The Role of Parliamentary Committees:  
Workshop for Members of the 8th National Parliament of Papua New Guinea

8 - 9 November 2007 | State Function Room, Parliament House, Port Moresby

At the request of the Speaker of the National Parliament of Papua New Guinea, Hon. Jeffrey Nape MP, the Centre for Democratic Institutions (CDI) is organising this training workshop for Members of the National Parliament. The focus of the training is on the role of parliamentary committees with an emphasis on engaging the community through committee work.

The aim of the workshop is to assist the National Parliament with ensuring that its parliamentary committees can perform their proper roles. Members of Parliament will gain a greater appreciation of the value of parliamentary committees as a means of ‘taking Parliament to the people’, thus enabling Members to be better informed about community views; of providing a bridge between Members’ constituents’ concerns and the broader community interest; of promoting public debate; and of scrutinising the Executive and contributing towards better government through a more informed administration and policy making process.

Mr Peter Loney, former Chairman, Public Accounts Committee, Legislative Assembly of Victoria, will convene the workshop on behalf of CDI. He will be assisted by:

- Ms Metiria Turei MP - List Member, Green Party, Parliament of New Zealand;
- Hon. Nicki Peniai – Speaker, Autonomous Bougainville Government House of Representatives;
- Mr Floyd Augustine Fatai – Auditor-General & Secretary, Public Accounts Committee, National Parliament of Solomon Islands;
- Mr David Kusilifu – Committee Secretariat, National Parliament of Solomon Islands;
- Mr Quinton Clements – Deputy Director, CDI.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic/theme</th>
<th>Presenter/session leader</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<tr>
<td>9.00</td>
<td>Opening</td>
<td>Hon. Jeffrey Nape, Speaker, National Parliament of Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>Welcome and opening prayer; Outline of why the workshop is being held, what benefits to individual MPs, the National Parliament and Papua New Guinea he expects from it.</td>
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<td>9.15</td>
<td>Outline workshop</td>
<td>Mr Quinton Clements</td>
<td>Outlines context (incl. good governance), purpose and structure of workshop &amp; introduces presenters</td>
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<td>9.30</td>
<td>Papua New Guinea’s Parliamentary Committees</td>
<td>Mr Don Pandan, Clerk, National Parliament of Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>Outlines the Committees of the National Parliament, Terms of Reference, structures, powers, resources.</td>
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| 9.45  | Background to the Westminster Parliamentary model      | Presentation: Mr Peter Loney | Key Principles underpinning the Westminster system  
- Separation of Powers  
- Executive Scrutiny  
- Ministerial Responsibility  
- Participatory Democracy  
Invited comments from Members and general discussion of the potential contributions of Parliamentary committees to the effectiveness of Parliament and thereby the good governance of PNG; what factors limit achievement of the potential. |
| 10.00 | Constituency relations                                | Chairs: Mr Loney, Ms Metiria Turei MP & Hon. Nick Peniai | PNG MPs discuss their experiences & ideas on ways in which MPs can relate to their constituencies                                                                                                      |
| 11.00 | Why do we have Parliamentary Committees? What makes an effective committee? | Presentation: Ms Turei | Background to Parliamentary Committees. The different types of Committees. Function, structure and size of Committees. What are the elements that underlie effective committees? |
| 11.30 | Workshop session                                      | Chair: Ms Turei          | General discussion on the obstacles that may be encountered by committees that would reduce their effectiveness, and how these may be prevented or overcome.                                               |

10.30 | Morning Tea                                            |

12.30 | Lunch                                                  |
### Day 2 | Friday 9th November 2007

