



SECOND REPORT

Solomon Islands National Parliamentary Strengthening Project Phase 2: 2008 - 2012

June – September 2011



Project ID:	00053845
Duration:	<u>April 2008 – March 2012</u>
CPAP Outcome:	SI demonstrates and upholds Forum principles of good leadership and accountability; SI is aware of and protects human rights and makes available mechanisms to claim them.
Total Budget:	US\$ 1,909,434
RAMSI/AusAID:	US\$ 1,509,434
UNDP:	US\$ 400,000
Total Received:	US\$ 1,909,434

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction and Highlights	Page 3
Key Points Update - Project Objectives	Page 5

Annexes

1. *Finance Report*
2. *National Parliament of Solomon Islands Strategic Plan and Implementation Road Map, 2012 – 2016*
3. *UNDP/NPO 3rd Phase Parliamentary Strengthening Project Document, 2012-2016 - Strengthening the National Parliament of Solomon Islands*
4. *National Parliament Technical Assistance to Malaita Provincial Assembly, August 2011*
5. *Project Activity– June to September 2011*
6. *Annual Work Plan 2011 (final revision)*
7. *NPO/Project/UNDP contact information*

Introduction and highlights

This is the first of 2 supplementary reports for 2011 following up the *Project Report for 2011* which issued in June. The main purpose of this report is to provide a balanced key-points update on the work reported earlier in the year. It is designed as an annexure (**Annex 9**) to the June *Report*. A further supplementary report will issue in due course to cover the remaining period of the current project phase ending in March 2012.

Although this supplementary report covers only a few months, it records an impressive degree of progress on a number of fronts. In particular, good progress has been achieved in the all-important transition arrangements required to prepare fully for the 3rd Project phase from April 2012 encapsulated primarily in the *National Parliament of Solomon Islands Strategic Plan and Implementation Road Map, 2012 – 2016* and the UNDP/NPO 3rd Phase PSP Project Document, 2012-2015 (**copies attached**). The *Strategy* has been agreed by Parliament; and I am pleased to report that promising initial discussions with donors on funding for the 3rd Phase of the Project are being advanced. Both of these documents complement the aspirations for Parliament as set out in the *Solomon Islands National Development Strategy 2011 – 2020*.

I am delighted to note publication of the *National Parliament Office Report 2010*. This was the first such report and will be replaced from 2012 by the annual report on the Parliament's *Strategy*.

Most importantly, the capacity of the National Parliament Office (NPO) team continues to grow exponentially as the Office increases in size and capability through the intensive knowledge and capacity transfer work led by the Project and its staff. A feature of this maturing capacity transfer has been the ability of the Office to share its hard won expertise with Provincial Assemblies thus demonstrating both its expertise and an ability and willingness to enrich our Solomon Islands governance structures widely. I have **attached** a *Report* of a mentoring visit in August made at the invitation of the Provincial Assembly of Malaita by David Kusilifu, NPO Director-Committees, which provides a signal example of this point.

As Project Director and Speaker, I firmly believe that in order to perform its function of supporting Parliament, the excellent NPO team requires continually to increase the range and depth of its expertise and capacity. This is particularly so if our key strategic goal of 'autonomy' from the Executive by 2015-16 is to be achieved successfully. This in turn implies some overall increase in the human resources available to the Office over current levels. A recent reorganisation of the Office structure will enable selective future expansion to take place smoothly. This restructuring has separated NPO management units into two 'Member facing'

and ‘Operational’ Departments to provide for a better service to Members and for ease of management.

Our June *Report* identified 3 conditions for future success in enabling the NPO to become a progressively more robust and powerful support engine for Parliament and Members:

- Good management practices embedded
- Uniformity of good service across all NPO units achieved and,
- A tough and challenging working environment established in which talented individuals are able to flourish and learn to accept and handle progressively increased responsibility.

While progress is being made on those fronts, and therefore in tuning up Parliament’s capacity to perform its constitutional functions, there remains a very substantial amount of work required before we can be satisfied.

Attached to this report, and for the reader’s convenience, are the *Monthly Activity Reports* from June to October and the final update of the Project *2011 Annual Work Plan*. These provide the detailed audit trail of Project activities which readers may consult and which complement this report.

Once again, we wish to express our gratitude to those who continue to support this outstandingly successful Project: RAMSI, UNDP, the Solomon Islands Government, other stakeholders, members of the Project Oversight Committee, and the Members and staff of the National Parliament of Solomon Islands. Without that support the progress recorded here would not have been possible.

