PRESS RELEASE

Political Governance: Leadership and Accountability Workshop, 31 May 2005

From 1-3 June 2005, the Solomon Islands Ombudsman’s Office in conjunction with the Centre for Democratic Institutions (CDI) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Parliamentary Strengthening Project and the Speaker’s Chambers will run a workshop for parliamentarians and provincial premiers on Political Governance: Leadership and Accountability in the King Solomon Hotel Conference Room.

This workshop for will deal with issues and processes of leadership, accountability, transparency, and parliamentary oversight within the context of constructive national and provincial government relations.

It aims to complement the wider ‘Machinery of Government’ efforts being implemented through AusAID, RAMSI and UNDP. The workshop will draw on local and regional expertise with key speakers and resource personnel from Solomon Islands, PNG, Australia and Fiji.

The workshop is designed to contribute to the improvement of political governance and practice in Solomon Islands by focusing on the challenges, opportunities and benefits of quality leadership and accountability in government.

It aims to raise awareness among participating parliamentarians and premiers of the parliamentary oversight roles of key government departments, commissions, offices and committees by explaining their structures, functions, services and obligations in relation to leadership and accountability.

With improved, comparative knowledge of the goals and benefits of such structures and processes in both the Solomon Islands and key regional
neighbours, the workshop organizers hope to build the capacity and encourage the enthusiasm of MPs and premiers to strengthen these leadership and accountability processes by informing participants’ approaches to their own leadership and accountability practices in public office as lawmakers, overseers of the executive and community representatives at both the provincial and national levels, whether in government or opposition.

The Centre for Democratic Institutions (CDI) is housed at the Australian National University, Canberra, and receives core funding from AusAID, the Australian Aid Agency.

Resource Team:

Mr John Smith Pitabelama – Ombudsman, Solomon Islands

Dr Michael G. Morgan – (Acting) Director, Centre for Democratic Institutions (CDI)

The Hon. John Hickey – Chairman, Public Accounts Committee, PNG

Mr. Repe Rambe – Secretary, Public Accounts Committee, PNG

Regional Guest Speakers/Facilitators:

Mr Mose Saitala — Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

Mr. Ila Geno – Ombudsman, PNG

Mr. Walter Rigamoto – Ombudsman, Fiji & Chairman, Fiji

Human Rights Commission