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<td>9.00</td>
<td>Learning by doing: Committees consider terms of reference</td>
<td>Members to be grouped (in equal numbers) to the respective committees &amp; each committee self-select a Chair for the purposes of the workshop. Chair: Mr Peter Loney</td>
<td>Role play meeting of committee. Mr Fatai, Ms Turei, Mr Peniai, Mr Kusilifu, Mr Clements, Mr Simon Ila, Mr Lawrence Daveona &amp; Mr Repe Rambe to assist individual Committees.</td>
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<td>9.15</td>
<td>Learning by Doing Scoping an Inquiry</td>
<td>Committees as formed are to meet and select an inquiry topic from a list provided, then scope the terms of reference for their inquiry.</td>
<td>Role play meeting of committee. Each committee to be provided with a short list of topics relevant to their committee to choose their inquiry (or self initiated) and then determine a manageable scope for it.</td>
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| 10.00 | Plenary session: Presentation of Terms of Reference. Discussion                                           | Chair: Mr Peter Loney  
Committee Chairs                                                                                                                                 |
| 10.30 | **Morning tea**                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                    |
| 11.00 | **Learning by doing:** Conducting an Inquiry                                                            | Committees as formed are to meet to determine inquiry procedures - holding hearings, develop a short list of witnesses they would like to appear before their inquiry, & the list of questions they intend to ask - and the drafting and the tabling in Parliament of their final report.  
Role play meeting of committee. Items to be taken into account:  
- Hansard  
- Parliamentary Privilege  
- Collecting evidence - written submissions & public hearings  
- Relevant expertise  
- Ministers  
- Government Departments  
- NGOs  
- Media availability  
- Academics and individuals  
- drafting & tabling a report |
| 1.00  | **Lunch**                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                    |
| 2.00  | Plenary session  
Committees to report on their work from previous session                                     | Committee chairs, Comments & Advice: Mr Loney, Mr Fatai, Ms Turei, Mr Peniai, Mr Kusilifu, Mr Clements.  
Approximately 10 minutes per Committee: Outline what their committee did & found, and what they now expect their committee will do & how. |
| 3.00  | Questions and discussion                                                                                  | Chair: Mr Peter Loney  
All participants to fill in an evaluation questionnaire - discussion on the relevance and effectiveness of the program to participants and their work. |
| 3.15  | Evaluation                                                                                                | Mr Clements  
All participants to fill in an evaluation questionnaire - discussion on the relevance and effectiveness of the program to participants and their work. |
| 3.30  | **Afternoon Tea**                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                    |
| 4.00  | **Public Accounts Committee** - The special role of the PAC                                              | Specialised session led by Mr Loney, Mr Fatai, Ms Turei & Mr Peniai.  
Parl Staff - Roles & support for committees provided by parliamentary officers  
Chairs and presentations from: Mr Kusilifu & Mr Clements.  
Training session for the Clerk, parliamentary staff, and Committee Chairs on how to support committees |
| 5.30  | **Cocktail Reception - Closing Remarks from Hon. Jeffrey Nape MP & Mr Quinton Clements**                 |                                                                                                                                                    |
About the Presenters

**Professor Peter Loney** is currently Associate Professor and Executive Director of La Trobe University’s Public Sector Governance and Accountability Research Centre. He was first elected as a Member of the Victorian Parliament, Australia in 1992, serving to 2006. From 2002 to his retirement in November 2006, he was Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. He served on the Victorian Parliament’s Public Accounts and Estimates Committee between 1997 and 2003, and was Chair of the Committee from 1999 – 03. He was Chair of the Australasian Council of Public Accounts Committees from 2001 – 03. He also served the Victorian Parliament as Chair of the Privileges Committee from 1999 – 02 and as a member of the Standing Orders and Sitting Hours Committees from 2002 - 06. He also held a number of Shadow Ministerial positions during his Parliamentary career. Professor Loney has presented a number of papers on Parliamentary Governance and Affairs at international conferences and seminars, and recently had a presentation on Standing Orders published in “The Parliamentarian”.

**Mrs Metiria Turei MP** (LLB) is a list member of Parliament for the Green Party Aotearoa New Zealand. She is currently the Green Party Whip and has portfolio responsibility for Conservation, Education, Fisheries, Maori Issues, Indigenous Affairs, Biosecurity, Disability Issues, Local Government and Tourism. She is a member of the Business, Privileges and Local Government and Environment select committees. Metiria was first elected to Parliament in 2002 and then again in 2005. Prior to her becoming and member of Parliament, she was a Resource Management lawyer with Auckland firm, Simpson Grierson.

