MEMBERS of Parliament will be able to know and understand more of their roles as national leaders following a Parliamentary Committee training workshop for members.

The workshop will be held on Wednesday and Thursday this week.

Speaker of National Parliament Sir Peter Kenilorea said the workshop will bring together prominent local and regional experts to assist the National Parliament.

Sir Peter said the group would help ensure the parliamentary committees perform their proper roles with an emphasis on engaging the community through committee work.

Sir Peter said it is a very important initiative as it will enable members to gain better knowledge of their role in parliamentary committees and use them to realise the significance of the role of committees in a parliamentary democracy, especially in the scrutiny of the executive to ensure good governance.

"Members of Parliament will gain a greater appreciation of the value of parliamentary committees as a means of 'linking Parliament to the people'," thus enabling members to be better informed about community views," he said.

Sir Peter said members will be able to gain greater understanding of the Committee's role of:

- Overseeing a bridge between Members' constituencies and the broader community interest;
- Setting up public debates;
- And of scrutinising the Executive and contributing towards better government through a more informed administration and policy making process.

The training workshop will be organised by the Centre for Democratic Institutions (CDI) in conjunction with National Parliament of Solomon Islands and Ufupa's Solomon Islands Parliamentary Strengthening Project.

The workshop will be facilitated by distinguished presenters with extensive parliamentary experience.

This includes Senator Kay Paterson of Federal Parliament of Australia and Hon. Moses Meladiwa of the National Parliament of Papua New Guinea, Mr. Quentin Clemens, Deputy Director of CDI and Mr. Steve Reynolds, Clerk Assistant to Committees and Other of the Black Rod as New South Wales Legislative Council.

Sirateri Peterson has held a number of positions on Senate Committees including Chairman of Environment, Communications and Arts Committee.

In 2001 she was appointed to Cabinet as Minister for Health and Aging. In 2004 she was Minister for Family and Community Services and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Women's Issues. She resigned from the Ministry in 2006 and will retire from the Senate in June this year.

Mr. Meladiwa is currently Chairman of the Parliamentary Select Committee on the Ombudsman Commission of the National Parliament of Papua New Guinea.

Previously he had served as Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for National Planning.

Mr. Meladiwa is a qualified agriculturalist and has practiced as a Barrister & Solicitor.

Before joining parliament, Mr. Meladiwa also served as managing director of All Nougat, and was Fiji's High Commissioner to New Zealand.

The Parliamentary Committee training will be held at the National Parliament House, Vavaya Ridge, Honiara.