

LAURU LAND CONFERENCE OF

TRIBAL COMMUNITY TRUST BOARD INC.

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Hon. Laurie Chan
Chairman Foreign Relation Committee
National Parliament Office
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25/08/08

Dear Honorable Laurie Chan,

RE:- INQUIRY INTO THE FACILITATION OF INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE NOTICE


First let me acknowledge with thanks your letter dated 4/08/08 in regard to the above underlined caption.

My submission to the inquiry is here attached for your reading, understanding and careful consideration with its biblical references as its guide by God's words.

My submission does not officially represent the Luru Land Conference of Tribal Community, although there are some LLCTC'S references and statements which are made in the content of the submission.

I believe that this year is a bible year, so we must together listen more to God's words and less from our own human standard of our own wisdom. (Compare 1 Corinthians 2:6-16).

Yours Sincerely,


Hon. Rev. Leslie Boseto (MP)
South Choiseul Constituency

**SUBMISSION TO THE F.I.A.N'S PARLIAMENTARY FOREIGN RELATIONS
COMMITTEE FOR INQUIRY, REVIEW AND REPORT:-
BY HON. REV. LESLIE BOSETO**

A. KNOW AND UNDERSTAND US (SI) WHEN YOU CONTINUE TO INVESTIGATE AND REVIEW US!

A.1 **CULTURALLY**:- We are basically the people of people and for people in our families, clans, tribes and now in our village communities. Therefore "human relationships" is the basis of our existence and survival. Hence we are more or less in the group of simple "Socialism" but not powerful "Capitalism". In Luru we are more inter-tribal and classless community.

A.2 **RELIGIOUSLY**:- God is "spirits" residing within the whole creation; in lands and sea, in reefs, rivers, mountains, stones, forests etc. Hence, the whole creation is sacred. (compare Acts 17: 23-31)

A.3 **THEOLOGICALLY**:- We are more with the group which believes in "Theocracy." That is, God is most powerful in his spirit and is present in his creation. We are more closer to the Hebrew people's way of worship through sacrifices because of this, we can easily understand the prayers and praise of King David in I Chronicles 29: 10-20 and his son King Solomon in II Chronicles 1: 7-12.

From the above two prayers of the two Kings The Luru Land Conference has affirmed its two basic principles enshrined in the Preamble of the National Constitution of the Solomon Islands as here reads:-

"WE THE PEOPLE OF THE SOLOMON ISLANDS, PROUD OF THE WISDOM AND WORTHY CUSTOMS OF OUR ANCESTORS, MINDFUL OF OUR COMMON AND DIVERSE INHERITAGE AND CONSCIOUS OF OUR COMMON DESTINY, DO NOW, UNDER THE GUIDING HAND OF GOD, ESTABLISH THE SOVEREIGN DEMOCRATIC STATE SOLOMON ISLANDS;

4. **EDUCATIONALLY**:- It is education for work, not just for talk. Work is creativity hence it is not governed by clock or conditioned by any payment. We are committed and laboured for our survival and for our future. It is "education for whole life". This practice is understood more and more within God's plan for the gospel of the wholeness or the fullness of life in John 10:10, and I Thess. 5:23

5. **ECONOMICALLY**:- Our lands, sea – reefs, and whole surrounding environment, are the roots of our living CAPITALS for our many generations’ “ **sustained community living**” daily, as from the past, in the present and is to come.
6. **POLITICALLY**:- Leaders must be wise and humble in order to take care of their families, relatives, tribes and as well as other people who come to marry within their families and tribes. Hence the teaching of St Paul in I Timothy 3:1-7, and 5.8 in our Christian country’s context today have re-affirmed these teachings that “family” is the core centre of “democracy” under God’s “Theocracy” of heaven and earth.

Our Solomon Islands’ National motto says “ To lead is to serve”. In order to keep the balance we can turn around this and say: “To serve is to lead” Mark 10: 35-45, and Luke . 22:24-27

Note:- The above living and practical expressions of our existence in our rural contexts are to be read and taken in their totality which means they cannot be easily disintegrated or fragmented by one way top-down traffic communication system. Because we belong in the world of diversities, varieties and hundreds of alternatives within God’s created design and order!

7. **RELATIONSHIP THE BASIS OF JUSTICE**

In its 14th General Meeting in 1994, the Lauru Land Conference of Tribal Community (LLCTC) formulated the following statement in regard to: “Relationship the basis of justice”.

