The Centre for Democratic Institutions

Workshop on Good Governance and Public Accountability
Office of the Ombudsman, Solomon Islands
21-23 April 2004

As part of a program of continuing support for the Office of the Ombudsman in the Solomon Islands, CDI supported Mr. John Smith Pitabelama, Ombudsman of the Solomon Islands, in conducting a workshop on Good Governance and Public Accountability. The workshop took place from 21-23 April in Honiara and involved 33 government officials from the Provinces of Guadalcanal, Isabel, Rennell and Central Islands. Presentations were delivered by officials from the government and institutions such as the High Court, Office of the Account General, Leadership Code Commission, Ministry of Finance as well as the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI). The workshop was officially opened by Australian Deputy High Commissioner, Ms Anita Butler and closed by Mr. Toswal Kaua, the Secretary of Cabinet and Public Service.

Introduction
The Office of the Ombudsman in the Solomon Islands is helping to develop the capacity and effectiveness of government departments by equipping staff with the necessary knowledge and training to conduct their tasks effectively. Throughout 2003, CDI has supported the Ombudsman and staff from the Office of the Ombudsman in attending a number of professional short courses at the Australian National University focusing on issues of corruption, accountability and good governance. Information and experiences gained from these courses assisted the Ombudsman in developing a series of Good Governance and Public Accountability workshops. In an attempt to curb high levels of the maladministration and misconduct within government departments the focus is on developing public service knowledge and awareness of the relevant regulations and legislation that direct effective and fair conduct in the workplace.

The first workshop on good governance was conducted by the Office of the Ombudsman in November 2003 in Gizo, capital of Western Province. The recent workshop in April was conducted in Honiara involving government officials from Guadalcanal, Isabel, Rennell and Central Islands. The Office of the Ombudsman intends to conduct two more workshops in 2004 targeting other provinces and government sectors in the Solomon Islands.

Participants
Thirty-three participants attended based upon recommendation by their respective Provincial Secretaries. The selection process targeted people at the managerial level based on qualifications and level of responsibilities. The Ombudsman noted the low level of women involved due to the fact that many women do not currently occupy these positions of power. A list of participants is included at the end of this report.
Program Objectives and Content
Presentations were delivered by a number of government officials covering a range of issues from good governance, finance, public service administration and procedures to the role of the Ombudsman, leadership and law and order reform. A detailed program is attached at the end of this report. Presentations were delivered by the following people:

- Mr. Ian Davis, the Accountant General and Mr. Robert Qalo, the Deputy Accountant General.
- Mr. Nelson Laurere, Registrar of the High Court.
- Mr. Emmanuel Kouhota, Chairman of the Leadership Code Commission.
- Mr. Geogory Rofeta, Manager Policy and Regulations, Department of the Public Service.
- Mrs Caroline Tasisau, Manager of Human Resources, Department of the Public Service.
- Mr. Tom Rarakani, Director, Teaching Service Commission, Ministry of Education.
- Mr. Sekove Naqiolevu, Assistant to the Special Coordinator, Regional Assistance to the Solomon Islands.
- Mrs. Nancy Leua, Secretary, Public Service Commission.
- Ms. Emily Hurley, Adviser, and Ms. Kodoleke, Adviser, Budget Unit, Ministry of Finance.
- Mr. Selson Fafale, Principal Labour Officer, Labour Department.
- Mr. Kedson Ago, Senior Labour Officer, Labour Department.
- Mr. John Smith Pitabelama, Ombudsman, Office of the Ombudsman.

Participants were issued with copies of the relevant regulations and legislation on standards and practices in the workplace. The material was not only utilised during the workshop but participants were able to take the material back to their offices as future reference material. Participants received copies of:

- General Orders (extracts only)
- Public Service Commission Regulations
- Ombudsman (Further Provisions) Act
- Teaching Service Commission Regulations
- Financial instructions
- Trade Dispute Panel Act
- Leadership Code (Further Provisions) Act
- Labour Act
- Unfair Dismissal Act
- Notes from resource personnel

A syndicate exercise was conducted on the final day of the workshop. Participants were divided into groups and each given a different case study. Each group then critically assessed their case in a presentation to the group relating their conclusions to the relevant regulations and laws. Presentations were judged by a panel comprising: Mr. Francis Waleanisia, Chief Crown Counsel from the Attorney General’s Chamber, Mr. Daniel Damilea, Legal Officer of the Office of the Ombudsman and Mr. Emmanuel Louhota, Chairman of the Leadership Code Commission.

Outcomes and Future Initiatives
Upon completion of the workshop, participants filled out evaluation forms responding positively to the content and delivery of the presentations. John Smith Pitabelama remarked on the active involvement of participants in the discussions and group exercises. He was also impressed with the level of attendance. The quality of the presentations from the syndicate exercise was high and participants referred to the relevant regulations and laws demonstrating an understanding of how
these regulations relate to everyday workplace practice. Following the success of the workshop, CDI will support a good governance workshop to be conducted in June in the Malaita Province. This workshop will target a number of other departments within the government.

