



NATIONAL PARLIAMENT OF SOLOMON ISLANDS  
BILLS AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

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**Report on the Biosecurity Bill  
2013 (No.2 of 2013)**

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National Parliament Paper No. 5 of 2013

Presented on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2013

National Parliament Office

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>1 INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Inquiry Process .....	1
1.2 Functions of the Committee .....	1
1.3 Terms of Reference.....	2
1.4 Membership.....	2
<b>2 REVIEW OF THE BILL.....</b>	<b>3</b>
2.1 Purpose of the Bill .....	3
2.2 Consultation.....	3
<b>3 ISSUES AND CONCERNS .....</b>	<b>5</b>
3.1 Clear Policy and Legal Framework .....	5
3.2 Institutional Framework .....	6
3.3 Adequate Technical and Scientific Capability .....	7
3.3.1 Risk and Cost Analysis .....	7
3.4 What the Bill Lacks.....	8
3.4.1 Proper Consultations .....	8
3.4.2 Focus on Aquatic aspects .....	9
3.4.3 Adequate Coverage on Food Exports/Imports Requirements .....	9
3.5 Other Issues .....	10
3.5.1 Internal Quarantine Arrangements.....	10
3.5.2 Deliberate movements of quarantine animal or plants.....	10
3.5.3 Substantial Increase of Fines .....	11
3.5.4 Exemption Power.....	11
3.5.5 Practicality of the Bill .....	12
3.6 Bill as Umbrella to all existing Acts .....	13
<b>4 CONCLUSION .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>5 RECOMMENDATIONS .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>6 APPENDICES.....</b>	<b>16</b>
APPENDIX 1: SUBMISSIONS .....	16
APPENDIX 2: WITNESSES.....	17
APPENDIX 3: MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS .....	18

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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The Bills and Legislation Committee (the 'Committee') conducted an inquiry into the Biosecurity Bill 2013 where a total of 26 witnesses appeared before them over a period of two days.

The Committee acknowledges the assistance rendered to them by relevant stakeholders, especially the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.

The Committee is impressed with the intentions of the Bill as it makes provisions that will enable Solomon Islands to align and comply with the standards set out by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), World Animal Health Organisations (WAHO) and the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

The Bill is guided by the Government policy, the National Development Strategy (2011 – 2020) and the National Agriculture and Livestock Policy (2009 – 2014).

Several issues discussed in this report include:

- Managing risk of food security from threats arising from incurrence of exotic pests and diseases the country envisage
- Need for all Acts to complement each other and coordination of all stakeholders to prevent negligence in Biosecurity matters.
- Commitment by the government in supporting the Bill in terms of finance and capacity building
- Wider consultations covering all stakeholders to be aware of the importance of the Bill
- Bill as an umbrella where all other Acts can be connected in terms of Biosecurity

## 1 INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 Inquiry Process

The Biosecurity Bill 2013 was submitted and received by the Office of the Speaker of the National Parliament of Solomon Islands on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> of March 2013. The Speaker certified and endorsed the Bill on the same day in accordance with Standing Orders 45 and 46 of the Standing Orders of the National Parliament of Solomon Islands.

The Bills and Legislation Committee (BLC) resolved to conduct a public hearing into the Bill. Advertisement calling for submissions was advertised in the Solomon Star Newspaper.

The inquiry process included seeking written submissions and a public hearing at Parliament House. A total of twelve (12) stakeholders were identified and invited to make written submissions or to appear in person at the hearing, or both.<sup>1</sup> Two submissions were received by the Committee from the responsible Ministry (MAL) and Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources.<sup>2</sup>

### 1.2 Functions of the Committee

The Bills and Legislation Committee is established under the *Standing Orders*<sup>3</sup>. The Order made pursuant to the *Constitution*<sup>4</sup> has the functions together with the necessary powers to discharge such, to:

- (a) examine such matters as may be referred to it by Parliament or the Government;
- (b) review all draft legislation prepared for introduction into Parliament;
- (c) examine all subsidiary legislation made under any Act so as to ensure compliance with the Acts under which they are made;
- (d) monitor all motions adopted by Parliament which require legislative action;
- (e) review current or proposed legislative measures to the extent it deems necessary;

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<sup>1</sup> See Appendix 2.

