

THE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICES (TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2005

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Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICES (TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) ACT (CAP. 84).

ENACTED by the National Parliament of Solomon Islands.

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the Constitutional (Terms and Conditions of Service) (Amendment) Act 2005.

Amendment to Schedule of Cap. 84 2. The Schedule to the Constitutional (Terms and Conditions of Service) Act is hereby amended by inserting at the end thereof the following -

"Chairman and the appointed members of the Parliamentary Entitlements Commission;

Chairman and members of the Committee on the Prerogative of Mercy; and Attorney General."

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Objects and Reasons

The Act empowers the Minister by Order to prescribe annual or daily salaries in respect of the holders of any office specified in the Schedule. The Minister is further empowered to make regulations in regard to these offices.

The Schedule lists all Constitutional Offices with the exception of the Parliamentary Entitlements Commission, the Committee on the Prerogative of Mercy and the office of the Attorney General. This omission appears to be an anomaly or an oversight which needs to be corrected.

In the case of the Parliamentary Entitlements Commission two of the members who hold office are the Minister of Finance and the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee under Standing Orders. However, the Chairman and two appointed members are not members of Parliament.

The Parliamentary Entitlements Commission is entrusted to determine salaries and entitlements, not only of Parliamentarians but also the salaries and entitlements of Provincial and City Council members. These functions involve considering representations from various bodies or organisations relating to matters specified in the respective Acts, and is time consuming.

It is, therefore, considered desirable that the Act be amended to include the aforesaid offices in the schedule so as to empower the Minister to prescribe the terms and conditions in respect of the holders of these offices in keeping with the services rendered.

PRIME MINISTER