

FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

INQUIRY INTO REVIEW OF THE FACILITATION OF INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE NOTICE 2003

1. BRIEF STATEMENT.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Foreign Relations Committee. For the record, my name is Joy Kiriau-Kere Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of National Unity, Reconciliation and Peace. I am happy to appear before your committee to participate in this important review of Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands, hereby referred to as RAMSI.

Looking at the Terms of Reference for the committee in this review, I understand that it is quite broad but one can appreciate the importance of this review and your important work. This Review provides an opportunity for the pieces of legislation underpinning RAMSI's mandate and its programs to be assessed but also equally important, for government to reflect on its own responsibility and accountability in relation to this partnership.

I have a brief general statement to present after which I will answer questions that may arise or have been provided.

With your concurrence, Mr. Chairman allow me to start.

Mr. Chairman, at the outset let me say, The Ministry of National Unity, Reconciliation and Peace and RAMSI were conceived and born as the result and impact of the Tensions, (one in 2000 the other in 2003 respectively.)

Both entities were Government responses to the violence and security crisis during those dark years of this country's history. Both entities, from their inception have been created to assist in the return of peace and stability to Solomon Islands.

The Ministry is therefore a "young" Ministry, only established in 2000 through policy decision by Cabinet. Initially it was called the Department of National Unity, Reconciliation and Peace within the Ministry of Provincial Government. The Department was originally established to facilitate the implementation of certain provisions of the Townsville Peace Agreement. Since, then its mandate has evolved and now includes taking a lead role in promoting peace and national unity.

Furthermore, Chairman, I wish to high light that a Ministry that addresses issues of national unity, reconciliation and peace is not common among governments of the world. (SI could be the first in the world amongst 3 others)There are few such Ministries globally and it is a testament to the priorities of successive governments that this Ministry exists and addresses these significant issues.

It is important to note that there were other formal indigenous peace-making organisations established by government prior to **RAMSI lending a helping hand**. Provided for in the TPA and operating during the immediate post conflict period the Government established the Peace Monitoring Council and the International Peace Monitoring Team. The PMC later became the NPC These formal organisations commenced the process of creating peace during those early years when our law enforcement institutions could no longer guarantee, protection and security to our people. In many ways these organisations struggled to fulfil there purpose and mandate. However, when RAMSI arrived there was an opportunity to harmonise local level governance with the formal institutions of government. This opportunity still exists. This recipe is an important opportunity of what is required to adequately resolve some of the issues of our immediate past and enable a stable and peaceful future.

As a young Ministry and a Ministry that as such is not a normal function of most governments, targeted RAMSI assistance to MNURP under the three pillar structure (law and justice/ Economic reforms/Machinery of Government) has been limited.

This is to not say that RAMSI efforts are exclusive of those of the Ministry. In many ways the work that both entities undertake is complementary within a peace building purview.

The Ministry of National Unity, Reconciliation and Peace has experienced an evolving mandate of role and function as peace and security issues have changed and improved over the last 5 years. The continuing existence of such a Ministry is a reflection of successive governments' who consistently prioritise Peace Building and Reconciliation.

Chairman, I have already spoken ^{overall goals -} about the similarities between RAMSI and MNURP in that we share similar mandates but that is where the similarities cease at present. I purposely mentioned 'at present', because I encourage strengthened partnership sometime in the future.

Chairman, regardless of the similar mandates to ensure peace and stability, both the Ministry and RAMSI continue to work separately. We focus on different areas of peace building but move toward the same overall goals.

It would make sense to harmonise and connect some ^{in some like} of these efforts in a coordinated manner. It will be an opportunity forgone if there has not been greater support to encourage indigenous resolution of unresolved issues.

Chairman, I think we understand RAMSI's focus lies in strengthening state institutions because of state building arguments associated with post conflict recovery. *from*

The Ministry, on the other hand, focuses on facilitating and supporting national reconciliation and peace building. This materialises through the National Reconciliation and Peace Building Program with the following specific outcomes; in **1)** Completing truth and reconciliation process and established what happened during the years of the conflict. This also requires providing opportunity for reconciliation at all levels of society and the addressing the concerns of victims. **2)** Create functioning networks and partnerships between stakeholders that identify and recognise potential conflict and work to resolve tensions; and **3)** Empower community leaders to be able to deal with conflict and prevent outbreaks of violence

In terms of the importance of some of the work of the Ministry in relation to the overall peace process and RAMSI mandate:-

I wish to refer, to the Pacific Islands Forum Review of RAMSI June 2007 which also gave mention in **Section Four of its Recommendations**, titled that 'there is a strong desire for greater movement on reconciliation in Solomon Islands and that stronger effort in this area would be of great benefit to ensuring the long term stability and unity of Solomon Islands'

The review further noted that the SIG faces a number of important national challenges concerning devolution, decentralisation and reconciliation and addressing the causes of the ethnic tensions. **Recommendations 52** on the Reconciliation Process and **Recommendation 53** Enquiry into root Causes also bears relevance and which the Ministry endorses for this committees consideration.