<sup>2</sup> See Appendix 1.

<sup>3</sup> *Standing Order 71*

<sup>4</sup> *Section 62, Constitution of Solomon Islands 1978*

- (f) examine such other matters in relation to legislation that, in the opinion of the Committee require examination; and
- (g) make a written report to each Meeting of Parliament containing the observations and recommendations arising from the Committee's deliberations.

### **1.3 Terms of Reference**

Pursuant to its mandate under the *Standing Orders*<sup>5</sup>, the terms of reference of the Committee in this instance is to examine the Bill and to report its observations and recommendations on the Bill to Parliament.

### **1.4 Membership**

The members of the Bills and Legislation Committee are:

Hon. Manasseh D. Sogavare, MP (Chairman)

Hon. Dr Derek Sikua, MP

Hon. Milner Tozaka, MP

Hon. Mathew Cooper Wale, MP

Hon. John Maneniaru, MP

Hon. James Tora, MP

Hon. Douglas Ete, MP

Hon. Sam Iduri, MP

Hon. Johnley Hatimoana, MP

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<sup>5</sup> *Standing Order 71*

## 2 REVIEW OF THE BILL

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### 2.1 Purpose of the Bill

The Biosecurity Bill 2013 ('Bill') is intended to modernize and strengthen Solomon Islands (SI) Biosecurity Laws and along with the need for Solomon Islands to join other Pacific neighbours to harmonize Biosecurity Legislations. The Bill also makes provisions that will enable Solomon Islands to align and comply with the standards set out by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) in the case of plants and plant products, World Animal Health Organisations (WAHO) in the case of animal and animal products and the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in terms of trade.

The Bill proposes to replace and add value to Solomon Islands *Agricultural Quarantine Acts* (Cap 34) and any subsidiary legislation made under it, and will gradually replace the *Quarantine Act* through transition process. Furthermore, the Bill will bring together *Acts* relating to both animals and plants and will provide Solomon Islands with a legislative foundation for action to protect it from introduction or exportation of animal and plant pests and diseases to protect Solomon Islands.

Finally the Bill provides for wider stakeholder involvement in formal Biosecurity functions.<sup>6</sup>

### 2.2 Consultation

The Bill was initiated in 2005 with technical and legal support by South Pacific Community (SPC). It is a product of consultations across the country with the dissemination of information and feedbacks from targeted stakeholders.<sup>7</sup>

Consultation process of the Bill started since 2009 with general support of the Bill from Provincial Authorities. This is due to the provision that the Bill will have in empowering Provincial Governments to set up their own Biosecurity. There are several consultations conducted including:

- two in Honiara

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<sup>6</sup> Frank Wickham, PS – MAL, *Hansard Transcript*, 25<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

- two in Western Province (Munda and Gizo)
- one in Malaita Province
- one in Isabel Province and
- one in Makira Province

Two other provinces that are yet to be consulted are Choiseul Province and Temotu Province. The choice of these provinces is based on accessibility and the port of entry or exit of animal and plant and their products from our Country and our neighbouring countries.

130 hard copies of the Bill including electronic versions have been distributed since 2009. The copy of the Bill was also sent to all government ministries and all export and import companies that will be affected.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Frank Wickham, PS – MAL, *Hansard Transcript*, 25<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

### 3 ISSUES AND CONCERNS

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There is a general acceptance of the Bill by all stakeholders consulted during the inquiry, given the international trend towards free trade and the movement of goods and people. The Bill is intended to ensure a more integrated approach and to ensure a faster and more effective response to Biosecurity threats. To achieve these, a harmonized and integrated approach to Biosecurity is required compared to challenges faced with traditional sector-based approach<sup>9</sup>. As such, the Committee report on several issues and concerns rose during the Committee hearings and submissions which would support the implementation of this Bill. Some of which are discussed below.

#### 3.1 Clear Policy and Legal Framework

The policy background for Biosecurity is derived from the current Government policy, the National Development Strategy (2011 – 2020) and the National Agriculture and Livestock Policy (2009 – 2014)<sup>10</sup>.

The direction given by the documents above gives a clear message of the need to protect food security, improve livelihoods, and promote export development with reference to international standards and agreements.