**List of Participants**

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<tr>
<th>Renbel Province</th>
<th>Guadalcanal Province</th>
<th>Central Islands Province</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Mr. Stanley Kataha  Deputy Provincial Secretary</td>
<td>8 Mrs. Roselyn Leni  Senior Admin. Officer</td>
<td>21 Mr. Allen Ramolelea  Principal Field Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Mr. Allen Aru  Assistant Provincial Treasurer</td>
<td>9 Mr. John Steward  Principal Lands Officer</td>
<td>22 Mr. George Kokili  Senior Education Officer, Admin</td>
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<td>3 Mr. Adrian Tuhanuku  Deputy Principal Bellona Com. High School</td>
<td>10 Mr. Romano Tarohania  Principal Ruavatu Secondary School</td>
<td>23 Mr. Charles Lui  Education Officer – Non-formal Education</td>
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<td>4 Mr. David Tago  Principal New place Prov. Sec School</td>
<td>11 Mr. John Mark Rongongelea  Principal Avu Avu Secondary School</td>
<td>24 Ms. Salote Jacob  Principal Nursing Officer</td>
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<td>5 Mr. William Tuaika  Principal CHS Bellona</td>
<td>12 Mr. Sam Puka  Principal Nguvia Com. High School</td>
<td>25 Mrs. Mabel Numo  Nursing Officer/Midwife</td>
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<td>6 Mrs. Josephine Angiki  Assistance Nursing Officer</td>
<td>13 Mr. Emilio Kusu  Principal Marara (Tanagai) Com. High School</td>
<td>26 Mr. David Tutukiri  Principal Siota Prov. Secondary School</td>
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<td>7 Mr. Patrick Turanga  Principal Mbu Valley CHS, Honiara</td>
<td>14 Mr. Maurice Mirikale  Principal Visale Com. High School</td>
<td>27 Mr. Charles Kunu  Principal McMahon Com. High School</td>
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<td>15 Mr. Gabriel Vagi  Chief Nursing Officer Balasuna</td>
<td>16 Mr. Lenard Olivera  Principal Health Inspector, Honiara</td>
<td>28 Mr. Gabriel Agutu  Administrator/Accountant</td>
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<td>17 Mr. Eddie Leamae  Principal Anti Malaria Officer, Honiara</td>
<td>18 Mr. Jospeh To’orumae  Chief Field Officer, Honiara</td>
<td>29 Mr. Patteson Devi  Provincial Treasurer</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 Mrs. Mary Wakio  Chief Nursing Officer (supervising) NRH</td>
<td>20 Mr. Moses Belaga  Senior Education Officer</td>
<td>30 Mr. Alick Saru  Chief Nursing Officer</td>
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<td>31 Mr. Fred Naphtalae  Senior Public Health Officer</td>
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<td>32 Mr. James Tewa’ani  Chief Field Officer</td>
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<td>33 Mr. James Manebosa  Hospital Secretary</td>
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Program
Location: Quality Motel, Conference Room, Honiara

Wednesday 21 April
8.05-9.00 Official Opening
Australian Deputy High Commissioner, Ms Anita Butler.
9.05-10.00am Introduction and registration
10.00-11.00am Public Service Registration
11.00-12.00pm General Orders and the Politics of Government
1.00-3.00pm Role of the Public Service: promotion, termination, appointments, training and recruiting
Chairman of the Public Service
3.00-5.00pm Open discussion on the day’s topics.

Thursday 22 April
8.00-10.00am The Role of the Teaching Service Commission
by the Director of the Teaching Service Commission and Chairman of the Teaching Service Commission
10.00-11.00am Role of the Trade Dispute Panel
by Chairman of the Trade and Dispute Panel
11.00-12.00pm Corruption in the Public Sector
Mr. Emmanuel Kouhota, Chairman of the Leadership Code Commission
1.00-2.00pm Public Service Reform
Director of the Public Sector
2.00-3.00pm Law and Order Reform (Brief on RAMSI)
by Assistant to Special Commissioner, RASMI
3.00-5.00pm Rights of the Employee and Workers Compensation
by Commissioner of Labour

Friday 23 April
8.00-9.00am Financial Instructions and Procedures
Accountant General
9.00-10.00am Role of Leadership
Chairman of the Leadership Code Commission
10.00-11.00am Role of the Ombudsman
John Smith Pitabelama, Ombudsman of the Solomon Islands
11.00-12.00pm Budgeting
Ms. Emily Hurley, Adviser and Ms. Kodoleke, Budget Unit, Manager of Finance
1.00-5.00pm Syndicate exercise.
5.00pm Officials closing of the workshop
Secretary of Cabinet and Public Service, Mr. Toswal Kaua.