



SOLOMON ISLANDS DEMOCRATIC COALITION FOR CHANGE GOVERNMENT

POLICY STATEMENT

**Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Honiara, Solomon Islands**

FOREWARD

After assuming power on 15th November 2017 and with only one year to implement its Policy Priorities, the Solomon Islands Democratic Coalition for Change Government (SIDCCG) realised the formidable challenge ahead. That as it may, the SIDCCG is determined to bring about whatever positive changes it can in its one year in office before the dissolution of the 10th Parliament on the 17th of December 2018.

SIDCCG acknowledges the work of the DCC government and its policies. Due to the short timeframe for implementation, the SIDCCG has adopted, with a few new ones, almost all of the former DCCG priorities. Acutely aware of the fact, we have prioritized, and will be focussing mostly on projects that are achievable, and can be implemented in 2018. Most of these will be implemented through the 2018 budget. Past governments have sought to drive reform programmes through line ministries and departments with restricted funding. The new government has taken the approach that for 2018 it will commit most of its funding only to those programs that are visibly implementable in this one year period and those that will yield tangible results.

Political instability and bureaucratic inertia is often seen as impediments to government's ability to implement and achieve the objectives of its priority policies. These two factors have often undermined many well intended government programs, and severely compromised good strong leadership in the past. The result often is disastrous with incoming governments having to reconfigure fragmentations and non-achievement of government policies and priorities of the previous government. This Government strongly believes that in the case of political instability there is little room for any further changes in government leadership. This is considering that parliament will be dissolving in December this year 2018 and the unpopular public outcry for any further changes given the very short time. With that realistic certainty and confidence the Government is putting all efforts possible to drive implement its key priority policies and will address the issue of bureaucratic inertia under a newly designed coordination and monitoring framework that is based in the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

The SIDCC Government is confident that under its current leadership and with the support of the Coalition Parties it will deliver against its policy objectives. To effectively deliver its policy objectives the SIDCC Government has established a new management framework that will ensure effective coordination and implementation. The framework involves the creation of a "Core Ministerial Coordinating Committee (CMCC)" based in the OPMC and comprising of selected Ministers who will provide the political leadership in the implementation of the Government development program. This strategic approach will ensure the political government as it should; taking the helm and the needed commanding role in making sure its priority policies are implemented appropriately and timely by designated government agencies and or their quasi agencies. The Policy Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit (PIMEU) at the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (OPMC), will provide the Secretariat role to the CMCC and will work with MDPAC and MoFT to oversee all policy implementation.

As a priority, the SIDCC Government seeks to grow the economy through creating investment opportunities in all sectors of the economy (manufacturing, tourism, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, energy), and others in an environmentally sustainable manner. All sectoral policies, including our national and foreign sectors will be geared towards the SIDCC Government policy outlook.

I am cognizant of the enormity of the task and the challenges before us, not least the short timeframe for implementation. However, with a united effort from government ministries, development partners, and all other stakeholders, I am convinced we can still achieve a lot. To that end, I call on all Non-Government Organisations (NGO), Private Sector operators, Civil Society Organisations (CSO), Faith-based Organisations (FBO), Community-based Organisations (CBO), traditional and

community leaders, and all our resource owners, to work closely with my Government to bring about positive changes to the livelihood of the people of this country. There is no limit to what can be achieved with a concerted effort: the economy can be restored to stronger growth path again, and we can set the basis to Solomon Islands achieving its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In launching this Policy Statement, I therefore seek for your support and prayers, and to be united in our endeavour to provide the political leadership our people needs at this time.

Hon. Rick Nelson Houenipwela, MP
PRIME MINISTER

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ACRONYMS - A number of common acronyms are used in this document. These are outlined in alphabetical order below.

CAA	Civil Aviation Authority
CA	Competent Authority
CBO	Community-based Organization
CEMA	Commodities Export Marketing Authority
CSSI	Correctional Services of Solomon Islands
DAP	Democratic Alliance Party
DBSI	Development Bank of Solomon Islands
DCC	Democratic Coalition for Change
EHD	Environmental Health Department
ECE	Early Childhood Education
EGC	Economic Growth Centre
FBO	Faith-Based Organization
HCC	Honiara City Council
ICSI	Investment Corporation of Solomon Islands
IDD	Industrial Development Division
IPAM	Institute of Public Administration and Management
IPST	Initial Policy Support Team
JICA	Japanese International Corporation International
KPSI	Kadere Party of Solomon Islands
LRC	Law Reform Commission
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MGA	Main Group Archipelago
MRF	Medical Research Fund
NAC	National Arbitration Council
NDCS	National Demographic Coding System
NDMO	National Disaster Management Office
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NOCSI	National Olympic Committee of Solomon Islands
NRH	National Referral Hospital
NSA	Non-State Actor
NSC	National Sports Council
NTP	National Transport Plan and/or National Tourism Policy
NUP	National Urbanization Policy
SIPFF	Solomon Islands People First Party

DEFINITIONS

Words	Definition
A meaningful quality of life	Refers to the advancement of social and economic livelihood of all peoples of Solomon Islands in their respective localities.
Funding Modalities	Refers to the different funding sources that the Government will utilise to implement the SIDCC Government policies and programs.
Whole of Government approach	Refers to collective decision making through effective Ministerial coordination by Cluster Groupings.
Cluster Groups	Refers to grouping of Ministries into respective sectors and managed by the PIMEU to further improve sectoral coordination and coherent policy implementation.
Mix Mode	Refers to where a training curriculum includes both academic and life skills training.
Ministerial Coordinating Committee	Refers to the four Core Budget Implementation Coordination ministries/institutions (MDPAC, MoFT, PMO and Public Service PSs) led by their respective Ministers and mandated to oversee implementation of SIDCCG policies.
Flexible diplomacy	Refers to the ability to engage with traditional allies and pursue new relationships.

INTRODUCTION.

The Solomon Islands Democratic Coalition for Change Government (SIDCCG) assumed political leadership in Solomon Islands on the 15th of November 2017.

On this day, the Coalitions Candidate, Hon Rick Nelson Houenipwela MP, was elected as Prime Minister with an overwhelming majority from the Members of the 10th Parliament of Solomon Islands. This legitimized the SIDCC Government's right to form government and to adopt this policy statement.