With the risk of food security from threats arising from incurrence of exotic pests and diseases the country envisage, the Committee is concerned on how this Bill will help to address this issue. According to the PS of MAL<sup>11</sup> in relation to this concern, the Bill should strengthen and support the recognition on the importance of the roles Agriculture Quarantine performs in protecting Solomon Islands not only from food security but on other related areas such as biodiversity and poverty reduction. The Bill will also contribute in achieving other national or international goals and other initiatives which may not be directly related to plant or animal health. Furthermore, the Bill is expected to enable Solomon Island Government to continue manage the

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<sup>9</sup> WHO, FAO and INFOSAN. *Biosecurity: An integrated approach to manage risk to human, animal and plant life and health*. INFOSAN Information Note No. 1/2010 – Biosecurity, 2010.

<sup>10</sup> MAL Submission. *Biosecurity Bill 2013 Explanatory Note*, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2013.

<sup>11</sup> Frank Wickham, PS – MAL, *Hansard Transcript*, 25<sup>th</sup> March 2013.



risks that could arise from entry, establishment or spread of exotic invasive pests and diseases into Solomon Islands, provide transparency and accountability and promote good governance and procedural fairness towards scientific justification of trade measures and requirements.<sup>12</sup>

### **3.2 Institutional Framework**

Though the Bill does not spell out all the relevant stakeholders (apart from Biosecurity officers) which will be involved in the implementation of its policy, it is evident from various comments received by the Committee that it has cross-cutting arrears of coverage which requires involvement of certain Ministries and organizations. This covers areas involving fisheries, environment, health, customs, immigrations, aviation, ports and training institutions to name a few.

However, the Committee is concerned how well all these different agencies will work together since many are technical in their own field and has different technical Acts that govern them. For example, the Environment Health Department in the Ministry of Health and Medical Services, which is responsible for health and food safety of consumers have Food and Safety Act while the Environment Department in the Ministry of Environment have the Environment Act protecting the introduction of exotic species. These are two different technical fields. Furthermore, as in the current practice, different ministries do not feel responsible in carrying out surveillance or monitoring role, blaming it on the responsible authority to do the duty. This has led to negligence in some duties and responsibilities by certain officials.

There is a need for all the Acts to link and complement each other. This can be captured in the regulations and there could be a reference to ensure that the Acts play the same tune where it will be easier for administrators and enforcement agencies to enforce them. Generally, the coordination on the enforcements of this Bill is paramount and important.

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<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*

### 3.3 Adequate Technical and Scientific Capability

Due to the nature of the roles and responsibilities entailed in implementing Biosecurity, the Committee is concerned on the adequacy of resources and capability the Ministry currently have. Though the Committee acknowledge that the Ministry have capable technical resources available to carry out roles and responsibility in implementing the Bill, however, there is going to be a need to further equip and resource the quarantine department in the main ports of entry and exit and in the provinces.

#### 3.3.1 Risk and Cost Analysis

There is lack of proper risk assessment and cost analysis carried out when formulating this important Bill.

Operational cost and resources needed in implementing the Bill is a challenge the Ministry is faced with. As noted by the Committee there is lack of support in Biosecurity activities in the government's allocation of funds in 2013 Budget. When questioned by the Committee on whether cost is considered during the formulation of the Bill, the PS in his response stated that cost is not determined as yet.<sup>13</sup> However, he informed the Committee that capacity building to implement the new bill will be incremental over time. In support, there is now an ongoing assistance with the Department of Agriculture, Forest and Fisheries of New Zealand to support the Bill's capacity. The PS further highlighted that during the process the Ministry will be looking at their strategic priorities to seek some funding support both from the government and from development partners for the facilities that is needed.

The Solomon Islands Ports Authority also expressed that costs will be incurred once this Bill is implemented. Through their Chief Executive Officer (CEO) the Committee had been informed that the Ports wharf area is now too small to accommodate space for other Ministries to carry out their functions under this Bill. The CEO in his presentation expressed this sentiment:

*"...There are Costs involved for the Ports Authority; For example we must provide for these two organisations ... the Biosecurity and ... customs.*

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<sup>13</sup> Frank Wickham, PS – MAL, *Hansard Transcript*, 25<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