Sir Allan Kemakeza KBE
National Project Director and Speaker of the National Parliament

Taeasi Sanga
Clerk to Parliament

John Patterson
Project Manager and Chief Technical Advisor

Key Points Update

Objective 1: Effective project management, monitoring, evaluation

Overview

The morale of the project team is high as measured by attendance and work throughput.

The creation and management of a coherent transition policy to the 3rd Project Phase from 2012 and beyond have predominated in this work stream.

Detail

National Parliament of Solomon Islands Strategic Plan and Implementation Road Map, 2012 – 2016

The initial texts of the *National Parliament of Solomon Islands Strategic Plan and Implementation Road Map, 2012 – 2016* were submitted on 25 May, as reported previously in the June *Project Report*.

The following legitimisation and acceptance process for the text, which included a round of NPO staff consultation, was agreed with the Speaker. After some revisions, a mature version of the *Strategy* was accepted by the Speaker and presented to the **Parliamentary House Committee** which agreed the text by resolution with a small number of changes on 12 July. The draft was then sent to the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition and Leader of the Independent Group, before being circulated to all Members of Parliament for comment. The *Strategy* in final form was formally adopted and posted on the website of Parliament on 8 August.

Two half day workshops to roll out the *Strategy* at NPO Management Unit level through *Departmental Annual Work Plans* (DAWPS) were held in August and October, and each NPO Unit now has a DAWP for 2012 with associated targets and risk log in place. Preliminary work to establish an *Annual Corporate Plan* is underway with the **Strategy Support Unit** (establishment reported in June's *Report*) in the lead.

The substance of the *Strategy* is described in the comments below on **Objective 5**.

UNDP/NPO 3rd Phase Parliamentary Strengthening Project, 2012-15

A key point to make is that the *Strategy* provides the formal framework within which the 3rd *Phase Project 2012-15* deploys focussed support for the overall strategic objective of establishing an ‘autonomous parliament’ by 2015-16. The 3rd *Phase Project Document (attached)* was drafted in parallel with the *Strategy* and is intended to complement it. Progress towards funding for 2012 and 2013 has been made by the Project, which has also reached out to the donor community for support for the years 2014 and 2015.

The PM/CTA has made a presentation on the 3rd *Phase* and its links to the *Strategy* to NPO senior staff.

Design

The new Phase document is intended both in design and substance to promote the achievement of an ‘autonomous parliament’ by 2015-16, as set out in Parliament’s *Strategy*.

The new Phase is designed to be ‘nationally implemented’ which implies the relinquishment by the UNDP Sub-office of day to day responsibilities for financial and procurement matters and those being assumed by the Project directly. This is consciously intended to provide critical experience for NPO staff prior to taking full administrative, budgetary, and human resource responsibility from the Solomon Islands Government (SIG) from 2015-16.

UNDP’s national implementation modality (NIM) presupposes that all staff are employed by the implementing partner i.e. SIG, and the case for the transfer of all 14 Project staff was lodged with the Ministry of Public Service on 31 August. Arrangements are underway both for the appointment of a national Deputy Project Manager (as a preliminary to full national Project Management from April 2012) and for an audit to determine the level of financial responsibility to be assumed by the NPO under this modality from 1 April. The Project is ready for the challenge of NIM and any delay in its establishment would be a retrograde step.

Substance

In addition to this design intention, the substantial programme objectives for the new Phase, fewer than in the current (2nd) Phase, focus on key aspects of parliamentary modernisation and promotion with ‘autonomy’ in mind, once again dovetailing closely with the objectives of the Parliament’s *Strategy*: institutional strengthening, support to core parliamentary business, outreach – with a strong emphasis on much needed gender development.

This pared down programme structure represents both a step-change from the *2nd Project Phase* which has 6 objectives, but also a carefully modulated evolution that builds on previous successes while establishing a framework of progressive, manageable challenge to the *3rd Phase Project* implementers.

Further output comment

A feature of the work of this Project is that it strongly encourages building sustainable collaborative support activities with Regional partners. This is not only positive in cost and sustainability terms but is a recognition of the *3rd Phase Project* design which takes a holistic approach to long term external support to the NPSI seeking to taper embedded support as internal capacity develops and to rely progressively on targeted future Regional intervention where required and sought by Parliament.

