



FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

NATIONAL PARLIAMENT OF SOLOMON ISLANDS

INQUIRY INTO THE FACILITATION OF INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE NOTICE

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Following a resolution by Parliament on the 24th of July 2008, the National Parliament's Standing Committee on **Foreign Relations** will be conducting an inquiry into the Facilitation of International Assistance Notice for review and report. The Committee is charged with the following Terms of Reference received from the House:

1. *Parliament refers the Facilitation of International Assistance Notice to the Foreign Relations Committee for inquiry, review and report.*
2. *In undertaking this inquiry the Committee may consider any matter relating to the*
 - (a) *Facilitation of International Assistance Act 2003;*
 - (b) *The Agreement concerning the Operations and Status of the Police and the Armed Forces and other Personnel Deployed to the Solomon Islands to assist in the Restoration of Law and Order and Security between the Government of the Solomon Islands and the Governments of certain Assisting Countries; and*
 - (c) *any other notices made under the Act, that will assist the Committee in informing and making recommendations to this House in relation to the Notice.*
3. *The Committee to report to Parliament by Friday 14 November 2008.*

The International Assistance Notice affects all Solomon Islanders as it provides for the visiting contingent known as the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI). The Foreign Relations Committee encourages public involvement in this important inquiry and invites written submissions and comments from interested individuals and organizations on their observations on the Act and the work undertaken by RAMSI and to suggest any improvements or changes to the functions and relationship between RAMSI, assisting countries and the people and Government of Solomon Islands. The International Assistance Notice states:

1. *This notice may be cited as the Facilitation of International Assistance Notice 2003.*
2. *(a) On 4th July, 2003, the Government of Solomon Islands requested the assistance of the Government of Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu ('assisting countries') for a public purpose.*
 - (b) *The assistance will be provided by a contingent of persons ('the visiting contingent') from the assisting countries or other countries.*
 - (c) *The Act applies to the visiting contingent on the making of this Notice by reason of section 3 (3) of the Act*

3. *Pursuant to section 3(2) of the Act, the Agreement concerning the Operations and Status of the Police and Armed Forces and Other Personnel Deployed to Solomon Islands to Assist in the Restoration of Law and Order and Security between the Government of the Solomon Islands and the Government of certain Assisting Countries is specified as an agreement that covers the operations and activities in Solomon Islands of the visiting contingent.*

Written submissions stating views on the International Assistance Notice can be emailed to fr@parliament.gov.sb or hardcopies mailed to: The Secretary to the Foreign Relations Committee, National Parliament Office, PO Box G.19, Honiara.

Further information about this inquiry can be obtained from the Committee Secretariat on telephone (00 677) 23424, facsimile (00 677) 24272 and on the National Parliament Website www.parliament.gov.sb.

The Committee will consider requests that a submission remain confidential and not be released to the public. If you wish your submission be confidential you must mark it accordingly.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS IS 5TH SEPTEMBER 2008



Hon Laurie Chan
Chairman
Foreign Relations Committee