In adopting this policy statement the SIDCC Government recognises the former DCC Government policies and will continue to support and implement the Priority Policies in addition to new policy inclusions from the parties forming the new coalition.

This Policy Statement acknowledges the work of the parties that made up the former DCC Government and at the same time integrates the Manifestos of the new Coalition Parties namely the Kadere Party of Solomon Islands (KPSI), the Democratic Alliance Party (DAP) and the Solomon Islands People First Party (SIPFP), for Social Reform and Economic Advancement.

In conformity with its members' principles of good governance and with international agreements, such as the Paris Declaration of 2005, the SIDCC Government partners to support the implementation of this policy.

Consistent with the 2003 Rome Declaration on Harmonization, the translation of the new policy additions was included in the new revised policy strategy and translation document and further translated and mainstreamed into procedures and action plans of all Government Ministries.

The SIDCC Government aims to continue to facilitate social and economic development that will ensure fair and equitable distribution of goods and services, and improve Solomon Islanders access to equal opportunities.

PART 1: POLITICAL DIRECTIONS

1.1 VISION.

With the Grace of God, the SIDCC Government humbly pledge to empower all Solomon Islanders to attain a meaningful quality of life through social and economic reforms. With united efforts in leadership we will strive to achieve the SIDCC Government reprioritised programs and policies and as such, all Solomon Islanders can be assured to see sound political leadership, tangible Socio-economic and Spiritual developments.

1.2 MISSION.

The SIDCC Government will continue to uphold the mission of the former DCC Government and that is to advance the progressive development of policies and programs to create a God fearing, peaceful, united and progressive Solomon Islands, led by ethical, accountable, respected and credible leadership that enhances and protects Solomon Island's peoples' spiritual, cultural, social and economic wellbeing. In furtherance and fundamental to this mission the SIDCC Government will focus its efforts with a mission mainly to deliver on the priority policies of the government given the government will only be in office for one year.

1.3 GUIDING PRINCIPLES.

The SIDCC Government will continue to uphold the guiding principles of the former DCC Government which are to;

- a) Acknowledge the Sovereignty of God Almighty and depend on His Divine Grace and Blessings;
- b) Uphold the democratic principles of Universal Suffrage and the responsibility of executive authorities to elected bodies;
- c) Adhere to transparency, accountability, responsibility and respect for the rule of law and traditional and cultural values as foundations for good governance;
- d) Cherish and respect the diverse cultural traditions, worthy customs and Christian Values within Solomon Islands to build a peaceful, united and progressive country;
- e) Promote leadership that is honest and principled;
- f) Promote active participation by people in the governance of their own affairs, by providing them with equity participation, within the framework of the rule of law and consistent with the respect of traditional norms and values;
- g) Respect human dignity, by the protection of the most vulnerable, disadvantaged and disabled in society, including women and children and upholding the principles of equality, social justice and equity;
- h) Share the costs and benefits of development of our resources with all people in the country;
- i) Facilitate self-employment, self-reliance and foster productivity in all spheres of development;
- j) Ensure that resources owners participate and take ownership in the development and utilization of their natural resources;
- k) Protect and promote local entrepreneurs to thrive;

- l) Encourage the provision of equal opportunity for both male and female and gender mainstreaming, especially in education and employment, including people with special needs;
- m) Enable and capacitate local resource owners to participate and engage in domestic and international entrepreneurship;
- n) Create and maintain a business environment that will allow local entrepreneurship to thrive.

1.4 OBJECTIVES.

The objectives of the SIDCC Government is the same as those of the former DCC Government and they are to;

- a) Promote national consciousness and ownership of the country by all Solomon Islanders in a diverse Solomon Islands;
- b) Provide an enabling environment to stimulate social and economic growth, especially in the rural areas;
- c) Rehabilitate damaged social and economic infrastructure and building of new ones to create a vibrant and robust economic environment to stimulate growth;
- d) Pursue Public Sector Reforms and commit resources to enable private sector-led growth in the country;
- e) To ensure a dynamic, accountable, transparent and highly performing public service;
- f) Address and meet the needs of peoples in the rural areas;
- g) Identify and resolve the problem of informal settlements in rural and semi-urban areas;
- h) Work towards food security and poverty alleviation for the nation and ensure a healthy, literate and a contented population;
- i) Achieve political stability and encourage decentralization of decision-making in the country;
- j) Ensure the roles of traditional leaders and land ownership are recognised, respected, strengthened and resourced for proper local governance;
- k) Establish effective measures to protect the traditional rights of indigenous resource owners so that they are awarded maximum benefit and gain ownership from the development and utilization of their resources;
- l) Generate jobs and increase employment opportunities for the growing population and achieve high economic growth, wealth and social wellbeing for all Solomon Islanders;
- m) Ensure the sustainable utilization and conservation of natural resources, protection of the environment and successfully combating the adverse effects of climate change; and
- n) Work towards total localisation of business ownership in the forestry and fishing industries.

PART 2: DRAWBACKS AND CHALLENGES.

Since attaining political independence on the 7th July 1978, Solomon Islands has experienced relatively poor economic growth, a direct result of poor governance at all levels. Besides, the civil unrest and continuing political instability, the state is unable to provide adequate and quality goods and services to all peoples in the country.

The inability of the state to meet the mandate to its people can be attributed to the following drawbacks and challenges as indicated in column 1 of the Table below. The SIDCC Government’s proposed reforms which should turn this situation around is indicated in column 2.