Good relationships between brothers, sisters, cousins, relatives etc; as well as between leaders and chiefs of other tribes are the basis of justice and peace. Lauru people are family people. Relationships in family and between families are very important. Our theme for our Bible Study in our 1994 of Lauru Land Conference namely: “The family is the basis and heart of God’s democracy” has helped us to see that God’s gift of family is the very center of our respectable and responsible relationships. It is here that we see the picture and the purpose of the Triune Community creating God. Good relationships with the Creator of our environment and with each other is justice. In short it is “relationships with people and the earth”

Within these relationships that our people grew together in the spirit of sharing and caring as both the means and goal for our security and survival.

This is not organized relationship but natural level of relationships which is an integral part and parcel of our communal identity. Any “organized society” whether churches or government should recognize the already existence of this relationship at & for direct human level of communication. Relationships based on natural identities namely family and tribes are living **CELLS OF NATION-BUILDING**. Hence they can not be easily assimilated into political and religious institutions and structures. Luru Land Conference recognizes families and tribes as the living roots and powers of our islands and nation. We are the nation of many families and tribes. Land is used to equalize or to balance relationship. Land is used to compensate deaths in wars. Wars were not organized to take other tribes’ land but to get rid of wrongdoers. Those who spoiled good relationships where sharing, caring, trusting and supporting each other’s coexistence were usually severely punished and even, the penalty is death. Our tribal chiefs/elders welcome non-tribal members into their community and land. So here in this section we learn that our people (ancestors and forefathers) saw justice and peace can not be existed without good relationships where caring and sharing are communally witnessed. God – is the community creating – God, so those who join to him in and through Jesus Christ, join to each other. What God requires is to do what is just, to have constant love and to walk in humble fellowship (relationship) with our Lord – (see Micah 6:6-8). The Holy Spirit enables us to know that the Triune Community of the Community – Creating God is here with us”.

Bible References (put these after the end of the above quotation)

I Chronicles 29:10-20

II Chronicles 1:1-12

John 10:10

I Thessalonians 5:23

I Timothy 3:1-7, I Timothy 5:8

Mark 10:35-45

Luke 22:24-27

Acts 17:22-31

Verse 22:- Paul stood up in front of the city council and said, "I see that in every way you Athenians are very religious.

- 23:- For as I walked through your city and looked at the places where you worship, I found an altar on which is written, 'To an Un-known God.' That which you worship, then, even though you do not know it, is what I now proclaim to you.
- 24:- God, who made the world and everything in it, is Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples made by human hands.
- 25:- Nor does he need anything that we can supply by working for him, since it is he himself who gives life and breath and everything else to everyone.
- 26:- From one human being he created all races of people and made them live throughout the whole earth. He himself fixed before hand the exact times and the limits of the places where they would live.
- 27:- He did this so that they would look for him, and perhaps find him as they felt around for him. Yet God is actually not far from any one of us;
- 28:- as someone has said, 'in him we live and move and exist.' It is as some of your poets have said, 'we too are his children.'
- 29:- Since we are God's children, we should not suppose that his nature is anything like an image of gold or silver or stone, shaped by human art and skill.
- 30:- God has overlooked the times when people did not know him, but now he commands all of them everywhere to turn away from their evil ways.
- 31:- for he has fixed a day in which he will judge the whole world with justice by means of a man he has chosen. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising that man from death!"

I Chronicles 29:10-20 Reads:-

Verse 10:- There in front of the whole assembly King David praised the Lord. He said, "Lord God of our ancestor Jacob, may you be praised for ever and ever!

- 11:- You are great and powerful, glorious, splendid, and majestic. Everything in heaven and earth is yours, and you are king, supreme ruler over all.
- 12:- All riches and wealth come from you; you rule everything by your strength and power; and you are able to make anyone great and strong.
- 13:- Now, our God, we give you thanks, and we praise your glorious name.
- 14:- "Yet my people and I cannot really give you anything, because everything is a gift from you, and we have only given back what is yours already.
- 15:- You know, O Lord, that we pass through life like exiles and strangers, as our ancestors did. Our days are like a passing shadow, and we can not escape death.
- 16:- O Lord, our God, we have brought together all this wealth to build a temple to honour your holy name, but it all came from you and all belongs to you.
- 17:- I know that you test everyone's heart and are pleased with people of integrity. In honesty and sincerity I have willingly given all this to you, and I have seen how your people who are gathered here have been happy to bring offerings to you
- 18:- Lord God of our ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, keep such devotion for ever strong in your people's hearts and keep them always faithful to you.