### **BIOSECURITY BILL 2013**

*According to regulations we must provide a place for them to carryout inspections ... that will be a cost for the Ports Authority. And the opportunity cost involved is quite staggering. Because if we give them an area that must be confined, from the land that we already have, the only way for us to expand in Honiara is through reclamation. And reclamation is very expensive, because it has to go into deep water. Currently we allocate a piece of land for customs to do inspection foregoing that area that is an opportunity cost. In this bill it states 'Biosecurity port holding area' for example, it require us to give another piece of land to cater for this. This area will be a specialised maybe to do fumigation. And fumigation requires the use of bromide, which is quite poisonous. Thus it will require an area which has a lot of open space. So once we do that we forego as an opportunity like that. So the cost implications are quite huge...''<sup>14</sup>*

## **3.4 What the Bill Lacks**

### **3.4.1 Proper Consultations**

According to the Permanent Secretary (PS) in the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL) the information in terms of the bill has been provided to most ministries<sup>15</sup>. However, it is evident from the enquiry with other ministries that proper consultations were not carried out with them or the invitations during the consultation workshops were not forwarded to the responsible authorities in the ministries concerned.

It is a concern that due to lack of proper consultation with stakeholders, there will be cost impacts the Bill will have to private sectors and importers and exporters. This was revealed to the committee by the PS of the Ministry of Commerce, Industries, Labour and Immigration.<sup>16</sup>

With regards to movements of animal and plant or product related to these, the citizens of Solomon Islands need to be informed and be aware of the impact this would have when infected products are moved from one place to another. This

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<sup>14</sup> Glyn Joshua, CEO - SIPA, 4<sup>th</sup> April 2013.

<sup>15</sup> Frank Wickham, PS – MAL, *Hansard Transcript*, 25<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

<sup>16</sup> Hence Vaekesa, PS – MCILI, *Hansard Transcript*, 4<sup>th</sup> April 2013.

approach is well supported by local communities and is found to be effective in other countries where “Bottom-Up”<sup>17</sup> approach to Biosecurity is adopted.

### 3.4.2 Focus on Aquatic aspects

The Bill is purposely to capture all Biosecurity aspect in Solomon Islands.

Though the Bill adequately covers terrestrial animal and plants, it lacks broad coverage on aquatic organisms. According to the PS of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR)<sup>18</sup> it is significant for aquatic aspect of the Bill to be included as Solomon Islands is surrounded by oceans and movement is mostly across the sea. Furthermore, with the increasing demand for marine products and decreasing supply from the sea, aquaculture can play a significant role in replenishing marine resources. This would involve importing or transporting native or exotic species of marine animal or plants from one country to another or from one island to another. A good example is the farming of introduced seaweed plant which also contributes to the country’s economy in terms of export.

### 3.4.3 Adequate Coverage on Food Exports/Imports Requirements

There is lack of adequate coverage on the connection of food imports and exports and consumers legislations which will accommodate human health. Much of the focus is on animal and plant health protection; however, it would be good to also consider human health in the Bill. Not all imported food is safe as some can be contaminated with pests and diseases that will not only affect animal and plant but human health. A good example is a case that was reported by the Director of Environment in the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) where tonnes of flours were infested with weevils during inspections upon arrival.

Furthermore, coverage of the Bill should also have section on sanitary or phytosanitary (SPS) certification system standards on the ground in terms of certifying fisheries product for export. Clause 35 of the Bill does not specify this, thus confusion may arise from this. Also there is no mention of working tool that will be used to ascertain that animal or plant products that leave meet the requirements of the

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<sup>17</sup> Philippe Ankers and Phil Harris, Animal Health and Biosecurity.  
<http://www.towardsa saferworld.org> . 4th April 2013.

<sup>18</sup> Dr. Christian Ramofafia, PS – MFMR, *Hansard Transcript*, 4<sup>th</sup> April 2013.

importing country. This sentiment was expressed by the Chief Health Inspector (MHMS) in her appearance before the Committee:

*"...we have to meet EU requirements which are very tough and for the SPS they are not mentioning any working tool that they will be using to ascertain that whatever animal or plant products that leave, meet the requirement of the importing country."*<sup>19</sup>

### **3.5 Other Issues**

#### **3.5.1 Internal Quarantine Arrangements**

One area of concern by the Committee in terms of Biosecurity is the inter-island shipping arrangements where goods (plants or animal base) are not restricted or identified quarantine islands are not properly monitored and quarantined. This is due to lack of provisions under law in the current *Agricultural Quarantine Act* to restrict inter-island arrangements in minimizing the movements of pests and diseases. However, the current Bill now provides for internal arrangements to address this issue by identifying islands that are quarantined due to certain plants or animal diseases prevalent there and having restriction measures in place for proper monitoring.