Challenges	Proposed Reforms
<i>Lack of ethical, accountable, respected and credible leadership</i>	Instil ethical, accountable, respected and credible leadership that will provide long-term and alternative visions for the country.
<i>The absence of a unifying vision that affirms national identity</i>	Strengthen national unity through shared visions and agreed social and economic development goals.
<i>The absence of long-term development strategies</i>	Establish a Twenty year National Development Strategy that will guide social reform and economic advancement.
<i>Poor economic management</i>	Improve economic management and facilitate reforms that will ensure broad-based economic development and increased investment opportunities for all Solomon Islanders.
<i>Insignificance of private sector-led growth</i>	Promote and facilitate private sector-led economic growth.
<i>Poor Whole of Government Governance</i>	Create a cohesion approach to public service delivery; improve and enforce good governance values and practices and ensure accountability and transparency at all levels of governance.
<i>Growing culture of corruption</i>	Prevent and eradicate corruption at all levels in the country. This should be apprehended by passing the Anti-Corruption Bill.
<i>Absence of personal and collective security</i>	Ensure that Solomon Islands is a secured, peaceful and progressive country for all Solomon Islanders.
<i>Lack of communication between the National Government and rural populace</i>	Establish a formal communication mechanism to allow sharing of information to and from rural stakeholders.
<i>Political Instability</i>	Ensure reviewing of legal and structural framework that will promote political stability.

In acknowledging the above challenges, the SIDCC Government is committed to addressing them head on with strong conviction and determination to improve the economy, provide good governance at all levels and improve livelihoods of all Solomon Islanders. The SIDCC Government will make the Solomon Islands the “Happy Isles” once more.

PART 3: LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY.

The SIDCC Government will continue to support the Twenty-Year National Development Strategy 2015-2035 that provides development targets for each sector and will facilitate fundamental and sectoral reform programmes. The long term strategy also facilitates good governance and encourage broad-based economic development that enhances improved livelihood for all Solomon Islanders.

The Twenty Year National Development Strategy is administered by the Ministry of Development Planning and Aid Coordination and addresses four major developmental phases;

Developmental Phases	Timeframe
Rediscovery	The first 5-years is a period of rediscovery. Rediscovery lays the foundation of long-term recovery and reform
Consolidation	The second 5-years is a period of consolidation. Reform programmes in the rediscovery phase will be consolidated.
Expansion	The third 5-years is a period of expansion. This phase concentrate on building and improving on achievements of the reform programmes.
Innovation	The final 5-years is a period of innovation. In this phase, innovative ideas will flow to roll this Twenty-Year National Development Strategy into the next twenty years.

The SIDCC Government believes that this long-term development strategy will lead to;

- a) Sustainable and equitable economic development and growth;
- b) Greater investment opportunities for all Solomon Islanders;
- c) Making available rural and customary land for commercial and agricultural development;
- d) The prevention and alleviation of poverty and hunger;
- e) Assured environmental sustainability and ownership;
- f) The provision of adequate and accessible quality social services, infrastructures and utilities for all Solomon Islanders.

The SIDCC Government also believes that the absence and non-implementation of these long-term development strategy is our major drawback in the attainment of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). By the same token, it can be inferred that without a long-term development strategy, Solomon Islands will not be able to achieve the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Learning from the past, the SIDCC Government is determined to push for tangible changes by rediscovering, consolidating and innovating our platforms for development to attain our MDGs and sustain our SDGs in the long run.

PART 4: EFFECTIVE POLICY IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Being mindful of challenges the SIDCC Government will face in the implementation of its policy priorities given that SIDCC Government will only be in office for one year before the dissolution of the 10th Parliament, the SIDCC Government will put in place a Strategic Framework for monitoring of policy implementation through the creation of a Core Ministerial Coordinating Committee (CMCC).

The Committee's primary function is to ensure there is effective coordination of policy implementation, monitoring and evaluation in the implementation agencies. In addition the mechanism allows for efficient and timely delivery of public services to the people of Solomon Islands.

In carrying out its responsibilities the Committee will conduct regular inquiries into ministries policy implementation activities and produce reports of the inquiries to Caucus and Cabinet. The reports provides a conduit for timely dissemination of information on the rate of implementation of government priority policies. It will further allow feedbacks from Caucus and Cabinet to the ministries. Through the framework, the flow of information on policy implementation to and from Caucus and Cabinet to ministries will enhance effective and timely communication and policy implementation.

The diagram provided is a pictorial representation of the composition of the Core Ministerial Coordinating Committee.

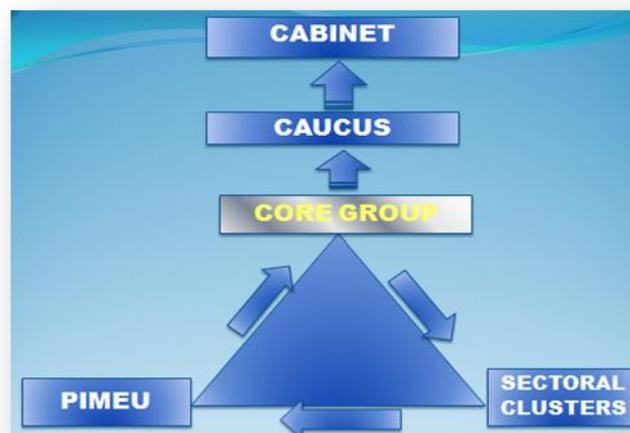


Figure 1: Illustrates a pictorial representation of the committee's organizational structure

PART 5: REFORM PROGRAMMES.

To implement this long-term development strategy, the SIDCC Government will continue to invest in reform programmes that have already been carried out by the former DCC Government with further inclusions to reflect the new coalition policy direction. Reform is about recreation and reorganization. In this connection, the SIDCC Government will continue with the work that has already been endorsed and implemented by DCCG with minimal recreation and reorganization of the policy translation structures that will foster growth in the economy of our Solomon Islands Society.