**Hon Nick Peniai, MHR** is the First Speaker of the Bougainville House of Representatives. He was elected by the Members of the House of Representatives on 15th June 2005. He has a five year term as Speaker of the House. Nick Peniai comes from Siwai District, in South Bougainville. Prior to the Bougainville Crisis, he was employed by the Bougainville Copper Company. When the Bougainville Interim Authorities were established, Nick Peniai was elected as the Chairman of South West Bougainville Interim Authority. In 1995, Nick Peniai became a member of the Bougainville Transitional Government (BTG) He was appointed Minister responsible for District Services. He also attended the early peace negotiations between the Bougainville Revolutionary Army and its political arm, the Bougainville Interim Government and the PNG Government. After the signing of the Lincoln Agreement on Peace and Development, Nick Peniai was elected as his peoples' representative in the Bougainville People's Congress (BPC) which successfully negotiated Autonomy and Referendum for Bougainville with the National Government. The outcome of those series of political negotiations was the signing of the Bougainville Peace Agreement on 30th August 2001.
Mr Floyd Augustine Fatai is the Auditor General for the Solomon Islands Government and has served the Government since 1978. Mr. Fatai is also currently the secretary to the Public Accounts Committee. Prior to being the Auditor General, Mr. Fatai has held several positions including Principal Auditor from 1986 to 2001. Mr. Fatai is extremely knowledgeable regarding Parliamentary Committees in the Solomon Islands and has worked with the Public Accounts Committee since 2002.

Mr David Kusilifu is a Committee officer of the National Parliament of Solomon Islands, and provides secretariat support to the Public Accounts, Bills and Legislation and Constitution Review Committees. Prior to taking up this position, Mr. Kusilifu worked for the UNDP Parliamentary Strengthening Program, as a graduate trainee and took part in facilitating the first ever induction program for members of the Solomon Islands National Parliament which was held last year.

Mr Quinton Clements BA (Hons, 1st Class, ANU) is Deputy Director of the Centre for Democratic Institutions at the Australian National University. His work focuses on strengthening parliaments and implementing good governance best practice. Prior to taking up this position, Mr Clements held a number of positions in the Australian Public Service and in the Department of the House of Representatives, Parliament of Australia. He served as Inquiry Secretary to the Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories; and acting Committee Secretary for the Parliamentary Joint Committee on ASIO, ASIS and DSD and the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works. Mr Clements has also worked in the National Parliament of Papua New Guinea as Committee Secretary to the Parliamentary Select Committee on a Pacific Economic Community.

Mr Clements has consulted on issues of parliamentary strengthening and good governance in Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Island Countries for agencies such as the United Nations Development Programme. He has been an associate of the State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Project in the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies at the Australian National University. Mr Clements’ academic research focuses on nation building, nationalism and identity formation, and issues of socio-economic development and governance. He contributed to the Australian Strategic Policy Institute’s report on the Solomon Islands, Our Failing Neighbour: Australia and the Future of Solomon Islands; and co-edited a book Building a Nation in Papua New Guinea: Views of the Post-Independence Generation (Pandanus Press, 2003).

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About the Centre for Democratic Institutions

The Centre for Democratic Institutions (CDI) was established by the Australian government in 1998 to support the efforts of new democracies in the Asia-Pacific region to strengthen their political systems. Our core budget is provided by AusAID, Australia’s Agency for International Development, and we are located at the Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra.

CDI has recently been given an important new mandate to focus directly upon two critical institutions of representative democracy: parliamentary governance and political parties. This revised mandate represents a major development in CDI’s evolution. While we have been working directly with parliaments for a number of years, the opportunity to work directly with political parties is relatively new. Both areas offer great challenges and opportunities for the future.

All of CDI’s projects are aimed at improving political governance and political practice in partner countries via intensive training programs on issues of parliamentary practice and leadership, the operation of political parties, democratic institutional design, constituency representation, and other themes and issues relating directly to improving the effectiveness and quality of the work of national parliaments, parties, and of parliamentarians themselves.

In order to do this, we conduct training courses, provide direct technical assistance and undertake applied research on our core areas of parliamentary and political party development. All of this is aimed squarely at emerging leaders in our focus countries -- Indonesia, Timor Leste, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

For more information on all aspects of CDI’s work, visit our website at http://www.cdi.anu.edu.au or contact us by post, email, phone, or fax:

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