- A short intensive attachment for the Deputy Clerk and the HR and Strategy Support Manager at the NSW Parliament focussing on professional preparation for *Strategy* implementation from 2012 was arranged through the NSW Parliament Twinning programme from 25 July to 5 August.
- The NSW Parliament Twinning Programme was asked to facilitate contact with the New Zealand Parliament Hansard Department as part of the implementation of the internal **2011 NPSI Hansard Review**. The Manager of the Department made a visit here from 25 to 29 July which was followed up with the attachment of 2 NPSI Hansard staff to New Zealand from 3 to 10 September. Regular contact between the 2 Hansards designed to promote the **Review** recommendations will continue.
- A **NPSI Library Review** with the objective of radically modernising the Library began on 22 September. Using the offices of the NSW Parliament Twinning Programme, the Project and the NPO have invited Deborah Brown, a senior member of the NSW Parliament Library, to join the **Review** panel (Director-Committees, Senior Librarian, Library Assistant, PM/CTA) and she has accepted. Her initial mission is scheduled to begin on 24 October.
- The Pacific Community ICT staff mission highlighted in June's *Report* resulted in the drafting of an *ICT Strategy* for the NPSI. This has been discussed at the **Parliamentary House Committee** which has also co-hosted a half-day workshop in collaboration with the NPO **ICT Steering Committee** for all MPs and selected staff to finalise and embed the document.

- Major activities featuring collaboration with the Centre for Democratic Institutions (CDI) are reported elsewhere in this report.

Objective 2: Strengthened procedural support services

Overview

Prioritisation in this area, and real progress in the medium term, depends crucially on continuing Parliamentary activity which relies upon procedural services. Where Parliament does not meet (as in the reporting period) then there is a risk that the impetus to modernise procedural rules will lessen.

Detail

Standing orders reform

Refining the ways in which Parliamentary ‘core’ legislative and oversight functions are conducted rests at the heart of improving legislative competence and oversight. Work continues with the new Standing Orders, and the Secretariat has a number of proposed changes prepared for consideration and implementation when Parliament sits. But the absence of any mid-year plenary session at which the changes could be proposed and debated has meant that this work has been re-prioritised.

Procedures Office

Space changes in the NPO have begun to permit progress on the creation of a physical Procedures Office. Residual procedural work arising from the visit of the NSW Parliamentary procedural representative earlier this year continues. It would be desirable to have a follow up visit from NSW Parliament to keep the pace of progress brisk and discussion with Sydney based colleagues suggest this will take place in early 2012..

Further output comment

- Initial approaches by Parliament to the Government to include legislative and other programme material in the new *Parliamentary Calendar* (PC) were made but without a positive outcome to date. Discussions will continue however and the PC, which now includes the dates of standing select committee meetings where known and meetings of the **Committee Chair’s Group** and other NPO and Parliamentary activities, stands ready to accommodate the Government’s Parliamentary programme. The PC is publically available on the Parliament Website.

- The Speaker approved a detailed consultation and process strategy proposed by the Secretariat for processing the draft *Parliamentary Precincts Bill*.
- The *Code of Ethical Conduct* remains on agenda of the **Parliamentary House Committee**.
- David Kusilifu, Director Committees, provided procedural support to the **Malaita Provincial Assembly** at the Assembly's request during its 2nd Meeting 21 – 25 August. NPO Secretariat staff members, including Project staff, are available to assist Provincial colleagues similarly subject to the demands of Parliament.
- Albert Kabui, Senior Legal and Constitutional Officer, and David Kusilifu conducted a workshop on procedure for the councillors and senior staff of **Honiara City Council**, at the Council's request on 21 September.

Objective 3: Strengthened committee services

Overview

The level of committee activity has risen but remains relatively modest and has substantial capacity to increase. Steps are being taken to ensure this happens.

Detail

The primary challenge identified in the previous *Project Report* was to reverse the declining meeting frequency of Parliamentary standing select committees.

At that point (June) we reported that the **Public Accounts Committee (PAC)** and the **Parliamentary House Committee (PHC)** had met but that no other committee had yet met this year. The importance of **PAC** is undisputed and that it had proved active is extremely important; but the absence of activity on the part of other standing committees was, and to an extent remains, a matter of concern.