The SIDCC Government will continue to support and reform our economies and structures of governance to adequately meet the basic needs of our peoples. The SIDCC Government will continue to support the two parallel reform programmes already carried out by the former DCC Government; namely, Fundamental and Sectoral Reforms

5.1. Fundamental Reform Programme.

On the fundamental programmes, the SIDCC Government will continue with the work that has already been carried out by the DCC Government since coming to office in 2014 and that is to redefine the norms and values of Solomon Islands society to become more inclusive to enhance sustainable unity. The SIDCC Government will provide a vibrant, prudent and accountable Government through:

5.1.1 Fundamental reforms:

The SIDCC Government will:

- a) Oversee efficient and effective conduct of oversight institutions to eradicate corruption, at all levels, in the country;
- b) Establish the Solomon Islands Independent Commission against Corruption (SIICAC) in compliance with international anti-corruption conventions and initiatives;
- c) Review and strengthen anti-corruption legislations and related subsidiary legislations based on national consensus regarding the laws and mechanisms that must be established and implemented at national and provincial levels to combat corruption;
- d) Review the Lands and Titles Act;
- e) Re-establishment of customary land recording and registration process;
- f) Establish a National Arbitration Council (NAC);
- g) Pursue peaceful co-existence, national unity, reconciliation and other acceptance programmes;
- h) Establish a National Demographic Coding System (NDCS);
- i) Review and amend the “Political Parties Integrity Act”;
- j) Review and amend the “National Parliament Electoral (Provisions) Act”;
- k) Pursue and implement Constitutional reform programmes in the country;
- l) Restrengthen and support land reform programmes to encourage economic development in customary lands throughout the Solomon Islands;
- m) Embark on a nation-wide land restitution programme to resolve outstanding land rental claims by original landowners;

5.1.2 Foreign Affairs and External Trade.

The SIDCC Government will:

- a) Review all Bilateral and Multilateral Trade Agreements;
- b) Recognize and value the importance of peaceful co-existence with our regional and international partners to promote trade, economic and foreign relations;
- c) Endeavour to live up to our international and global commitments, protocols and obligations;
- d) Conduct cost-benefit analysis of all diplomatic missions;
- e) Promote and support regional and international sports and cultural exchange schemes;
- f) Facilitate, transfer and exchange of appropriate skills and knowledge with our development partners and other trade and development agencies;
- g) Facilitate the introduction and application of appropriate technology by our development partners and other trade and development agencies;
- h) Promote genuine direct foreign investments with our development partners and other development agencies;
- i) Review the Solomon Islands Foreign Relations Engagement Policy;
- j) Support the labour mobility initiative programme.

5.1.3 Development Planning and Aid Coordination.

The SIDCC Government will:

- a) Ensure implementation of the Solomon Islands Twenty Year National Development Strategy;
- b) Introduce the “Solomon Islands Development Planning Bill” and associated Regulations”;
- c) Embark on a Partnership Framework with donors, private sector, NGOs and NSAs to coordinate development programmes in the country;
- d) Ensure that tangible results of development programmes in the Annual Development Budgets of the country accumulate to attainment of long-term goals of the Twenty Year National Development Strategy of the country.

5.1.4 Economic and Finance Sector.

The SIDCC Government will promote sustainable economic development by:

- a) Reviewing our current national fiscal and monetary policies to enhance broad-based economic development and enable the economy to grow;
- b) Facilitating an enabling environment for indigenous entrepreneurship;
- c) Facilitating the re-establishment of the Development Bank of Solomon Islands (DBSI) to cater for SME and other micro-financing schemes in the rural areas;
- d) Reviewing and revitalising the Investment Corporation of Solomon Islands (ICSI);
- e) Reviewing and revitalising the Commodities Export Marketing Authority (CEMA);
- f) Establishing a State Own Enterprise (SOE) to manage all state owned airstrips in the country;
- g) Creating an enabling environment to facilitate the expansion of Financial Institutions and Services;
- h) Reviewing the functions of the Central Tender Board (CTB);
- i) Progressing the development of the new NPF Bill;

- j) Progressing the review of the current National Tax System (NTS);
- k) Reforming the non-tax revenue;
- l) Reviewing the Financial Institution Act (FIA) and other subsidiary legislations;
- m) Progressing the development of the new Customs and Excise Bill;
- n) Establishing a new national payments system to enable interbank transfers;
- o) Reviewing the Insurance Act;
- p) Continuing to coordinate the Small Business Finance Scheme (SBFS);
- q) Developing an appropriate capital structure for SOEs;
- r) Maintaining support for SOEs Community Service Obligations (CSO);
- s) Progressing the implementation of the Undersea Cable Project;
- t) Progressing the implementation of Tina River Hydro Project;
- u) Reviewing the respective legislation that will facilitate Inland revenue collections;
- v) Supporting Public Private Partnerships (PPP) to encourage FDI's and private sector participation in domestic industries to promote economic growth; and
- w) Restarting the Gold Ridge Mine.

5.1.5 Justice and Legal Affairs.

The SIDCC Government will:

- a) Renovate and rehabilitate existing and new court houses;
- b) Fast tract construction of Justice Precinct plus other approved Justice Sector Infrastructure Projects;
- c) Progress National Judiciary Infrastructure Projects;
- d) Enact alternative dispute resolution mechanisms;
- e) Support current legislative programmes of MJLA. Bills such as LPB, YJB, Tribal Lands;
- f) Improve Access to Justice.

5.1.6 Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

The SIDCC Government will;

- a) Fast tract construction of OPMC Infrastructures which includes the Prime Minister's Residence;
- b) Drive PMO Reform Programs;
- c) Fast tract the National Elections Preparation Program;
- d) Implement Nation-wide Awareness of New Ombudsman's Act 2017; and
- e) Continue Support for SIBC Broadcasting Programs.

5.2 Sectoral Reform Programme.

On Sectoral Reform the SIDCC Government will continue with the former DCC Government focus on productive, resource and social sectors. Equally important are judiciary and national security sector and development sector in the Sectoral Reform Programme.

5.2.1 Productive Sector.

On the productive sector, the Government will build a broad-based sustainable economy focussing on policies that will be viably achieved:

5.2.1.1 Agriculture and Livestock Development.

The SIDCC Government will;

- a) Facilitate and support the development of commercial agriculture;
- b) Facilitate research, development and marketing of high value cash crops;
- c) Review National agro-forestry regulations;

- d) Develop a National Oil Palm Industry Act and promote oil palm development in other parts of the country;
- e) Facilitate and support the development of the livestock industry.

5.2.1.2 Tourism Development.

The SIDCC Government will:

- a) Develop and introduce a national tourism legislation;
- b) Review and amend the “National Tourism Policy”;
- c) Build toilet facilities at all tourism sites throughout the country.