RAMSI's current role, even in providing logistical support to the MNURP is very minimal; the report recommended that it is appropriate for the Forum to facilitate requests from the SIG for assistance from sources as the Commonwealth Secretariat and the United Nations. **Because the Ministry success in tackling these issues will impact positively on RAMSI's work.**

Having said that, the Ministry fully acknowledges, that RAMSI capacity building and institutional-strengthening work is already making an important contribution to nation building and peace building as well as helping SIG exercise its sovereignty in a meaningful manner.

Chairman, while the above has been mentioned in PIF reviews, the Act and the related policy frameworks have a notable absence of peace and peace building related provisions and indicators.

Understanding that the drafting of the FIA Act was in an environment when the priority was for the restoration of law, order and security; Now that environment has changed there seems to be a feasible argument that RAMSI policy frameworks incorporate peace and peace building provisions and indicators to facilitate and enable Solomon Islanders address tension related issues, reconciliation and create viable and empowering mechanisms for addressing conflict.

If RAMSI's role is to assist in the long term stability of Solomon Islands then some effort and assistance is required to enable the Solomon Islands Government and its people address and reconcile grievances in a manner that is meaningful to Solomon Islanders. As we are all aware if grievances are not addressed appropriately and avenues for reconciliation are not provided then all of the good work that has been presented by RAMSI will unravel. *laws ↓ reconcile in tandem*

From the foregoing, I provide three **suggestions** for the Committee from the Ministry's perspective which builds on the PIF review recommendations:

1. That meaningful reconciliation and law and order be considered an indicator for success and that the RAMSI phase down consider this a condition.
2. RAMSI reconsiders support where appropriate for the National Reconciliation process, (through strengthening of local level governance eg) and is encouraged to strengthen logistical support for the Ministry's work.
3. RAMSI facilitate through the Pacific Island Forum, SIG requests for timely support from the Commonwealth Secretariat and the United Nations towards the National Reconciliation Program

Mr Chair, these recommendations may not require legislative amendments rather they may be incorporated into policy frameworks and can be addressed through the partnership framework. Presenting it at this high political forum is ^{for} important. *fundamental principle to gain support.*

Finally, Chairman and members, I agree with many stakeholders who have appeared before this Committee and described that the landscape and the scenario has changed. The time is ripe for discussion to ensure that we achieve what is sustainable for Solomon Islands. We cannot afford to be complacent, government needs to clarify what it wants and the directions that need to be undertaken to achieve the shared goals. In the true spirit of partnership, friendship and good diplomacy the review is timely.

On behalf of the Ministry, we must say thankyou to RAMSI and governments and peoples of the region for giving Solomon Islands this second chance at building a "truly united, Peaceful and Progressive Solomon Islands.'

Chairman, I thank you for the opportunity to present my views before this Committee.

QUESTIONS FOR THE PS, MINISTRY OF NATIONAL UNITY, RECONCILIATION AND PEACE

Qs1. Many of the witnesses before this committee have raised the crucial importance of Peace Building as important in ensuring long term stability of Solomon Island and the overall success of the RAMSI Intervention

a) What is your view on this statement?

I think this is a very important feed - back from witnesses and the organisations that they represent. If peace building is accorded priority to ensure long term stability, then this should be reflected in the committee recommendations or outcome of this review.

However, the Committee must understand that 'peace building is very broad' term. It is important to clarify what is it that we mean by 'peace building'? How is Peace Building translated into our work? What are the goals and objectives of our peace building efforts?

There are different interpretations or practical applications and also emphasis placed on peace building. In the context of Solomon Islands case with external Intervention like RAMSI, the "comprehensive package" is seen as a peace building strategy simply because it comes after a period of conflict. Peace building is often understood as blending development, strengthening state institutions and security agendas. This is in contrast to peace keeping or emphasis on military interventions.

The Ministry's peace building views are focused in the context of the work of the Ministry, through the National Reconciliation and Peace Building program. While national reconciliation focuses on the past ethnic tension and related issues, empowering local level governance is an important strategy that the Ministry works towards. The programs include facilitating dialogue processes and forums at different levels of society including at the institution level. Preventative mechanisms are also promoted through strengthening local structures to address and resolve conflicts issue peacefully or in a non-violent manner. This would also enable local ownership for reconciliation processes and ensuring peace and stability within communities.

To do this existing informal and formal structures of conflict must be identified, reviewed, strengthened and supported creating enhanced mechanisms that enable national unity.

Question b) How, do you see RAMSI' mandate in this picture?

I think the Facilitation Act underpinning RAMSI's mandate is very silent on peace, to begin with there is no specific reference to the 'word 'peace' if one refers to 'the ACT' where it refers to the term 'public purpose' Clause 3(1) a

'public purpose means the purposes of ensuring the security and safety of persons and property, maintaining supplies and services essential to the life of the community, preventing and suppressing violence, intimidation and crime, maintaining law and order, supporting the administration of justice, supporting and developing Solomon Islands institutions and responding to natural catastrophic events..''