The position at the point of the present *Report's* publication demonstrates some improvement (partly as a result of Secretariat action on the previous *Report*) but more effort is required. The present statistical record of standing select committee meetings in 2011, January to 16 September is as follows:

Committee	Number of meetings ¹
Public Accounts	67
Foreign Relations	4
Parliamentary House	9
Bills and Legislation	1
Constitution Review	1
Police and National Security	1
Health and Medical Services	NIL
Education and Human Resources Training	NIL
Total	83

Source: Emily Kupenga, NPO Secretariat: 12:9:2011

¹ 'Meetings' refers to all single meetings of a committee whether deliberative or public hearings

Analysis

The June *Report* noted that there had been a total of 44 committee meetings at that point in 2011: 38 **PAC** and 6 **PHC** and that no other committee had met. Since then however other committees have begun to be active. This is not surprising in the case of the **FRC** which has a Secretariat staff resource. But even one of the 3 recently established committees – **Police and National Security** – has managed to meet at a point when recruitment of staff for these new committees remains in limbo and there is no dedicated staff. It would be desirable for the other 2 new committees (**Health** and **Education**) to meet as soon as possible. The pace of **PAC** meetings has picked up, with 29 in the period of this report as opposed to 38 in the period January to June and this is a positive development.

PHC has also continued activity, if at a lower level. Given its remit, the weight of work on **PHC** is to some extent dependent on the levels of NPO development activity. For example, the issue of the *NPSI 5 Year Strategy*, **Young Women's Parliamentary Group** and the *NPSI ICT Strategy* were all brought to and discussed fully with the **PHC**. In the near future there will be many such developments arising from the *National Parliament of Solomon Islands Strategic Plan and Implementation Road Map, 2012 – 2016*, and the NPO should continue to increase the frequency with which it involves the **PHC** in these and similar Strategic and corporate developments as an essential political interlocutor and support. In any case, the **PHC** has a formal role in the NPSI/NPO annual strategic cycle, especially in respect of the annual report to Parliament, and so committee activity levels are likely to increase if for no additional reason.

Bills and Legislation Committee met once. In one way this is not surprising as the Government presented Parliament with no Bills in the reporting period. On the other hand, Parliament's *Standing Orders* (S.O. 71 (f)) provides leeway for the Committee to meet and deliberate on its own initiative. So it was open to the Committee to meet more frequently had it wished to do so. The Committee agreed to hold a hearing into the *Customs Valuation (Amendment) Bill 2011* in early October.

The main message from the table above is that the frequency of meetings is improving, partly as a consequence of higher focussed activity levels in the Secretariat, but that much more effort needs to be put in to drive up the overall level of committee oversight activity which at present is skewed towards **PAC** and **PHC**. **FRC** levels of activity are increasing as noted below. An important subsidiary message is that 2 committees have yet to meet at all, a situation which needs to be remedied as quickly as possible, but which is dependant upon recruitment of suitable staff.

Committee Chairs Group

A **Committee Chairs Group (CCG)** under the chairmanship of the Speaker of the National Parliament with the Clerk, Deputy Clerk and senior Secretariat in attendance has been established. This was the main recommendation in the June *Project Report* to address the challenges faced by committees and has been achieved. To date, the **Group** has held 2 successful and lively meetings, and regular monthly meetings are scheduled in the *Parliamentary Calendar*.

The **Group** is already providing a crucial and highly versatile forum for all select committee issues including training of Members and officers, solving the highly damaging issue of member non-attendance which frequently causes committee meetings to start late or be postponed, frequency of committee meetings, developing and publicising committee work programmes, enhancing oversight and scrutiny techniques, committee travel and hearings in the Provinces, committee budgets, staffing issues, quality and quantity of reports, inward visits from external parliamentary committees and groups.

Proposals to establish the **Group** in Parliament's *Standing Orders* and to invite the Prime Minister, and Ministers, to appear to discuss items of public policy interest with the **Group** (on the model adopted in other parliaments) are under discussion.

Further output comment

The June *Report* recommended a number of actions to turn around the sluggish committee activity since the last full calendar year of Parliament meetings (2009):

- There is a 2 day committee chairs training event being organised by the Project through the **CCG's** offices in November (12th and 13th) using the facilitators of the Australian Centre for Democratic Institutions.
- The **Foreign Relations Committee (FRC)** 2 day workshop reported in June as being in planning is scheduled for later in the year when SIG and other facilitators will be available. A 2 day seminar for Members on UN Convention Against Corruption took place on 4 and 5 October under the auspices of the **FRC**. The committee is planning an enquiry into appointments to SI Embassies for late October.
- 2 of the 3 new NPSI standing select committees, **Health**, and **Education (Police** has met once – see above) have yet to meet. The NPO HR Unit will recruit committee staff,

financial resources for which were promised to the **PHC** by government when the new committees were set up. More fundamentally, there are issues around the freedom with which they can meet and inquire in comparison with the established select committees and which are currently being examined by the Secretariat as a matter of priority.