5.2.1.3 Trade, Commerce, Industry and Immigration.

The SIDCC Government will:

- a) Enact Small and Medium Enterprise legislation to enable participation of locals in local investment entrepreneurship;
- b) Encourage indigenous entrepreneurship to participate in income-generating activities in urban and rural areas;
- c) Encourage indigenous nationals to sustainably harvest and utilise natural resources;
- d) Expand the list of reserved businesses for indigenous Solomon Islanders as per the Investment Act of 2006;
- e) Develop Special Economic Zones, Economic Growth Centres and Industrial Parks in the country through Public Private Partnership arrangements;
- f) Adopt and implement Small and Medium Enterprise Policy to enhance indigenous business opportunities;
- g) Provide strategic investment incentive packages in targeted growth sectors;
- h) Strengthen the investment division in coordination of project development with set timelines;
- i) Encourage foreign trade and market access with emerging economies;
- j) Review Immigration Act;
- k) Introduce a National Wage Policy;
- l) Introduce anti-human trafficking and anti-slavery legislation;
- m) Design and Develop a concept on the establishment of a unit trust of Solomon Islands.

5.2.1.4 Civil Aviation and Telecommunication.

The SIDCC Government will:

- a) Encourage International Civil Aviation Safety requirements in the country focusing on air rescue, navigational aid, fencing and lighting;
- b) Review the Solomon Islands Civil Aviation Act (CAA);
- c) Review the current Air Space policy and arrangements;
- d) Review all existing agreements with local, regional and other international Agencies;
- e) Strengthen human resources capacity;
- f) Review legislation regulating the telecommunications industry;
- g) Facilitate the rehabilitation and development of rural infrastructure;
- h) Ensure that all communities are connected with telecommunication networks including radio, television, telephone, fax and internet;
- i) Complete the establishment of fibre optic submarine cable system;
- j) Strengthen and support the Telecommunications Commission;
- k) Promote and encourage participation in the industry in the area of broadband services;

- l) Progress SI Airport Corporation.

5.2.1.5 Infrastructure Development.

The SIDCC Government will:

- a) Maintain and improve all roads and feeder roads throughout the country;
- b) Construct 100 kilometres of “dirt road’ and 50 kilometres of tarseal road per year;
- c) Construct Domestic seaport terminal facilities to allow safe embarkation and disembarkation of passengers;
- d) Support constituencies to maintain roads and feeder roads;
- e) Relocate the National Referral Hospital;
- f) Secure land and develop a new township with all urban amenities and utilities;
- g) Facilitate the construction and development of high flow economic airstrips, roads and bridges in the country;
- h) Review the provision of domestic shipping services serving uneconomical routes in the country;
- i) Design and introduce a national infrastructure code of ‘all weather’ low maintenance minimum standard;
- j) Facilitate the establishment of the Road Transport Board as per the Traffic Amendment Act 2009;
- k) Tarseal the Malaita main roads.

5.2.1.6 Aquaculture, Fisheries and Marine Resources.

The SIDCC Government will:

- a) Strengthen and establish a national and provincial fisheries governance and institutional arrangements;
- b) Improve and strengthen the contribution of small-scale fisheries alleviation, food and nutrition security and socio-economic benefits of fishing communities;
- c) Distribute the benefits of Solomon Islands fisheries and aquaculture endowments through innovation and technology, accelerated trade and marketing;
- d) Strengthen and develop coordinated mechanisms among regional economic organizations and regional fisheries bodies to ensure coherence of fisheries policies and aquaculture development;
- e) Improve and increase the contribution of commercial and large scale tuna fisheries to national revenue generation, food and nutrition security and socio-economic benefits of Solomon Islands citizens;
- f) Localization of Long-line Tuna Fisheries;
- g) Create and Review legislation on allocation of aquaculture licensing activities including appropriate mechanism for export license for the beche-de-mer fishery;
- h) In association with Constituency Fisheries Centres, establish a National Fisheries Processing hub for export.

5.2.1.7 Lands, Housing and Survey.

The SI DCC Government will:

- a) Develop a National Urbanization Policy (NUP);

- b) Secure Fix Term lease from original customary landowners with the intention to expand Honiara City;
- c) Return unused alienated land to original landowners;
- d) Encourage landowners and land resource owners to participate in economic development activities and to become partners in development opportunities;
- e) Support urban and rural dwellers to build or buy appropriate and affordable housing to meet individual and family needs;
- f) Implement climate change relocation/resettlement programme;

Productive sector is the main driver for economic recovery and growth in the country. To ensure this is realised the SIDCC Government will aggressively pursue progressing the implementation of key priority projects and programs within the sector and will undertake the necessary and urgently needed reforms so as to ensure all Solomon Islanders enjoy an improved standard of living through provisions of reliable, accessible and affordable goods and services.

On infrastructure development, the SIDCC Government will advance appropriate and necessary policy directions that ensures those who live in disadvantaged, vulnerable and uneconomical rural areas in the country are connected and receive appropriate government services.

5.2.2 Resource Sector.

On the resource sector, the SIDCC Government will build a broad-based and environmentally sustainable economy.

5.2.2.1 Mines and Energy

The SIDCC Government will:

- a) Strengthen Energy Sector Management and effective Service delivery;
- b) Strengthen Mines Institutions;
- c) Review Mines and Minerals Act;
- d) Review mineral exploration and mining operations in the country;
- e) Identify and develop alternative renewable energy sources;
- f) Conclude continental self-demarcation;
- g) Develop Deep sea Mining Policy;
- h) Develop Water Resources Act/Legislation;
- i) Upgrade the Geochemical Laboratory.

5.2.2.2 Forestry and Reforestation

The SIDCC Government will:

- a) Review the Forestry Act;
- b) Promote downstream processing of the forestry and timber industry in the country;
- c) Encourage reforestation and plantation schemes in the country;
- d) Encourage small, medium and large forestry plantations in-partnerships with resource owner and landholders in 'out-growers' schemes;
- e) Completion of National Herbarium and Botanical Garden fencing;
- f) Commission the National Herbarium laboratory project;
- g) Develop proper database for the forestry sector;

- h) Become part of the global society in valuing carbon storage services of the world's remaining tropical forests.

5.2.2.3 Environment, Conservation, Climate Change, Meteorology and Disaster Management.

The SIDCC Government will:

- a) Review the Environment Act;
- b) Strengthen and support the national meteorological services;
- c) Improve waste management and Disposal in the Solomon Islands;
- d) Protect and promote the biological diversity in the country;
- e) Develop and introduce the “Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Bill” in parliament;
- f) Strengthen and support the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO);
- g) Review the National Disaster Management Master Plan;
- h) Promote and Protect World Heritage sites in the country;
- i) Construct the new Environment building.