- 19:- Give my son Solomon a wholehearted desire to obey everything that you command and to build the Temple for which I have made these preparations.”
- 20:- Then David commanded the people, “Praise the Lord your God!” And the whole assembly praised the Lord, the God of their ancestors, and they bowed low and gave honour to the Lord and also to the king.

II Chronicles 1:7-12 Reads:-

- Verse 7:- That night God appeared to Solomon and ask, “What would you like me to give you?”
- 8:- Solomon answered, “ You always showed great love for my father David, and now you have let me succeed him as king.
- 9:- O Lord God, fulfill the promise you made to my father. You have made me king over a people who are so many that they cannot be counted,
- 10:- so give me the wisdom and knowledge I need to rule over them. Otherwise, how would I ever be able to rule this great people of yours?”
- 11:- God replied to Solomon, “You have made the right choice. Instead of asking for wealth or treasure or fame or the death of your enemies or even for long life for yourself, you have asked for wisdom and knowledge so that you can rule my people, over whom I have made you king.
- 12:- I will give you wisdom and knowledge. And in addition, I will give you more wealth, treasure, and fame than any king has ever had before or will ever have again.”

John 10:10 Reads:-

- Verse 10:- The thief comes only in order to steal, kill, and destroy. I have come in order that you might have life-life in all its fullness.

I Thessalonians 5:23 Reads:-

- Verse 23:- May the God who gives us peace make you holy in every way and keep your whole being –spirit, soul, and body – free from every fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I Timothy 3:1-7, I Timothy 5:8

- Verse 1:- This is a true saying: If a man is eager to be a church leader, he desires an excellent work.
- 2:- A church leader must be without fault; he must have only one wife, be sober, self-controlled, and orderly; he must welcome strangers in his home; he must be able to teach;
- 3:- he must not be a drunkard or a violent man, but gentle and peaceful; he must not love money;
- 4:- he must be able to manage his own family well and make his children obey him with all respect.
- 5:- For if a man does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of the church of God?

6:- He must be mature in the faith, so that he will not swell up with pride and be condemned, as the Devil was.

7:- He should be a man who is respected by the people outside the church, so that he will not be disgraced and fall into the Devil's trap.

Timothy 5:8

Verse 8:- But if any do not take care of their relatives, especially the members of their own family, they have denied the faith and are worse than an unbeliever.

Mark 10:35-45

Verse 35:- Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus. "Teacher," they said, "there is something we want you to do for us."

36:- "What is it?" Jesus asked them.

37:- They answered, "when you sit on your throne in your glorious Kingdom, we want you to let us sit with you, one on your right and one on your left."

38:- Jesus said to them, "You don't know what you are asking for. Can you drink the cup of suffering that I must drink? Can you be baptized in the way I must be baptized?"

39:- "We can," they answered. Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink the cup I must drink and be baptized in the way I must be baptized.

40:- But I do not have the right to choose who will sit on my right and on my left. It is God who will give these places to those for whom he has prepared them."

41:- When the other ten disciples heard about it, they became angry with James and John.

42:- So Jesus called them all together to him and said, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the heathen have power over them, and the leaders have complete authority.

43:- This, however, is not the way it is among you. If one of you wants to be great, you must be the servant of the rest;

44:- and if one of you wants to be first, you must be the slave of all.

45:- For even the Son of Man did not come to be served; he came to serve and to give his life to redeem many people."

Luke 22:24-27

Verse 24:- An argument broke out among the disciples as to which one of them should be thought of as the greatest.

25:- Jesus said to them, "The kings of the pagans have power over their people, and the rulers claim the title 'Friends of the People.'

26:- But this is not the way it is with you; rather, the greatest one among you must be like the youngest, and the leader must be like the servant.

27:- Who is greater, the one who sits down to eat or the one who serves? The one who sits down, of course. But I am among you as one who serves.

B. SOLOMON ISLANDS WAS CRYING FOR A NEIGHBOUR SINCE 1998

Under here I would like to share who are neighbours to the Solomon Islands during 1998 – to July 2003. (Compare Luke 10: 25-37)

b.1 From the above biblical references we see the following kinds of persons; they are

The Traveller.