- The Secretariat ‘professional development seminar’ noted previously will be revised to take account of the **CCG** involvement for later in the year.
- It is anticipated that the NPO ‘Committee Guidebook’ will issue by the end of the year.

In a welcome noteworthy development to expand Parliamentary oversight, the **Public Accounts Committee** held a series of hearings in September for all SIG Ministries following up actual expenditure on the *2011 Appropriations*. Hopefully this will set a pattern for a future expansion of tough oversight activity.

Objective 4: Strengthened information services

Overview

NPSI ‘Information Services’ covers 4 NPO Units: Hansard, Library, ICT, and Media. By contrast with the Secretariat of the NPO, these Units have been relatively underdeveloped and progress therefore starts from a lower base than in the Secretariat’s case. But this area has been a priority for the Project in 2011.

In all 4 Units there has been significant progress over the past few months in addressing the challenges faced. Staff members are eager to make progress in improving their capacity to deliver better services. This positive human capital factor, if well managed, should mean that all Units have a good capacity to demonstrate positive performance indicators quickly.

Detail

Hansard

The June *Report* noted the start of work on the broad ranging recommendations of the *Hansard Review* which reported in May. The **Hansard Support Committee** has continued to meet and progress is broadly satisfactory though a range of very challenging problems remain, particularly on implementing the ‘Staff, Structure, and Management’ recommendations.

On 25 July, the Manager of New Zealand Parliament Hansard undertook a visit to advise on the technical implementation of the recommendations of the *Review* and make a report to the Clerk and NPO **Executive Group**. She has kindly agreed to continue her relationship with Parliament and to act as the NPSI Hansard External Mentor and a member of the **HSC**.

In September, the Deputy Editor of Hansard and a Principal Reporter visited New Zealand Hansard in Wellington to continue the stream of *Review* implementation work.

A mid-implementation *Review* progress check is currently underway with the Clerk, Deputy Clerk, PM/CTA, and Director-Committees inquiring into progress on all recommendations from the Editor, Deputy Editor and staff of Hansard in a series of meetings.

Library

In June, we reported on the parlous situation of the NPSI Library which, despite the best efforts of the Librarian and Library Assistant and some interesting and essential technical database innovations in the recent past, remains largely inadequate to the task of supporting Members in their parliamentary roles:

*'[the Library] has no adequate location within the NPO organisational structure, no dedicated budget, no acquisition policy, a poor stock...staff who require to leave specific Library duties when the House is sitting, and a less than optimal location.'*²

In June, the **Executive Group** called for a *Review* of Library as had been done earlier in the year for Hansard and this has now been set up led by the Director - Committees with support from the Library staff and PSP PM/CTA. In addition, the NSW Twinning programme has been invited to participate by the NPO and PSP and has agreed to Deborah Brown, a senior member of the NSW Parliament Library staff, joining the *Review* team. She is expected to arrive for a working visit on 24 October.

The work of the temporary (3 month contract) Data Technician hired by the Project to scan the backlog of newspaper cuttings has been successfully completed.

ICT Unit

There are a number of items to report:

- The **ICT Support Committee** has continued to meet as planned in the reporting period.
- The scheduled visit later in the year of the NSW Parliament ICT Manager to assist with the construction of a Parliamentary intranet facility remains in the programme.
- The previously reported visit of the ICT project of the Pacific Community in June resulted in a draft *NPSI ICT Draft Strategy* which was taken by the Chair of the **ICT Support Committee** (Ian Rakafia, Secretariat) to the **Parliamentary House Committee**. **PHC** commended this development and agreed to co-host with the **ICT Support Committee** a joint workshop on the ICT Strategy for Members and officers. This

² *First Report, UNDP/NPO Parliamentary Strengthening Project Phase 2: 2008-2012, January – June 2011, p.19*

workshop took place in September and the remaining stage is for the **PCH** to consider and agree a finalised *Strategy* text.

- The SIG policy of centralising government ICT services was noted by the NPO Management which stressed the need to cooperate with this initiative but to ensure that services provided were fully able to address the unique requirements of a Parliament. For the time being therefore the NPO policy is to continue with the present staffing arrangements (1 UNDP staff, 1 SIG) noting however the overall policy of transferring all Project staff to SIG in due course.