5.2.2.4 Rural Development

The SIDCC Government will:

- a) Enhance and Support to Constituency Development;
- b) Review and finalise of CDF Act and Regulations;
- c) Establish Constituency Development Centres.

5.2.3 Social Sector

The SIDCC Government aims to efficiently and effectively deliver adequate and quality social services to the people of Solomon Islands through:

5.2.3.1 Health and Medical Services.

The SIDCC Government will:

- a) Review the ‘Medical and Dental Act’ with an intention to strengthen the Dental and Medical Board;
- b) Strengthen and support the Competent Authority (CA) at the Environmental Health Division (EHD);
- c) Review the ‘Pharmaceutical and Poisons Act’;
- d) Review the Doctors’ Scheme of Service with an intention to prevent and reduce brain drain in the country;
- e) Build, upgrade, rehabilitate, renovate, reopen and relocate hospitals, mini hospitals, health clinics and other health centres in Honiara, urban centres and rural communities in all provinces throughout the Solomon Islands;
- f) Refurbish the NRH;
- g) Relocate the NRH;
- h) Improve, increase and deliver basic health services to all citizens of Solomon Islands through an efficient mode of service delivery and cost effective mobilization of resources.

5.2.3.2 Education and Human Resources Development.

The SIDCC Government will:

- a) Review and amend relevant legislations to the education sector;
- b) Provide fee-free basic education in all public educational institutions up to lower secondary. Basic education is the right of all children in the country;
- c) Rehabilitate, reconstruct and build new educational infrastructures to accommodate increases in the enrolment of students at all levels of the education system;
- d) Develop and implement the National Teachers' Scheme of Service;
- e) Continue to support and assist 'faith based' schools/colleges, including schools for peoples with special needs;
- f) Develop and introduce a problem solving mechanism for teachers;
- g) Support READSI National Literary Campaign 2017-2018;
- h) Facilitate transport service arrangements for schools;
- i) Introduce conceptual framework for the establishment of a National Research Institute in Solomon Islands.

5.2.3.3 Public Service.

The SIDCC Government will:

- a) Present to Cabinet a New Bill pertaining to the Public Service;
- b) Construct a new IPAM complex;
- c) Review the Public Service salary structure and remuneration;
- d) Conduct functional and organisational review in accordance with SIG priorities;
- e) Encourage effective coordination and efficient administration of all Government Ministries through cluster-groupings.

5.2.3.4 Home Affairs.

The SIDCC Government will:

- a) Review the Citizenship Act, Dual Citizen and Constitutional Amendment Bill (S51) passed by Parliament;
- b) Review HCC Act 1999;
- c) Review the Gaming and Lotteries Act;
- d) Assist SIFF to build a new futsal stadium;
- e) Support the Honiara beautification project;
- f) Implement the 2023 Pacific Games Act; and
- g) Reassign the 2023 Pacific Games responsibility from MHA to the PMO.

5.2.3.5 Provincial Government.

The SIDCC Government will:

- a) Support institutional strengthening of Provincial Government Systems;
- b) Facilitate and support PGs to increase and enhance their provincial revenue collection systems;
- c) Review the Provincial Government Act in line with the Federal System reform;
- d) Review the functions of both the Central and Provincial Tender Boards; and
- e) Facilitate and increase Provincial and rural economic development initiatives.

5.2.3.6 Women, Youth and Social Development.

The SIDCC Government will:

- a) Strengthen and increase support for women and youth empowerment programmes in the Solomon Islands;
- b) Develop, promote and facilitate socio-economic development programmes that addresses the specific needs of women, youth and children;
- c) Strengthen and support gender equality, eliminate gender violence and stop abuse of women and children, programmes.

5.2.3.7 Police, National Security and Correctional Services.

With respect to the Police and National Security sector, the SIDCC Government will focus special attention to combating lawlessness in all shapes and forms.

The SIDCC Government will:

- a) Work in partnership with stakeholders in the development of the National Security Policy;
- b) Develop the operations and capabilities of the RSIPF to ensure that it has the ability to respond to and manage the security or serious criminal threat to Solomon Islands including transnational crime and terrorism;
- c) Support RSIPF's crime prevention and community policing strategy;
- d) Strengthen and support operational functions of the RSIP and CCSI to ensure the effective and efficient provision of policing and correctional services;
- e) Support the development of specialised facilities for young offenders, female offenders, mentally ill prisoners and immigration detainees;
- f) Review the Parole Regulations and Liquor Act;
- g) Develop a policy on the rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners and review the Correctional Services development programme;
- h) Strengthen relationship with international security and intelligence agencies and establish and support collaborations between law enforcement agencies in Solomon Islands;
- i) Support the establishment of the Explosive Ordinance Disposal facility to ensure the safe collection and demolition of WW II explosive ordinances and remnants of war;
- j) Strength boarder monitoring, surveillance and reconnaissance operations of all boarders.

5.2.3.8 National Unity, Reconciliation and Peace

The SIDCC Government will implement recommendations of the Parliamentary Foreign Relations Report passed in 2009 recommending government to recognise traditional governance structures and Churches.

The SIDCC Government will;

- a) Recognise, strengthen and empower traditional governance systems and structures and protect and preserve the diversity of our organic traditions and cultures in Solomon Islands;
- b) Redesign the Solomon Islands Coat of Arms to reflect cultural identity and sensitivity;
- c) Embark on post conflict rehabilitation and implementation of TRC recommendations.

PART 6: CONCLUSION.

This Policy Statement of the SIDCC Government has been translated into detailed activity-based action-items, with performance indicators, in the accompanying document referred to as “*Policy Priorities, Strategic Actions and Outcomes* “. This Policy Translation document will provide implementers the actions and performance outcomes required to successfully implement the SIDCCG Policy Priorities in 2018.