The Robbers

The Priests

The Levite

The Good Samaritan.

b.2 The story of the above personalities was told by Jesus in order to answer the question asked by the Lawyer at the end of their (Lawyer/Jesus) conversation in verse 29. In order to justify himself so the Lawyer asked; "WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR? Then Jesus told the story of the above players in the drama. The story is well known by Christians. Let us look at every group of Traveler's movement and their expectations.

FIRST TRAVELLER: The Traveler was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho without expecting that he would be attacked by other travellers on the same road.

SECOND TRAVELLER

The robbers are the second group. They always look for others' properties and possessions to steal in order to maintain their survivals. They attacked the first traveler, stripped him and beat him up, leaving him half-dead,.

THIRD TRAVELLER:

The third traveller is a priest. His expectation was to perform religious ceremony in the synagogue. He was also travelling on the same road, but when he saw the man half-dead, he walked passby on the other side.

Today, as we have been repeatedly saying in our statements of policies, plans and programmes of action that we ^{are} no longer an island. We ^{are} now be long to one global village and travel together on the same road. Can we together identify the robbers who had attacked us and stripped, beat us up and leaving us half-dead before RAMSI arrived on 24th July 2003?

Who do the Priest and Levite represent? Can we say that between 1998 and July 2003 there had been many Priests and Levites came to saw us but just passed by on the other sides?

We can continue to ask many more questions and try to give our own answers. But to me the INN of “protection” and “care” is what we need so that we are safe, secure and share the fullness of life for blessing not for cursing.

As this year (2008) is the Bible-Year I just leave with you the following verses.

Deuteronomy 30: 19 (From G.N.B.)

“I am now giving you the choice between life and death, between God’s blessing and God’s curse and I call heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. CHOOSE LIFE.”

John 10: 10 (GNB)

“The thief comes only in order to steal, kill and destroy. I have come in order that you might have life - Life in all its fullness.”

C. RAMSI OUR SECURITY – OUR INN.

The Article 2 of the facilitation of International Assistance Notice 2003, states the specific purpose and responsibility or job description of RAMSI.

C.1 The purpose of RAMSI's intervention into the Solomon with Police Forces and Armed Forces are:

- (i) To assist in the provision of security and safety to persons and property
- (ii) To maintain supplies and services essential to the life of the Solomon Islands Community.
- (iii) To prevent and suppress violence, intimidation and crime.
- (iv) To support and develop Solomon Islands institutions.
- (v) To assist in the maintenance of law and order.

C.2 Without going into detail of how I see whether RAMSI has fulfilled its propose or not, let me outline hereunder where we are in the light of our Good Samaritan's story from my personal perspective.

C.3 From providing our security-our inn, Nos. (1) and (iii) and (v) above should have been replaced by trained-armed police forces during the first two years of RAMSI's operation.

Nos. (ii) and (iv) had been the normal integral part and parcel of the S.I. Government's services and national development. Since we are all travelling on the same road of life, we must all try our best to be true, free, confident and secure neighbours for taking care of each others in order to fight together against robbers from both within and outside of Solomon Islands. (robbers are evil - doers who are against "peace with justice")

C.4 In Summarizing of the Good Samaritan Story

Let me just share the followings:-

Robbers says: YOURS IS MINE. I will get it from you. Even it costs my life and your life.

The group belongs to Priest & Levite says: MINE IS ALWAYS MINE. I will keep it. I will protect it. I will only use it for myself.

The Group belongs to Good Samaritan says: MINE IS YOURS, IF YOU NEED IT. I am happy to share with you. Because Jesus said: There is more happiness in giving than in receiving (Acts 20: 35).

CONCLUSION

Solomon Islanders must learn the way of the Good Samaritan so that even RAMSI, a temporary INN-our Security, are replaced by our own armed police-forces and may be a mini-military forces, we must try our best to incarnate in our families, villages, tribes, provinces and nation the Gospel of the two greatest commandments namely love God and love our neighbours as we love ourselves. (Mark 12: 28-31) Let us guard against the evil heart of Cain who killed his own brother Abel. If we believe Solomon Islands must be "God fearing country" then we must have the spirit and heart of Abel and not the attitude and heart of Cain.

Let us try our very best to aim high and incarnate daily our Lord's Prayer and say together:-

Father, may your holy name be honoured, may your kingdom come. May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven under your Throne of Grace.

Amen.