In due course, consideration will require to be given to the final ICT resource configuration required by an ‘autonomous parliament’, as envisaged in the *National Parliament of Solomon Islands Strategic Plan and Implementation Road Map, 2012 – 2016*.

Media Unit

A ‘shadow’ Media Unit was established in June 2011 with the anticipated appointment of a Media Officer (Joy Rikimae),³ the first ever in the National Parliament. The Media Officer’s contract is now in place, and very important on the job training to start from 13 February 2012 has been agreed recently with the New Zealand Parliament’s Public Information Department. But commendably she has begun work straightaway producing a stream of Press Notices (PNs) advertising Parliamentary business.

The following 17 NPSI PNs issued 28 June to 9 September:

Headline	Date (all 2011)
Parliament Stakeholders Workshop	28 th June
NSW Signs Twinning Agreement with NPSI	8 th July
NPSI Receive Computers From Korea	8 th July
Sir Allan Kemakeza, Speaker of NPSI Receives Australian Commonwealth Parliamentary Delegation	1 st August
Management Group Meets Under Chairmanship of Speaker of NPSI	4 th August
Civic Education Constituency Visit	15 th August
Parliament Select Committee Chairs Group	17 th August

³ The establishment of the Unit took place formally on 22 September on Joy’s signing her UNDP contract as Media Officer

Constituency Visit Success	30 th August
NPSI Assists in the work of Provincial Assemblies	30 th August
Malaita Province Seeks National Parliament Assistance	30 th August
YWPG Work Progressing	2 nd September
UNDP conducts assessment on Development Results	2 nd September
YWPG makes Second Public Appearance	2 nd September
PAC Review SI 2011 Budget	9 th September
NPSI Civic Education Officer Delegate to CYP,UK	9 th September
NPSI Staff Receive Certificates for First Aid Training	9 th September
NPSI Hansard Officers on Short Secondment to New Zealand Parliament Hansard	9 th September

Source: Joy Rikimae, NPO Media Unit: 12:9:2011

- A pilot outline *NPSI Communications Strategy* was drafted and has been agreed by NPO Management and the Speaker. Amongst the proposals is one for a **Speaker's Press Conference**. The *Strategy* will be developed in the course of 2012.
- Discussions have been held with the main Solomon Islands local newspaper editors for weekly 'Parliament Corner' column detailing news about Parliament. This initiative went live in early September and the Parliament's logo now appears over the column in the press.
- Discussions between the Media Unit and Solomon Islands Broadcasting for a regular spot covering Parliament activities are ongoing. Television options will be pursued in due course.
- An initial issue with SIG Public Service which interrupted the arrival of the Unit's second staff member (a cameraman) has been resolved and will be in place later in October. This second appointment is essential if the cameras gifted to the NPSI by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (Australia) are to be brought into use and the reliance on the commercial televising of Parliament lessened in due course.

Objective 5: Strengthened corporate services

Overview

Most key activities noted in the June *Report* are on course.

Proposed arrangements for the appointment of a national deputy PM remain with the Leadership Code Commission, Ministry of Public Service, and the UNDP Regional Sub office; similarly, the arrangements for a pre-NIM audit through the UNDP Regional Sub office remain to be resolved.

Detail

The *National Parliament of Solomon Islands Strategic Plan and Implementation Road Map, 2012 – 2016* approval process was summarised under **Objective 1** comment above.

Over the period of the *Strategy* to 2016 the aim is to lesson general reliance on external international support; focus such support with increasing precision on points of particular challenge; and increase the pace of in-house national capacity development.

The aims of the *3rd Phase Project 2012-15* complement that strategic approach by envisioning gradually reducing embedded Project support over the period to 2015; a nationalisation of the management of the Project; and a renewed focus on MPs capacity building activities, parliamentary outreach, and gender development leadership in Parliament.

National Parliament of Solomon Islands Strategic Plan and Implementation Road Map, 2012 – 2016

The *Strategy 2012-2016* (copy attached) describes the Vision, Mission Core Values, 4 Objectives, and 29 sub-Objectives of Parliament which will be required to achieve the aim of attaining an ‘autonomous parliament’ by the end of the first strategy period in 2016.

The Objectives are:

- To develop the general capacity of Parliament and to enhance the institutional capacity of the National Parliament staff to serve Parliament.

