Ministry of Finance & Treasury and the Permanent Secretary of Planning and Development appeared before the Committee again for the conclusion of the Hearings.

The Committee questioned the Permanent Secretaries and the officials from the Ministry of Finance and Treasury.

Evidence concluded.

The Committee deliberated.

3. Close

Committee adjourned at 6:10pm.