

SUBMISSION BY PERMANENT SECRETARY – MINISTRY OF POLICE, NATIONAL SECURITY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

INQUIRY INTO AND REVIEW OF THE FACILITATION OF INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE NOTICE 2003

Thank you Chairman and Members of the Foreign Relations Committee for giving me the opportunity to be present before you on behalf of the MPNS&CS to make some brief comments and suggestions to this enquiry into and the Review of the facilitation of International Assistance Act 2003.

My presentation is very brief and covers Restoration of Law and Order and Security, Capacity building, Proposed Framework Agreement between Solomon Islands Government and RAMSI and Future of the Partnership.

RESTORATION AND NORMALISING LAW AND ORDER AND SECURITY

The Facilitation of International Assistance Act provided for the Intervention of RAMSI in 2003; comprised of a contingent of the Participating Police Force, the military and other personnel. The intervention focused on the restoration of law and order and security. Law and Order and Security were restored and the focus shifted to normalizing Law and Order and Security. Five years later the Law and Order and Security situation has changed.

Law and Order and security have been normalized, the environment has been made safer and peaceful for economic and social development. The review of Facilitation of International Assistance Act is therefore necessary to reflect the current situation and to establish the future direction and way forward for the partnership between SIG and RAMSI.

CAPACITY BUILDING

After five years of RAMSI assistance the focus now of the partnership is Capacity building and Sustainability, to develop the Capacity of SIG to create an environment that sustain Economic and Social development and to maintain stability and security. The focus on both the SIPP and CSSI, in terms of Capacity building is to build professional, disciplined and sustainable services in terms of Human Resources and institutions.

Capacity building in SIPP and CSSI has shifted from 'doing' to supporting, and mentoring in the work place. On going training from recruits to training of potential leaders continue in their respective Academies, and there are signs of continuing improvement. The PPF however need to recruit officers with the right skills to meet the Capacity development needs of SIPP. It is therefore essential that long serving and experienced PPF officers are recruited as advisers through their normal recruitment and selection process, and deployed to critical areas of the SIPP.

In the case of CSSI, local senior officers participate in the recruitment and selection process of advisers.

The biggest constraint to Capacity building however is the lack of adequate housing and infrastructure. The lack of Police Housing in the Provinces makes it difficult to post more police officers to the Provinces and this affects the delivery of Police Services in the Provinces. If the current Capacity building Program by RAMSI (PPF) in SIPF is to achieve its objectives then some RAMSI funding directed to PPF should be considered for assisting the SIPF in housing and infrastructure.

In terms of the CSSI, the Construction of Provincial Prisons under RAMSI funding includes houses for Correctional Officers. The Solomon Island Government also provides funding for Correctional Officers housing.

It will take some years however before the Housing and Infrastructure issue reaches the position where it is of a lesser constrain to capacity building.

PROPOSED FRAMEWORK – SIG/RAMSI

Negotiations between SIG and RAMSI on the Proposed Framework Agreement for ongoing and future RAMSI assistance to Solomon Islands Government has started. In order for RAMSI assistance to achieve tangible results for Solomon Islands, it is necessary for RAMSI to align its assistance to the Policies and priorities of the Government. This is the objective of the Proposed SIG/RAMSI Framework.

The goal of the MPNS&CS in the proposed Partnership Framework is that Solomon Islanders live in a secure and safe environment where laws are administered fairly. To achieve this goal, the Strategies for the Ministry are focused on two areas (a) Infrastructure – housing, Police Stations and Prisons primarily in the Provinces and Capacity Building with a time line of up to five years. SIG would require the assistance of RAMSI if the proposed Partnership Framework is to achieve the indicators and outcomes proposed in the Framework. The availability of financial resources is crucial to achieving the overall goal. It is therefore crucial that SIG and RAMSI agree on the strategies, indicators and outcomes of the SIG/RAMSI Proposed Framework.

FUTURE OF PARTNERSHIP

There has been much talk within Government and the Community on the duration of RAMSI presence in Solomon Island. This is the challenge to both SIG and RAMSI. The proposed Partnership Framework would provide some guidelines in determining the duration of RAMSI presence in Solomon Islands. As already mentioned in the proposed SIG/RAMSI, Framework, there are goals, strategies, indicators and outcomes which have yet to be agreed upon, and these are the main benchmarks on which the presence of RAMSI in the partnership arrangement may be determined.

The long term outcome of capacity building is that the SIG has the Capacity to identify its own direction, to be able to lead and manage sustainable change, be able to reflect on its own strengths and weaknesses, and to continuously improve its own performance.

Any consideration of ending the Partnership should only be in line with the achievement of the outcomes required of a Capacity building program. This may mean that any withdrawal of RAMSI should be inline with individual Organisation achievement as some units may Capacity build quicker than others.

Continual review and assessment of specifically agreed indicators should be a priority with a staged withdrawal based on the outcomes of these assessments and achievements against agreed indicators.



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