- To improve the legislative process in Parliament and to ensure enhances scrutiny and quality of legislation.
- To improve the capacity of Parliament to provide effective oversight of the Executive Branch.
- To develop the education and outreach work of Parliament and the representative role of MPs.

The *Strategy* is broken down into a *5 Year Implementation Road Map* of activities which guide Members and the NPO through the period in terms of activities and milestones. *Departmental Annual Work Plans* for 2012 (including targets and risk matrices) rooted in the *Road Map* have been produced by each NPO unit and have been refined through a short 2-part workshop facilitated by the PM/CTA.

There is a clear monitoring and evaluation process. Implementation of the *Strategy* is the responsibility of the **Office of the Speaker**. The **NPO Strategy Support Unit (SSU)**, headed by the Deputy Clerk, is directly responsible for administering the *Strategy* and reporting on a weekly basis to the **Executive Group** on progress and challenges. Heads of Unit report to the Speaker on a monthly basis at the **Management Group** presenting their Units' target achievements.

The **SSU** is responsible for drafting a *Strategy Annual Report* for clearance through the **Office of the Speaker** and the **Parliamentary House Committee** and which will tabled in Parliament each December. This will be a public document and will be available on the website of Parliament.

Parliament is administratively subordinate to the government at present, which is something of an anachronism. Nevertheless, this does mean that the NPO and SIG will require to work closely and cooperatively together in the period to 2016 in order to achieve the main *Strategy* aims, in particular Parliamentary autonomy.

UNDP/NPO 3rd Phase Parliamentary Strengthening Project Document, 2012-2016 - Strengthening the National Parliament of Solomon Islands

The project document (PD) was drafted in parallel with the *Strategy* and is designed to support it.

The project has 3 output components:

- Modernising Parliament and Empowering Staff.
- Support to Parliament's core business: legislation and oversight.
- Presenting Parliament to the Nation and the World.
- Under the first component, the project will support the NPO in: ensuring the continued relevance and good administration of the *Strategy*; maintaining progress towards parliamentary autonomy; ensuring appropriate support is given to the raised profile of procedural matters; that the ties that bind the NPSI to the international community - including the parliamentary community - are strengthened wherever possible; and that HR, staff training, Hansard, and e-parliament enhancement opportunities are seized.
- The second component contains a range of interventions designed to sharpen the capacity of Parliament to undertake legislative and oversight tasks including: legislative drafting and review, advice for committees, strengthening committee hearings, legislation implementation reviews, enhancing financial oversight, strengthening links between parliament and independent institutions such as the Auditor General, Leadership Code Commission, Ombudsman, Library and research facility improvements.
- The third component comprises a powerful suite of activities designed to strengthen the civic education, outreach, and representative role of Parliament. Central to this effort is a focus on gender policy and exploring the capacity and role of Parliament in adopting a lead position for it within the Solomon Islands.

The 3rd Phase will not fund an international Project Manager/Chief Technical Advisor but will fund an international Senior Parliamentary Advisor working as a consultant under an appropriate UNDP contract for one year. Project management will be undertaken by a national Project Manager from 1 April. The budget is set at US\$ 1.1 million over the life of the Phase, 2012-15, and resource mobilisation is underway.

NPO Management – progress on reforms to accommodate Strategy responsibilities

The management reforms required to embed and action the *Strategy* were detailed in the June Report and current progress is noted below:

- The Head (Deputy Clerk) and deputy head (HR and Strategy Support Manager) of the **Strategy Support Unit** received training in the NSW Parliament, as reported under **Objective 1**. Additional training will be requested as required.
- The core NPO management arrangements – a weekly **Executive Group** meeting under the chairmanship of the Clerk, and a monthly **Management Group** meeting reporting NPO Unit Heads' achievement to the Speaker are working well with meetings held regularly and to time.
- The specialised NPO committees set up to oversee and support key/time sensitive/complex aspects of Parliament's administration (**ICT Steering, Security Oversight, Hansard Support, and New Building**) are meeting when required and proving their worth.
- The **Autonomous Parliament Group** (Chair: Albert Kabui), charged with providing advice to the Speaker and Parliament on the detail of 'autonomy' and providing a collaborative road map with other governance partners to achieve it to the timetable set out in the *Strategy*, will meet regularly.
- A successful recruitment process has been undertaken by the HR Unit to recruit a Corporate and HR Support Officer who will assist the HR and Strategy Support Manager and is intended to be a key *Strategy* administration resource.
- The detailed case for the transfer of all current UNDP staff to SIG was passed to the Ministry of Public Service on 31 August. This is required in order to proceed with the 3rd Phase Project as designed (i.e. NIM).
- Two 0.5 day workshops designed to create drafts 1 and 2 department annual work plans reflecting *Strategy*-driven activities for each NPO unit have been held by the PM/CTA.
- Drafting of the suite of HR policies required by the NPSI by a member of the NSW Parliament Twinning programme (John Taupongi) is at an advanced state. The next stage will be for John to complete his work of the priority areas selected and then for the HR and Strategy Support Manager to draft a realistic HR implementation plan for consideration by the **Executive Group** and Clerk and insertion into the annual planning cycle.
- The Graduate Accountant (Lloyd Bera) is in day to day charge in the NPO of UNDP Regional Sub office arrangements for the audit of the NPO required to ascertain the level