#### **3.5.2 Deliberate movements of quarantine animal or plants**

The Committee is concerned that certain stakeholders deliberately move certain machines that are contaminated with pests and diseases to uninfected areas. Such example is the transfer of Giant African Snail (GAS) to many parts of Solomon Islands which greatly affect domestic crops that could threaten food security. A question on issue of retrospective laws penalising deliberate movement of quarantine machines moved out from quarantine areas raised. According to the Legal Draftsman there is no provision in the law to penalise offenders when the offence was committed at the time, however, this can be addressed in the current Bill.<sup>20</sup> Furthermore, caution must be taken when talking about retrospectivity of the law. This was echoed by the Special Secretary to the Prime Minister (SSPM) in his response:

*"...we need to be trading cautiously when we think about retrospectivity of the law. That's the principle that's... you don't punish people for what they did*

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<sup>19</sup> Ethel Mapolu, Chief Health Inspector – MHMS, *Hansard Transcript*, 4<sup>th</sup> April 2013.

<sup>20</sup> Mr. Hewagama, Attorney General Legal Draftsman, *Hansard Transcript*, 25<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

*not know to be against the law when that was when they were in that situation... in all fairness we will look at when the Act comes into effect and hopefully they are going to align themselves to do the right things and if they do not then that's when the provisions of the Bill can be brought to their attention..."<sup>21</sup>*

### **3.5.3 Substantial Increase of Fines**

Concerns were raised by exporters and importers on substantial increase of fines. However, the fines are intended to be a stronger deterrent to ensure compliance is taken seriously. This was also supported by the CEO for Solomon Islands Ports Authority (SIPA) stating that the higher fines enhances the role of SIPA to deter possible offenders and to avoid breach of international requirements/laws which can pause Solomon Islands in "Black List" port which in turn affect the country's economy.<sup>22</sup>

When asked about the reasons behind the determination of the fines in the Bill, the Legal Draftsman (LD) explained that the fines are the maximum fines. However, the courts will determine the actual amount when penalising any offender. Furthermore, the fines are considered after they are compared with other regional countries' fines of similar nature.<sup>23</sup>

### **3.5.4 Exemption Power**

The Committee is concerned that too much power is vested on the Director with regards to exemption of goods. An example is seen in subclauses 1 and 4 of clause 31 where the Director has the power to exempt any regulated article. This was the argument PS for MCILI raised during his submission to the Committee:

*"... Looks like the director has a lot of power on that... But perhaps on the administrative part of it, it will be abused as things are going on. Because once we restrict those areas that is when those things do come in. If we could have a body to actually oversight that type of exemption, then it will be better.*

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<sup>21</sup> Mr. Tagini, SSPM – Prime Minister's Office, *Hansard Transcript*, 25<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

<sup>22</sup> Glyn Joshua, CEO - SIPA, 4<sup>th</sup> April 2013.

<sup>23</sup> Mr. Hewagama, Attorney General Legal Draftsman, *Hansard Transcript*, 25<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

*But that could be taken into account in the regulations or rules as we come into those areas.*<sup>24</sup>

### **3.5.5 Practicality of the Bill**

Clauses 14 and 15 of the Bill requires the captain of all incoming or outgoing vessels to declare all species of animal or plants on board. Furthermore, the vessels would require inspection by Biosecurity officials to report on Biosecurity issues. However, this is not in line with the Fisheries Act<sup>25</sup> as it is not practical with fishing vessels entering just the EEZ without having to come ashore.

Also even local fishermen if they take any trip outside to go fishing have to submit a report which is quite impractical. What this means is that for every trip they make they have to hand over a Biosecurity report to the officers on their going out and coming into ports according to the Bill. Thus it requires proper consultation with the responsible ministry (e.g. Fisheries) to resolve this issue.

