

(17)

2007 PROVINCIAL PREMIERS' CONFERENCE

THE LAKE TEGANO COMMUNIQUE

PREAMBLE

Whereas:

- 1 The Premiers of the nine Provinces of the Solomon Islands and the Lord Mayor of the Honiara City Council convened in this Conference at Lake Tegano from 11th to 14th September 2007.
- 2 This Conference is the first since the 2000 Buala Premiers' Conference after the return of law and order following the signing of the Townsville Peace Agreement and the intervention of the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI).
- 3 The Conference theme was 'IUMI TOGETHER FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT' and the Resource personnel from the relevant Government Ministries and Agencies were invited to make presentations relevant to the theme to assist the Premiers and the Lord Mayor in their deliberations and decisions.
- 4 The Conference spirit was open, collaborative and constructive, conducting to broad consensus on most of the issues addressed.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED

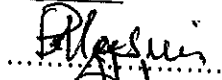
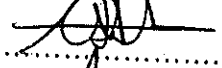


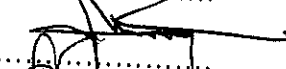

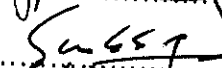
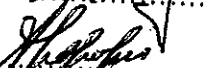
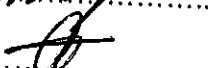
1. That the Federal Constitution making process must proceed according to the set time line of 31st October 2008 so that the Solomon Islands adopts a Federal System of Government within the term of office of the present Grand Coalition for Change Government. The Federal system of Government has to be a partnership of co-equals for a united and peaceful Solomon Islands.
2. The completion of the National Peace and Reconciliation processes is an urgent prerequisite for the social and economic development of the country. The reconciliation process should proceed according to the following sequence: first, reconciliation between the SIG and the Guadalcanal Provincial Government; second, reconciliation between the SIG and the Malaita Provincial Government; third, reconciliation between Guadalcanal and Malaita Provincial Governments; and finally, the national reconciliation of both Provinces with the rest of the country. The outstanding reconciliation issues with border violations in Choiseul and Western Provinces must also be addressed expeditiously. All reconciliation must be done in accordance with local customs and traditions within the spirit of Christian principles.

3. That the Provincial Governance Strengthening Program [PGSP], is unanimously supported and is seen as a necessary programme to strengthen the capacity of Provincial Governments to deliver services to their population and prepare for the transition to a Federal System of Government.
4. That there is unanimous support to the Bottom-Up Approach [BUA] policy of the GCC Government as a new mechanism to promote rural development. However, Provincial Governments demand a greater involvement of the existing Provincial Governments apparatus in the implementation of the BUA, particularly in relation to the functions and duties of the Constituency Development Officers [CDOs]
5. That there is a need to re-align the status and terms of conditions of service of the Provincial Assembly Members/Provincial Executive Members as well as the Provincial Administration with their national counterparts. Such re-alignment should also include the Honiara City Council.
6. That the Line Ministries' staff in the Provinces and in the Honiara City Council in the exercise of their functions should be answerable and accountable to the Government of their respective jurisdiction.
7. That the existing Service Grants are grossly inadequate and the allocation criteria should be clarified and reviewed. Current resources are insufficient to provide basic services to the population and the grants need to be immediately increased by a percentage to be mutually agreed between SIG, the Provincial Governments and Honiara City Council and awarded in the 2008 National Budget.
8. That the Provincial Government and the Honiara City Council request for revenues collected through the goods sales tax to be transferred to the sub-national Government under which jurisdiction the sale took place.
9. That the Provincial Governments should have a greater say in the planning process and in determining development expenditures and that such resources should be made available in a more accessible manner.
10. That resources for the promotion of tourism and other sustainable economic activities should be increased and such promotion should cover the entire country. In particular, the management and conservation of Lake Tegano in East Rennell, the only World Heritage Site in the South Pacific region, *should* be supported and regulated by an Act of Parliament.
11. That the various roles of RAMSI in the re-establishment of law and order is highly acknowledged and appreciated. However, there is a need to review their presence in some provinces shifting the focus from law and order onto economic governance and machinery of government programmes in consultation with Provincial Governments. There is also a need to start working on an exit strategy for a successful completion of the

Regional Mission for which the Provincial Governments must be consulted.

12. That there is a unanimous support to the Prime Minister's proposal for the establishment of a Provincial Premiers' Council through an Act of Parliament.
13. That this Premiers' Conference resolves that the Lord Mayor of the Honiara City Council be a permanent participant to Premiers' Conferences and signatory to the Lake Tegano Communiqué and other future communiqués.

Having agreed and endorsed the above Communiqué we signify by putting our signatures on this document this 14th day of September 2007.

<u>Premier</u>	<u>Province</u>	<u>Signature</u>
Hon. Patrick Vasuni, MPA	Central	
Hon. Jackson Kiloe, MPA	Choiseul	
Hon. Joash Salani, MPA	Guadalcanal	
Hon. Ruben Doto, MPA	Isabel	
Hon. John Mamafe, MPA	Makira Ulawa	
Hon. Richard N Irosaea, MPA	Malaita	
Hon. Solly Tengemoana, MPA	Rennell Bellona	
Hon. Alex Lokopio, MPA	Western	
Cr. Alfred Maetia, OBE	Lord Mayor, Honiara City Council	

Having agreed and endorsed the above Communiqué I signify by putting my signature on this document this 19th day of Sept. 2007.

Hon. Johnson Levela, MPA Temotu



Witness:

Hon. Japhet Waipora, CSI, MP
Minister of Provincial Governments and
Rural Development