As a political entity, the SIDCC Government believes that;

- Returning of ownership of Solomon Islands to its people is inevitable. This is not to say that we have sold our country to foreigners but taking the path of ‘business as usual’ will leave us vulnerable in our own lands if no pro-active steps are taken now;
- In order to guarantee this ownership, the implementation of this Policy Statement is absolutely necessary;
- The National Constitution of Solomon Islands needs to be amended to reflect the true meaning and intention of ownership;
- Taking control of our resources means that the state institutions must be supported by resource owners. Support will come readily if out-dated legislations are modernized and poor policies are revised;
- Solomon Islands will become a more inclusive society through the reforms of this Policy Statement; and
- Our country will become a “**Peaceful, United and Progressive Country of Solomon Islands**”.

May God Bless the Solomon Islands, from shore to shore!

Annex 1: Existing Development Projects.

The SIDCC Government will continue to implement the following existing development projects:

Agriculture

- **Waisisi Palm Oil Project** – This is another major development project on Malaita Province with the potential as source of employment for the people of Malaita and Solomon Islands and revenue earner for the country. The SI DCC Government will continue to implement this development project.

Industrial

- **Noro Industrial Park** – is a project designed to create rural development opportunities in the Western Province. The SI DCC Government will continue to implement this development project.

Township.

- **Choiseul Bay Township Project** is a major development project in Choiseul Province that will relocate Choiseul Bay Township from Taro to the Mainland. The SI DCC Government will continue to implement this development project.

Aviation

- **Munda International Airport** – is a major development project in the country as it will gradually be an international airport soon. This will create opportunities for developments in tourism and other sectors. The SI DCC Government will continue with implementation of this development project.
- **Suavanao Airstrip project**- this is an economically viable project to be built in the Isabel province, to cater for tourism. The immediate need is to build a terminal building to provide shelter for passengers,

Energy

- **Tina Hydropower Development Project** – is a major development project in the country that will provide affordable and reliable electricity from renewable energy. The SI DCC Government will continue to implement this development project.

Fisheries

Constituency fisheries project under the Ministry of Fisheries will be ongoing.

The SIDCC Government is aware of the imbalance in the distribution of existing development projects when weighed against provincial distribution. However, when seen against population the imbalance is non-existent.

As a measure against provincial imbalance, the SIDCC Government will wilfully balance the imbalance by implementing new development projects in other provinces.

Annex 2: New Development Projects.

The SIDCC Government will pursue to implement the following new development projects:

Energy.

- **Rural Renewable Energy Projects** – Energy is a necessity and renewable energy is a climate friendly necessity. The SIDCC Government will source funding for Rural Renewable Energy Projects to “power” rural areas.
- **Huro Hydro Power** to supply Kira Kira and surrounding services and amenities including Kira Kira Airport. (on-going program).
- **South Pacific Fuel Depot Relocation Project** – *This is to relocate the current depot located in Point Cruz Port to a more secure and safe site. (this is ongoing since contractor is already assigned to take on feasibility studies).*
- **Buala rehabilitation Hydro project**-*this is to develop a new project however using infrastructure from the old hydro power that is no longer functional. This can be achieved within the 10months because existing infrastructure is already in place.*
- **Afio Solar farm**-*this project is to support the Area Health Centre and other economic development at the sub-station. Solar farm projects are supported by the government and technical support from Solomon Power. This project can be achieved within the 10months of Government.*
- **Marau Solar farm**-*this project is to be located at the Marau sub-station, this project is to support government services and economic developments in the area*

Economic.

- **Rural Growth Centres** – rural communities will be clustered into development opportune areas and livelihood income earning opportunities will be secured to empower rural peoples in these clusters to live an enterprising life with attainment of improved quality of life. The SIDCC Government will establish Rural Growth Centres in economical viable and feasible clusters in the country.
- **Aola Development Centre Project** –North Guadalcanal Constituency, Guadalcanal Province. This has started already by the Constituency.
- **Ulawa IV Saline Manufacturing.** This is to be located in the Ulawa Island, feasibility report is already done. This is to manufacture IV solutions for hospitals and there is show of support by investors. Once implemented it will serve SIG \$27million spend by Health and Medical Services on importing IV solutions. There is also potential for exports since there is only Australia and New Zealand who are manufacturing IV solutions in the region.

Agriculture

- Support to Indigenous Agricultural Cooperative Commodity Exporters

Fisheries

- Tenaru fisheries hub will be developed to cater for the constituency fishery projects currently implemented.
- Bina Harbour Fish Processing Project

Forestry

- Support to established small to medium holder forestry Corporative in the rural areas to develop and manage their forests to meet Red plus minimum conditions.

Aviation

- **Domestic Airport Improvement Project** – The SIDCC Government will improve all domestic airports with associated amenities throughout the country.
- **Suavanao Airport project.** The sealing of Suavanao is donor funded by New Zealand.
- **Gwaunaru'u Airport upgrade-** MID to compact runway to cater for the Dash Aircraft.
- **Taro Airstrip sealing.** The airstrip is donor funded.
- **Seghe Airstrip sealing.** The sealing of Seghe is donor funded

Telecommunications.

- **Rural Telecommunication Project** – The SIDCC Government will encourage telecommunication facilities throughout the country.
- **Undersea Cable** – Funded by Australia, this is a major SIDCCG project.

Infrastructure.

- **Prime Ministers' Residence Project** – This project will replace the current residence of the Prime Minister at Vavaya Ridge.
- **Opposition Leader Residence Project** – The SIDCC Government saw it fit to erect a proper residence for the Opposition Leader.
- **Speakers' Residence Project** – The SIDCC Government saw it fit to erect a proper residence for the Speaker of Parliament.
- **Prime Ministers' Office/Cabinet/Caucus/Foreign Affairs Complex Project** – The SIDCC Government see the need for a new Prime Ministers' Office/ Cabinet/ Caucus/ Foreign Affairs Complex to replace the current outdated and obsolete building.
- **Rural Wharves and Jetties Project** – The SIDCC Government will continue with building of rural wharves in the country.
- **National Roads and Bridges Rehabilitation, Improvement and Development Programme** – The SIDCC Government will rehabilitate and improve existing roads and bridges and develop new roads and bridges in the country, in particular the following development projects:

- **Kakabona/ Lambi/ Marasa Road Rehabilitation, Improvement and Redevelopment Project** – Northwest Guadalcanal Constituency, Guadalcanal Province. Work is on-going.
- **Central Makira Road Rehabilitation and Improvement Project** – Central Makira Constituency, Makira/ Ulawa Province.
- **Maewo Wharf and Jetty Project** – Central Makira Constituency, Makira/Ulawa Province.
- **North and East Malaita (Atori to Atoifi) Road Construction, Rehabilitation and Improvement Project** – Malaita Province.
- **South Road (Auki to Bina to Hauhui) Rehabilitation Project** – Malaita Province.
- **Busurata to Okwala/Kwaibaita Road Project** – Central Kwaraáe Constituency, Malaita Province.
- **North Coast Santa Cruz Road Development Project** – Temotu Nende Constituency, Temotu Province.
- **Tingoa to Lake Tengano Road Project** – Rennell and Bellona Constituency, Renbel Province.
- **Bellona Roads Maintenance Project** – Rennell and Bellona Constituency, Renbel Province.
- **Rennell/Belona Shipping Project** – Rennell and Bellona Constituency, Renbel Province.
- **Ugi Island Road Project**–Ulawa/Ugi Constituency, Makira/Ulawa Province.
- **Ugi Island Wharf and Jetty Project**–Ulawa/Ugi Constituency, Makira/ Ulawa Province.
- **Tatamba to Tihimhau to Lelegia Road Project** - Gao/ Bugotu Constituency, Isabel Province.
- **Tatamba to Tausese Road Project** - Gao/ Bugotu Constituency, Isabel Province.
- **Gold Ridge to Talichana Road Project** – South Guadalcanal Constituency.
- **Tulagi Public Wharf Project** - Tulagi, Gela Constituency, Central Islands Province.

- **Tulagi Tourist Boat Jetty Access Project** - Tulagi, Gela Constituency, Central Islands Province.
- **Tulagi Road Rehabilitation and Improvement Project** - Tulagi, Gela Constituency, Central Islands Province.
- **Big Gela Old Logging Road Rehabilitation Project** – Gela Constituency, Central Islands Province.
- **Harumou/Maka Rehabilitation Project** – West Are ‘Are Constituency, Malaita Province.
- **Hauhui/ Wairaha Road Project** – West Are’ Are Constituency, Malaita Province.
- **Harumou (Uhu) Wharf Project** – West Are’ Are Constituency, Malaita Province.
- **Waisisi Wharf Project** – West Are’ Are Constituency, Malaita Province.
- **Wairaha Bridge Project** – West Are’ Are Constituency, Malaita Province.
- **Wairokai International Seaport** – West Are’ Are Constituency, Malaita Province.
- **East Are’Are Constituency Road Project** – Construction of this road is very critical to high land dwellers of the constituency.
- **East Are’ Are Shipping Project** – East Are’ Are Constituency, Malaita Province.
- **Taefoa/Ata’a Road Project**–
This project was previously agreed and approved under the Townsville Peace Agreement and/or otherwise as a Peace Road in Malaita Province.
- **Guadalcanal Transular Road Project** – The actual location for this road is yet to be identified. However, this project was previously agreed and approved under the Townsville Peace Agreement and/or otherwise as a Peace Road in Guadalcanal Province.
- **Mberande/ Kolosulu/ Papae Road Project** – North East Guadalcanal Constituency, Guadalcanal Province.
- **Honiara Roads Extension, Upgrading and Tarsealing Project** - Honiara.

- **West Are'Are Shipping Project** – West Are'Are Constituency, Malaita Province.
- **North Guadalcanal Water Supply Project** – North Guadalcanal Constituency, Guadalcanal Province.
- **Honiara Back road**- Honiara City-there is a plan by MID and Lands to develop a back road behind Honiara. It will start from China Town-go through Fijian quarter at the back of Holy Cross and cut through All Saints Area-Vavaya ridge and connect to the existing road.
- **Tinahulu bridge upgrade and maintenance**- Central Guadalcanal. This is an upgrade and repair of the bridge and road leading to the Gold ridge mine site.

Health and Medical.

The main focus of the SIDCC Government in the health sector is in the rehabilitation of all closed rural health clinics:

- ***Relocation of National Referral Hospital*** – The SIDCC Government will consider relocation of National Referral Hospital to higher grounds.
- ***Kilu'ufi Referral Hospital*** – The SIDCC Government will build a third referral hospital in Kilu'ufi, Auki, Malaita Province.
- ***Kira Kira Referral Hospital Project*** – to cater for the eastern region of Solomon Islands, Temotu included.
- ***Gizo/Noro/Munda Water Supply Project*** – The SIDCC Government will provide safe and quality water resources to the peoples of the above communities.
- **East Are'Are Mini Hospital Project** – East Are'Are Constituency, Malaita Province.
- **North East Choiseul Mini Referral Hospital Project** – North East Choiseul Constituency, Choiseul Province.
- **Komudalovi Area Health Centre Project** – North East Guadalcanal Constituency, Guadalcanal Province.
- **Kolosulu Area Health Centre Project** – North East Guadalcanal Constituency, Guadalcanal Province.
- **North East Guadalcanal Water Supply and Sanitation Project** – Guadalcanal Province.
- **Rohinari Mini Hospital Project** – West Are'Are Constituency, Malaita Province.
- **Manuopo Area Health Centre**-Temotu Pele Constituency, Temotu Province (New project)

- **Afio Regional Hospital Project**, Small Malaita Constituency, Malaita Province

Education.

- **MEHRD New Headquarter/Office Complex Project** - Honiara.(
- **Isabel Senior Secondary School Project** - Garana, Maringe/Kokota Constituency, Isabel Province)
- **Rohinari Senior National Secondary School Project** – West Are’Are Constituency, Malaita Province.
- **Rarahu TVET Project** – West Are’Are Constituency, Malaita Province.
- **Don Bosco Technical Institute** – Guadalcanal Province.

Sports.

- **2023 Pacific Games**
- **Provincial Sport Institutes**
- **Futsal stadium to be established.** This is going to be co-funded between SIG and OFC.

Township.

- **Marau Township Development Project** for Guadalcanal to enable orderly development. Location will be identified by the Guadalcanal Province and people.