The other issues are in regards to emergency areas. The Bill only talks about the land; however, in fisheries the way and where the ships are transhipping needs to be considered since Biosecurity risk can also happen in these places. In the Fisheries Act it is legal that ships have to go to a designated place in order to do transhipment (Honiara, Tulagi and Noro) thus the bill needs to address this by specifying which areas transhipment will take place and which officers will take on the responsibility to ensure that these areas are safe. Despite of the previous arrangements, consequential risks have been observed even with the current transhipment areas<sup>26</sup>. The risks include consuming fish taken from the fishing vessels, and coming into contact with infected workers on these vessels. There is health risk when the fish are losing their freshness and contaminated due to careless handling by locals. Even though taking fish from the foreign vessels during transhipment is illegal, the practicality of enforcing this is still a challenge by responsible authorities.

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<sup>24</sup> Hence Vaekesa, PS – MCILI, *Hansard Transcript*, 4<sup>th</sup> April 2013.

<sup>25</sup> Dr. Christian Ramofafia, PS – MFMR, *Hansard Transcript*, 4<sup>th</sup> April 2013.

<sup>26</sup> Tom Nanau, Director Environment Health Department – MHMS, *Hansard Transcript*, 4<sup>th</sup> April 2013.

### 3.6 Bill as Umbrella to all existing Acts

The Bill mostly focuses on Biosecurity from the agriculture perspective. It is still vague on a cross sectoral application to other Biosecurity stakeholders in the country.

Several recommendations were made during the hearing on how this Bill can be considered as an overall umbrella to other existing and future acts. One is that a separate authority with its own technical officers be established purposely to look after Biosecurity issues. Other suggestion is to have a separate authority with taskforce committee members comprising of different technical people in different fields of expertise.

While the above may be something for future consideration, what the Bill needs is to have it compliment or compatible to other Acts as different ministries may have different powers under their relevant Acts. The Bill should also define roles, responsibilities and link the various Ministries under an administrating mechanism.

It is also evident from comments received by the Committee that the Bill is like an umbrella encompassing all other legislations related to Biosecurity, and is commended for involving broad, integrated approach which now needs cooperation and proper coordination.



#### 4 CONCLUSION

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The Committee supports the Bill in principle and recommends it to Parliament for passing. However, the Committee is concerned on the approach the Government is taking with this Bill. Biosecurity is a national concern and a cross sectoral issue which should involve a lot of Government ministries and agencies.

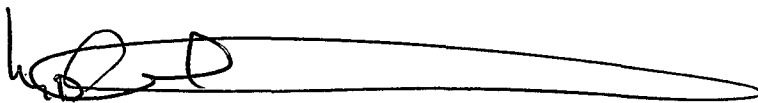
Though addressing it under agriculture based legislation may enhance our Biosecurity concerns in agriculture, it may not be adequate to fully address all our Biosecurity concerns in other sectors. The approach to Biosecurity should be strategic and integrated to analyse and manage relevant risks to human, animal and plant life and health and associated risks for the environment. It should be based on recognition of the critical linkages between sectors and the potential for hazards to move within and between sectors, with system-wide consequences.

## 5 RECOMMENDATIONS

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Below are several recommendations the Committee would like the Ministry to consider:

- a. Awareness to the public and stakeholders on the importance of the Bill in terms of inter-island movement of animal and plant pests and diseases
- b. A closer coordination of all responsible Ministries and authorities for the implementations of the Bill
- c. Cooperation from all stakeholders and general public since the Bill will affect the general Solomon Islands population
- d. Promoting quarantine of vessels on loading ports to prevent washing of machines/equipments at ports of discharge
- e. The uncontrolled boarding and removal of fish from transshipment boats at Point Cruz harbour by locals for the domestic market should be a national concern. It is illegal and a Biosecurity threat.
- f. The Ministry of Agriculture to spearhead the setting up of a Biosecurity Authority which can accommodate the task force of various Ministries in addressing Biosecurity issues.



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**Hon. Manasseh Sogavare**

Chairman

Bills and Legislation Committee

April 8<sup>th</sup> 2013

6 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: SUBMISSIONS

Person/Ministry /Organization/ Institution	Title of Document	No. of Documents Submitted	Date received
Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information Guide</li> </ul>	1	March 25 <sup>th</sup> 2013
Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of Fisheries Contribution towards the Inquiry into the Biosecurity Bill 2013 and the Bills and Legislations Committee</li> </ul>	1	April 7 <sup>th</sup> 2013

APPENDIX 2: WITNESSES

The Committee acknowledges and appreciates the attendance of the following witnesses who appeared before the Committee on the March 25<sup>th</sup> and April 4<sup>th</sup> 2013.

ORGANISATION	NAME/POSITION
Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock	1. Frank Wickham - PS, MAL 2. Francis T - Director (Quarantine), MAL 3. Jimi Saelea - US (Technical), MAL 4. Irene Nanau - CQO (Quarantine), MAL 5. Emma Rooke - Chief Vet Officer - MAL 6. John Pupulu - PQO (Quarantine), MAL 7. Patteson Akipu - Deputy Director (Quarantine), MAL 8. Crispus Fanai - CQO (Quarantine), MAL 9. Max Kolubalona - CQO (Quarantine), MAL 10. David N - CQO (Quarantine), MAL
Prime Minister's Office	11. Dr. Philip Tagini - SSPM, PMO
Attorney General's Chamber	12. Ranjit Hewagama - Legal Draftsman, AGC
Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology	13. Joe Horokou - Director (ECD), MECDM
Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources	14. Dr.C Ramofafia – PS, MFMR 15. Alex Meloty - CFO (Aquaculture), MFMR 16. Selina Lipa - PFO – Licensing, MFMR
Ministry of Health & Medical Services	17. Tom Nanau - Director (EHD), MHMS 18. Ethel Mapolu - CHI (Food Safety), MHMS
Ministry of Finance & Treasury	19. Nathan Kama – Comptroller (Customs), MF&T
Ministry of Commerce, Immigrations, labour & Industries	20. Hence Vaekesa - PS, MCILI 21. Timothy Watekary - Deputy Director (CA/PC), MCILI 22. Cornelius Donga – Director (Internal Trade), MCILI 23. James Apato - US (Trade), MCILI
Solomon Islands National University	24. Aaron Kama - Dean, SINU
Solomon Islands Ports Authority	25. Glyn Joshua - CEO (acting), SIPA
Ministry of Communication & Aviation	26. Brian Halisanau - for Director – Civil aviation (CAASI), MCA

APPENDIX 3: MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

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MINUTES

BILLS AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

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NATIONAL PARLIAMENT OF SOLOMON ISLANDS

**Biosecurity Bill 2013**

**Minutes of Deliberative meeting**

Held: Friday 21 March 2013, Parliament Conference Room 2, Parliament House, 10:08am.

**1. Members Present**

Hon. Manasseh D. Sogavare (Chairman)  
Hon. Dr. Derek Sikua  
Hon. Mathew Cooper Wale  
Hon. James Tora  
Hon. Douglas Ete

**Apologies**

Hon. Sam Iduri  
Hon. Milner Tozaka  
Hon. John Maneniaru

**Secretariat**

Mr Wilson Anii, Committee Secretariat

**Opening Prayer:** Hon. Manasseh Sogavare MP (Chair)

**2. Chair's Opening Remarks**

The Chair welcomed and thank Committee members for attending.

**3. 'Biosecurity Bill 2013'**

- The Committee resolved that an inquiry will be held and call for submissions be advertised in the media.
- The Committee resolved to give time for members to read the Bill and accompanying documents during the weekend.
- The Committee resolved to let the committee secretariat formulate the list of stakeholders.

Discussion on possible stakeholders ensues. Suggestions made were;

- Mins of Agriculture, Quarantine Department
- AG Chambers
- Comptroller-Customs
- Director-Immigration
- Director-Commerce, trade & export
- Importers & Exporters
- Ports Authority
- Chinese Association

**5. Close**

Closing prayer: Hon. Douglas Ete

Meeting closed at 10:41am.

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**Minutes of Proceedings**

**Hearing 1**

25 March, Conference Room 2, Parliament House, 2:18pm

**Members Present**

Hon. Manasseh Sogavare, MP (Chair)  
Hon. John Maneniaru, MP  
Hon. James Tora, MP  
Hon. Mathew Wale, MP  
Hon. Derek Sikua, MP  
Hon. Douglas Ete, MP  
Hon. Johnley Hatimoana MP

**Apologies**

Hon. Milner Tozaka, MP  
Hon. Sam Iduri, MP

**Stakeholders (Witnesses)**

Frank Wickham -	PS, MAL
Francis T	- Director – Quarantine, MAL
Jimi Saelea	- US – Technical, MAL
Irene Nanau	- CQO – Quarantine, MAL
Emma Rooke	- Chief Vet Officer - MAL
John Pupulu	- PQO – Quarantine, MAL
Patteson Akipu -	Deputy Director – Quarantine, MAL
Crispus Fanai	- CQO – Quarantine, MAL
Max Kolubalona	- CQO – Quarantine, MAL
David N	- CQO – Quarantine, MAL
Dr. Philip Tagini	- SSPM, PMO
Ranjit Hewagama	- Legal Draftsman, AGC

**Secretariat**

Wilson Anii - Com Sec  
Marson Lilopeza - Com Sec

**In-attendance**

Ignatius Talifilu- Hansard Dept  
Steven Hachi- Media Dept

**1. Opening prayer**

Hon. Manasseh Sogavare MP (Chair)

**2. Welcome & Opening Statement**

Chairman acknowledge and thanked the stakeholders for their commitment to appear before the committee for the public hearing into the 'Biosecurity Bill 2013'.

**3. Hearing into the 'Biosecurity Bill 2013'**

The Chairman made welcome remarks, inform the witnesses on protection from prosecution under parliament privileges then invited the PS of the MAL and those who appear to make opening statements to the Committee on the Bill.

**BIOSECURITY BILL 2013**

The PS of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock thank the Committee for the invitation to appear and introduce those from his ministry also appearing, particularly the Director of Quarantine and other officers of the Quarantine Department.

The Committee questioned, made comments and seek clarification from those who appear on the different issues covered in the Bill.

The evidence concluded and the Chair thanked the stakeholders for their attendance.

**4. Closing prayer**

Frank Wickham, PS, Ministry of Agriculture

The hearing closed at 5:24pm.

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**Minutes of Proceedings**

**Hearing 2**

4 April 2013, Conference Room 2, Parliament House, 10:25am

**Members Present**

Hon. Manasseh Sogavare, MP (Chair)

Hon. John Maneniaru, MP

Hon. James Tora, MP

Hon. Derek Sikua, MP

Hon. Milner Tozaka, MP

Hon. Douglas Ete, MP

Hon. Johnley Hatimoana MP

**Apologies**

Hon. Sam Iduri, MP

Hon. Mathew Wale, MP

**Stakeholders (Witnesses)**

**10:25am-12:52am session**

Joe Horokou	-	Director - ECD, MECDM
Dr.C Ramofafia	-	PS - MFMR
Tom Nanau	-	Director – EHD, MHMS
Ethel Mapolu	-	CHI – Food Safety, MHMS
Alex Meloty	-	CFO – Aquaculture, MFMR
Selina Lipa	-	PFO – Licensing, MFMR
Nathan Kama	-	Comptroller, Customs,

**2:20pm-4:39pm session**

Hence Vaekesa	-	PS, MCILI
Aaron Kama	-	Dean, SINU
Glyn Joshua	-	CEO (acting), Ports Authority
Brian Halisanau-	-	for Director – Civil aviation, MCA, CAASI
Timothy Watekary	-	Deputy Director – CA/PC, MCILI
Cornelius Domga	-	Director- Internal Trade, MCILI
James Apato	-	US – Trade, MCILI

**Secretariat**

Mr Wilson Anii, Committee Secretary

Marson Lilopeza

**In-attendance**

Liam Sau - Hansard Dept  
Eddie Osifelo - Media Dept

**1. Opening Prayer**

Hon. Manasseh Sogavare MP

**2. Welcome & Opening Statement**

Chairman acknowledges and thanked the witnesses for attending. He reminded them of protection under parliament privileges.

**3. Hearing into the Bill**

The Chairman made brief opening statements and invited witnesses to make presentations on the Bill.

The Committee questioned, made comments and seek clarification from those who appear on the different issues covered in the Bill.

The evidence concluded and the Chair thanked the witnesses for their attendance.

**4. Closing prayer**

Aaron Kama, Dean, Sinu

The hearing closed at 4:39pm.

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National Parliament Office  
National Parliament of Solomon Islands

