

The 2011 Premiers Conference

The Taro Communique

Preamble

Whereas

The Premiers of the nine provinces and Mayor of Honiara City Council of Solomon Islands (the "Premiers") convened in this conference in Taro, Choiseul Province, from 24th – 28th October 2011.

The Conference theme was **"Achieve Sustainable Development for the people of Solomon Islands through Peace, Partnership and Participation"**.

Statements of Guiding Principles

The Premiers humbly acknowledge the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister's statement that the theme of the conference is perfectly in line with the policies of the NCRA government which advocates sustainable development and encourages participation of the people as basis of maintaining peace.

The Premiers further humbly acknowledge the Honourable Minister's statement emphasizing that the resolutions of this communiqué must:

- a. Relate to processes that will facilitate service delivery and participation by the provincial governments;
- b. Advance the course of peace and sustainable development;
- c. Recognize and encourage citizen participation in planning, budgeting, and local management decision making at provincial government level;
- d. Ensure transparency and accountability of public resources as required by the PGA 1997;
- e. Be realistic, achievable and within the jurisdiction of the provincial governments.

Having regard to the preamble and the statements of guiding principles, the Premiers hereby resolve as follows:

1. Establishment of Premiers Council by law

The MPGIS should expedite the enactment of the Premiers Council legislation.

2. Federal system implementation

The government of Solomon Islands should expedite the introduction of the Federal System of Government in Solomon Islands by 2013.

3. Climate change

There should be an allocation of adequate resources by the national government to mitigate climate change effects and build resilience to impact of climate change at the provincial level. These resources should be directly channeled to the provincial governments (through MPGIS).

4. Banking services in the provinces

The national government, through the Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening, should negotiate with the private banks to ensure proper banking facilities are provided in the provinces to facilitate service delivery.

5. Costing of service delivery at the provincial level

The National Government should support the MPGIS to carry out costing of service delivery in each province through PGSP technical support to enable the provincial governments to determine their expenditure needs and if possible grant them the required funds.

6. Amendments of the Mines and Mineral's Act

The Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification should expedite the implementation of the revision exercise of the Mines and Mineral's Act that will take on board the interests of the provincial governments which include inter alia:

- a. Vesting of ownership of mineral wealth in the customary land owners.
- b. Providing a process for identification of customary land owners in the tenement area for prospecting or mining by the provincial governments.
- c. Involving the provincial governments in the process of determining who is granted reconnaissance, prospecting and mining rights.

7. Amendments of the Land and Titles Act

The Ministry of Lands, Housing and Survey should expedite the amendments of the Land and Titles Act to simplify the acquisition process of customary lands for development by investors.

8. Revival of Radio Broadcasting

The Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening in consultation with the Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Finance and Treasury should consider re-establishing /reviving the Radio broadcasting in Temotu and establishment of a two way radio communications in other remote locations in the provinces.

9. Capacity building of RSIPF

The National Government should continue to invest resources to build the capacity of RSIPF including community policing to increase public confidence.

10. Capacity building for the provincial elected leaders

PGSP should roll out the capacity building initiative of local elected MPAs including the provincial executive.

11. Tourism

The Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening should liaise with the Ministry of Tourism and Culture to invest more resources into the tourism industry so as to generate economic growth and employment.

12. Economic Growth Centers

The Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening in consultation with the Social and Economic Bureau and the Ministry of Rural Development and Indigenous Affairs should ensure a fair distribution of economic growth centers in the provinces. The provincial governments may assist in the identification of the economic growth center sites and encourage people to participate.

13. Rehabilitation of fisheries centers and establishment of more processing centers.

The Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening in consultation with the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources should make a provision for rehabilitation of existing but dilapidated fishery centers and also facilitate the establishment of new processing plants to increase processing of fish products to increase value.

14. Franchise shipping scheme for the currently uneconomic sea routes

The Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening should liaise with the Ministry of Infrastructure Development to ensure the implementation of the franchise shipping scheme for currently uneconomic sea routes in Solomon Islands.

15. Establishment and renovation of infrastructures (bridges, roads, wharfs)

The Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening should liaise with the Ministry of Infrastructure Development to ensure the implementation of infrastructures (bridges, roads, wharfs) establishment and renovation.

16. Expeditious implementation of the peace projects in Malaita Province.

The Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening should liaise with the relevant ministries to ensure the expeditious implementation of the peace projects in Malaita Province namely: the

Suava Bay Fisheries Facility, Aluta Basin Palm Oil Project, Bina Harbour Entry Port Facility, and Waisisi Palm Oil Project.

17. Commission of Inquiry into land dealings in Guadalcanal

The Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening should liaise with the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to recommence the continuation to completion of the Commission of Inquiry into land dealings in Guadalcanal.

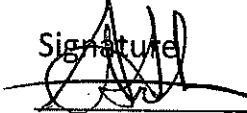
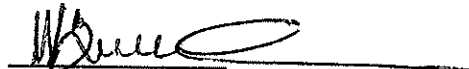
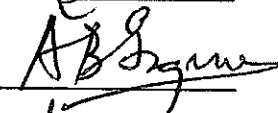
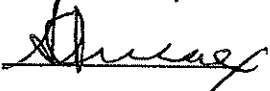
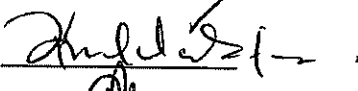

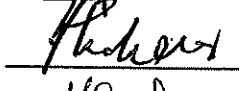
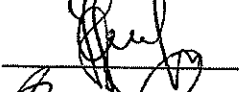



18. Transparency and Accountability of provincial governments

This particular request is accepted and the provincial Premiers have made an undertaking to ensure accountability of public resources.

19. Peace, Partnership and Participation

All people involved in Solomon Islands Government and all other groups in Solomon Islands should work to encourage and make sure that they do not interfere with peace, partnership and participation of people in Solomon Islands.

We signify our assent and commitment to the contents of this communiqué this 28th day of October 2011.

Premier	Province	Signature
Hon. Jackson Kiloe	Choisuel	
Hon. George S Lilo	Western	
Hon. Amos Gigini	Santa Isabel	
Hon. Patteson Mae	Central Islands	
Hon. Anthony Veke	Guadalcanal	
Hon. Edwin Suibaea	Malaita	
Hon. George Tuhaika	Rennell & Bellona	
Hon. Thomas Weape	Makira Ulawa	
Hon. Fr Brown Beu	Temotu	
Cr. Israel Maeoli (Mayor)	Honiara City Council	
Witness		
Hon. Walter Folotalu, Minister for Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening		

Dated this 28th day of October 2011