of national implementation which will be appropriate to set the 3rd Phase Project. Hopefully, this can be completed in the very near future.

- A case for a NPO staff member to assume the role of national deputy PM in the period running up to the implementation of the 3rd Phase on 1 April 2012 is with the **Leadership Code Commission, Ministry of Public Service**, and the UNDP Regional Sub office.

Objective 6: Strengthened parliamentary education and community engagement services

Overview

High outputs on all programme work continue to be delivered. Particularly noteworthy has been the highly successful civic education constituency programme which has seen teams of NPO officials travelling to *Small Malaita, Goa Bugotu*, with an additional visit to *East Kwaio and West Are Are* in planning for mid-October. We anticipate such visits will become an increasingly large part of the Project's civic education programme in coming years.

Detail

Role of Parliament, Schools Outreach, Community and Media Outreach, Public Awareness, Gender, governance development (with Secretariat) sub-programmes

The following are sample highlight activities in the reporting period:

- An NPO civic education team of 4 with the PM/CTA and led by Patteson Lusi (Civic Education Team Leader) toured ***Small Malaita Constituency*** from 15 – 19 August and presented Parliament to 10 communities and schools.
- A second Parliamentary outreach tour to ***Goa Bugotu Constituency***, Santa Isabel took place 16 – 26 September reaching out to 14 communities and schools and culminating in with activities at the ‘Goa Bugotu Cultural Festival’ opened by the Deputy Prime Minister and Speaker of the National Parliament, with the Minister of Tourism and Culture (the constituency MP), Deputy Clerk and the Project Manager/CTA attending. The Festival opening was attended by approximately 2,000.
- A third outreach tour with 5 NPO officers and the PM/CTA is planned to a part of ***East Kwaio Constituency*** and ***West Are Are Constituency***, Malaita later in October.
- 2 text books on Parliament for use by primary and secondary school students are with the SIG Curriculum Board for checking.
- IPAM training on Parliament for public servants continued. 103 public servants undertook the programme in the reporting period.

- School students 0.5 day visit programme ongoing. 794 school students have attended in the reporting period.
- Stakeholder's event in which wives of MPs underwent a highly intensive, 2 day seminar (29th and 30th June) on the role of Parliament and MPs with NPO and external presentations including several women's organisations including UNWOMEN. Attendance was 60% which was a good indicator of interest and quality.
- The Speaker, Prime Minister and the members of the **Parliamentary House Committee** agreed to be Patrons of the '**Young Women's Parliamentary Group**' designed to establish a voice for women in the democratic centre of the Solomon Islands. The Group, which meets in Parliament and is led by an elected Executive Committee, numbers 30 and is drawn from the public, voluntary and private sectors. The formal inauguration of the Group is planned for early November.
- Marisa Pepa, NPSI NPO Civic Education Officer, was the Solomon Islands delegate to the **Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Youth Parliament** held in the House of Commons, Westminster, London 6 – 10 September. Her report may be found on the Parliamentary Website
- In partnership with the NPSI **Public Accounts Committee**, the Parliamentary Strengthening Project's sister programme, Provincial Governance Strengthening Programme, and the Centre for Democratic Institutions, based in the Australian National University, Canberra, the NPO participated in a 2 day programme designed train public accounts committees in Provincial Assemblies. This activity, which involved half of the Provincial Assemblies' PAC members, will be completed in November when the remainder of the Assemblies' PACs will receive training.

Conclusion

The new Phase of the Project will see Parliamentary Outreach strengthened. Currently, it is a highly proactive and successful part of the NPO and Project and there is every expectation that the pace of outreach activities will quicken further in 2012 and beyond.