

THE 2013 PREMIERS' CONFERENCE

THE GIZO COMMUNIQUÉ

Preamble

Whereas:

- The Premiers of each of the nine provinces of Solomon Islands and the Mayor of Honiara City Council (“the Premiers”) convened at this conference in Gizo, Western Province, from the 17th to the 21st of June 2013;
- The Conference theme was “**Resourcing Provincial Governments to develop Vibrant Local Economies**”, where the Permanent Secretaries, invited guests, and resource personnel were invited to make presentations relevant to the theme to assist the Premiers in their deliberations and decisions;
- The Premiers considered the conceptual framework, produced by the Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening and host Province, and the responses provided by each Line Ministry in response to the issues raised.

Statement of Guiding Principles

The Premiers humbly acknowledge the Honourable Minister’s statement emphasizing that the Communiqué must contain issues that are realistic and achievable within a two year timeframe and within the resources available. The Premiers also acknowledge the need for greater cooperation between Ministries and between Provincial Governments, to ensure the Provincial Governments remain relevant and able to access the resources they need to develop vibrant local economies.

Having regard to the Preamble and the Statement of Guiding Principles, the Premiers hereby resolve that:

1. Resolution 1: To institutionalize and seek an increase of the Provincial Capital Development Fund.

The Provincial Capital Development Fund (“PCDF”) is one of the mechanisms by which Provincial Government is able to undertake capital investment in the provinces. In relation to the PCDF, the Premiers seek:

- the continuation and institutionalization of this fund;
- a specific allocation for staff housing within this fund (with land to be secured by the Provincial Government);
- the promotion of PCDF mechanism to enable other line Ministries to channel resources to Provincial Governments.

Primary administering body: Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening, Ministry of Development Planning and Aid Coordination, Ministry of Finance and Treasury, Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

2. Resolution 2: To facilitate the human resource needs of Provincial Governments.

In order to provide a vibrant local economy, Provincial Governments need adequate staffing. Appointment of provincial staff has traditionally been a slow process and the Premiers seek the delegation of powers of appointment for particular provincial posts to either the Provincial Secretary or the Permanent Secretary of the MPGIS. The Premiers seek the strengthening of MPGIS by providing additional Under Secretary to enhance support for the provincial governments.

Primary administering body: Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening, Ministry of Public Service, Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs, Attorney General’s Chambers.

3. Resolution 3: To provide machinery and equipment to works departments of provincial governments and the Honiara City.

Good access to transport, whether by road, air or sea, is crucial in a country as geographically varied as Solomon Islands. In order for people in rural communities to access facilities, and for Provincial Government and Honiara City to provide services, Provincial Governments and Honiara City need to be equipped to carry out both the building and maintenance of transport infrastructures.

The Premiers acknowledge that private partnership may assist in this process and will also take efforts to source and provide good materials to those carrying out the work to ensure that work is not hindered by lack of resources.

Primary administering body: Ministry of Infrastructure Development, Ministry of Development Planning and Aid Coordination and the Ministry of Finance and Treasury.

4. Resolution 4: To align the Provincial and Honiara City Elections with National Elections.

Provincial, Honiara City and National elections are a costly exercise that involves an overlapping of many activities, such as voter registration. Given the potential changes to the National election system with the introduction of the Political Parties Integrity Bill 2013, the Premiers support a move to align Provincial and Honiara City elections with National elections to save money and prevent duplication of services.

Primary administering body: Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening, Office of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Electoral Commission, Ministry of Home Affairs and Attorney General's Chambers.

5. Resolution 5: To place restrictions on the selling of government land.

Land available for development is a scarce resource both within the provinces and Honiara City Council. Development of the little land available is often further limited by the unilateral sale of this land by the Commissioner of Lands. This has a significant negative impact on the ability of the provinces and Honiara City to plan and budget for their resources.

The Premiers strongly advocate for a policy change within the Ministry of Lands to require the Commissioner of Lands to consult with the Provincial Government or Honiara City Council before allocating any provincial land.

The Premiers also urge the Ministry of Lands to prohibit the sale of land that is of public interest. This includes areas such as graveyards, parks, and land required to deliver basic services.

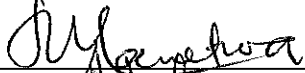

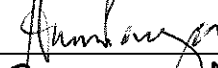
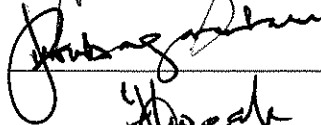
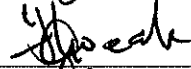

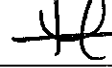
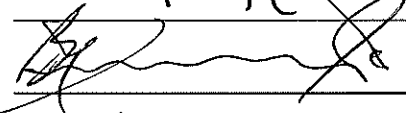
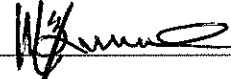

Primary administering body: Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening, and the Ministry of Lands, Survey and Housing.

6. Resolution 6: Agency Agreements

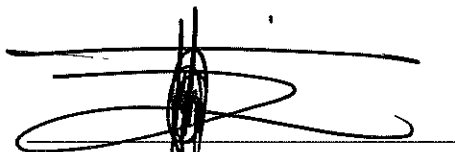
The Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening through functional assignment, to negotiate Agency Agreements with those line ministries who wish to clarify and transfer responsibilities and resources to provincial governments.

Primary administering body: Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening

We signify our assent and commitment to this Communiqué on this 21st day of June 2013:

<i>Premier</i>	<i>Province</i>	<i>Signature</i>
Hon. Stanley Manetiva,	Central	
Hon. Jackson Kiloe	Choiseul	
Hon. Steven Panga	Guadalcanal	
Hon. James Habu	Isabel	
Hon. Thomas Weape	Makira Ulawa	
Hon. Edwin Suibaea	Malaita	
Hon. Lence Tagosia	Rennell Bellona	
Hon. Fr. Charles Brown Beu	Temotu	
Hon. George Solingi Lilo	Western	
Hon. Cr. Andrew Mua	Honiara City Council	

I hereby confirm my receipt of this Communiqué this 21st day of ... JUNE ... 2013:



Hon. Silas V. K. Tausinga,
Minister for Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening