**Introduction**

Good Governance is a set of effective practices and procedures with total compliance by responsible government officials in the exercise of their duties and powers with effective management in ensuring government capability to providing services more effectively and professionally to meet the basic needs of the people of the Solomon Islands. To achieve these goals and objectives, there is a great need for Solomon Islands service providers, in particular the Public Service, to be more competent and reliable.

To weed out unprofessional, non-procedural and/or mal-administrative practices within the government system, the office of the Ombudsman, with financial assistance from the Centre for Democratic Institutions (CDI), Canberra, successfully completed its 5th workshop on Good Governance and Public Accountability.

**Participants**

Teachers and administrators from various schools and institutions participated in the workshop. Participants were recommended by the Permanent Secretary and responsible staff of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development on a consultative approach.

In terms of gender, 9 participants were female. Their contribution and participation added a lot to the workshop.

**Syndicate Exercise Groups**

**Group 1**
- Florence Kousuna (f)
- Charles Viva
- Connelley
- Sandakabutu

**Group 2**
- Linda Wate (f)
- Salome Karibile (f)
- Aaron Pitaqae

**Group 3**
- Christina Vunagi (f)
- Grace Sale (f)
- Walter Wamaemua

**Group 4**
- Mary Laore (f)
- Dalcy Sito (f)
- Robin Zivoka

**Group 5**
- Connelley Sandakabutu
- Geoffrey Manu
- Brian Bird
- Benedict Asabae
- Emilio Wegu
- Partison Bekala

**Group 6**
- Dedily Masaeo
- Collin Ruqebatu
- Samuel Fongato
- Cloy Forou

**Group 7**
- Thomas Rajan
- Eric Anfanata
- Gideon Panasaga
- Luke Zale

**Group 8**
- Donald Rangi
- Davis Pitamama
- John Wate
- Abraham Tahia
- Levi Davo
**Education and Profession**
The majority of the participants are teachers by profession and highly qualified officers in their own profession - most having graduated from various Universities and Institutions within the region.

**Resource Personnel**
Resource personnel are from various Ministries, Departments and Institutions which include the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Guest Speaker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office of the Accountant General</td>
<td>Mr Ned Rokvic, Accountant General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mr Denty Tuke, Assistant Accountant General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership Code Commission</td>
<td>Mr Ernmanuel Kouhoto, Chairman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Public Service</td>
<td>Ms Nairle Alamu, Permanent Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mrs Caroline Taisau, Manager Human Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching Service Commission</td>
<td>Mr Tom Rarokoni, Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Education</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon</td>
<td>Mr Sekove Naqjolevu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>islands (RAMS[])</td>
<td>Assistant Special Co-ordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Service Commission</td>
<td>Mr Edmund Andresen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chairman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attorney General's Chambers</td>
<td>Mr Nalhan Moshinsky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Solicitor General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget Unit</td>
<td>Mr Simon Atkinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Finance</td>
<td>Deputy Adviser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labour Department</td>
<td>Mr Stanley Pinone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deputy Commissioner of Labour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of the Ombudsman</td>
<td>Mr. John Smith Pitabelamo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ombudsman</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Syndicate Exercise**
At the end of day three, participants critically discussed the problems given to them on day two. The discussions went on well, and many relevant practical points were raised. They were divided into 4 groups as per list above.
Panel
Mr Emmonuel Koulhotc, Chairman, Leadership Code Commission
Mr Joe Paraiwol, Principal Investigation Officer, Office of the Ombudsman
Ms Emily Teaitala, Manager Human resources -Department of Public Service
Mrs Judith Waleanisio Senior Investigation Officer, Office of the Ombudsman

Level of Presentation
Participants professionally involved in the discussions and presented their findings before the panel at a very high standard, which was very encouraging to see. They used the materials by quoting relevant sections of the materials as authorities.

Materials
Materials have been improved, meaning that they are of top quality just like the 4th workshop. Because of that, the cost of these materials exceeded the amount budgeted for. The number of materials has also been increased, List of materials include:

- General Orders
- Public Service Commission Regulations
- Ombudsman (Further Provisions) Act
- Teaching Service Commission Regulations
- Financial Instructions
- Unfair Dismissal Act
- Leadership Code (Further Provisions) Act
- Labour Act
- Solomon Islands National Provident Fund Act,
- Notes from resource personnel

Certificates
Certificates were issued to all participants at the end of the workshop.

Daily Registration
Punctuality and attendance is an important theme the workshop aimed to practically encourage. Attendance by participants and resource personnel throughout the workshop was excellent.

Finance
CDI provided the main source of funding enabling the ongoing support and assistance to run these workshops. The Ombudsman and staff would like to acknowledge CDI's contributions towards the program of "Good Governance and Public Accountability" administered by the office of the Ombudsman.

The Ministry of Finance (Solomon Islands Government) contributed about 20% of the total cost.

Future Workshops
The 6th Workshop will be held in Auki, the capital of Maluito Province and is designed for government staff serving in the Malaito Province. The Malaita workshop has been delayed for sometime now because of some unforeseen circumstances. However, having discussed the matter with the Premier, Hon. Robin Mall, it is very much likely that the work-shop for Malaito Province will be held in the first week of March 2005. The Ministry of Police and National Security and Ministry of Health and Medical Services will be next.

Official Opening and Closing
The workshop was officially opened by the Australian High Commissioner. Mr. Patrick Cole, the Australian High Commissioner and the closing address by the Ombudsman, Mr. John Smith Pitabelama,

Recommendations
Parliamentarian should be included in this program but within the scope of their responsibilities
Public Servants should be encouraged to attend future workshops
Statutory authorities should also be included in future workshops
Public Service should undergo major reform and put in place qualified and experienced staff
Duration should be extended to 5 days instead of 3 days

Conclusion
As a result of post workshops, the number of reported cases has reduced. The intention is to reach as many responsible people as possible and pass onto them the right messages about good governance and the importance of the rules of respective statutes and regulations.

The intention is to increase the number of knowledgeable, trustworthy, academic, professional and resourceful Solomon islanders to be available at all levels within the structure of public bodies to provide effective services to the people of this nation, Solomon Islands and elsewhere. The future of Solomon Islands is in our hands.