Despite this the ultimate goal of achieving sustainable peace is only inferred in the ACTe and also in the 'Treaty signed by the Participating countries with reference to the 'package of strengthened assistance' specified therein. This is a non-issue may be as far as the legal framework is concerned.

Having said that, I think " peace building' is the very essence, of RAMSI's mandate in helping SIG rebuild sustainable peace and stability. The terms 'creating the environment and providing that space for the government and people of Solomon Islands, to take the lead in addressing internal issues that have given rise to the conflict or the tensions' have been used to describe the partnership arrangements.

'Peace building' as used in the above context is the common thread that should run across all the 3 pillars of RAMSI with the ultimate goal of helping SIG rebuild and achieve sustainable peace,

Qs 2. One of the policy goals of the Ministry is to have a united, peaceful and prosperous and progressive Solomon Islands? The expected outcome of this policy goal is a strengthened sense of National Unity amongst all people and Strengthened national consciousness, identity and unity.

This is related to the overall Vision of the Government. It should be every citizens dream and hopes for a united, peaceful and progressive SI”

CNURA Govt Policy Statements and Policy Translation and Implementation document places key emphasis on “A United, peaceful, progressive and prosperous Solomon Islands; one that is God fearing”.

As such, CNURA 6 priorities have highlighted reconciliation and rehabilitation as an overarching priority over the next 2 years because it sees that Social stability, particularly for the Ministry in rebuilding relationship issues arising from the ethnic tensions as very important.

A stable Solomon Islands is fundamental for all its development endeavours.

The fact of life for us in the Solomon Islands is our diversified country. SI are rich culturally, our half a million people speak 85 different languages, geographically scattered over 1,000 small islands, stretched over massive seas etc. We see and live and ‘govern’ ourselves as a Nation of villages and communities, we identify with our immediate tribes and clans, than with the formal government system. Formal State government and institutions is alien, remain remote and inaccessible to the far majority. The concept of citizenry is abstract.

What- ever that we had then in-terms of being a nation, the ethnic tensions has only further fragmented and created divisions and mistrust amongst our people.

Qs a) how do you view this policy in terms of the mandate of RAMSI?

In general, I think this is an overarching policy that also falls under RAMSI mandate and also other peace building stakeholders programs including the donor communities. At the end of the day, in strengthening state institutions to be effective, RAMSI is to help Solomon Islands to work towards achieving this goal.

The specific program activities are those that can be negotiated under the strengthened partnership arrangements and can be accommodated at the policy level.

The expected outcomes however a very long term because it encompasses the process of nation building

My view, is that the shift to nation building where it involves local level governance, and issues relating to local cultures and those tying in with social cohesiveness issues, I think this is where RAMSI wants to tread carefully, because this is often seen as the responsibility of Solomon Island Government and Solomon Islanders to take the lead role.

Qs b) in your view what are the critical areas in terms of implementing this policy goal that RAMSI can assist in?

As alluded, to this is a broad policy goals and the expected outcomes are also very long term.

I have highlighted that this is a very cross cutting policy and one can say that under RAMSI's existing mandate and the three pillar programs, this is currently being addressed.

For example, improved and strengthened law and order creates the enabling environment for Communities to go ahead with reconciliation and likewise in strengthening governance and re-functioning of our state institutions, this also enables local level governance to function, economic governance helps us progress economically.

In terms of the directly assisting with the work of the Ministry, we realise that RAMSI has expressed the areas such as Reconciliation, the Forum Secretariat review referred to devolution and decentralization as national issue, just like land issues, are areas best left to Solomon Islanders to take the lead. We have been reminded that at a number of meetings, because it falls outside of RAMSI mandate.

MNURP Recommendation

However, because of the shared overarching goals, MNURP I am sure can be accommodated at program level under one of the 3 pillars, without the need for legislative amendments.

The argument I might wish to highlight here, is that Reconciliation, the way we define and practice is integral to peace building. People of Solomon Islands are very much in control and know what it means to people. What the program needs is logistics support.

As far as **direct assistance**, unfortunately the Ministry of National Unity, Reconciliation and Peace, hang in the air between the RAMSI pillar of assistance such as Law and Justice Project (Police and National security, law and Justice, Ministry of Public service (Machinery OG) and MOF.

In terms of Direct Assistance to the Ministry (logistics, or capacity development, equipment) does not exist although the Ministry is represented in The Forum Enhanced Mechanism Committee as one of the core ministries.

The ad-hoc 'logistics assistance that we receive is the availability of the RAMSI 'helicopter' for MNURP Staff and RAMSI reconciliation ceremonies otherwise that is all full stop. You can call it the Helicopter ride Assistance.

I do not wish to delve into the reasons, why this is so, but may be one of the reasons was that when RAMSI arrived here, the Ministry then was also just evolving from the being the popular Ministry responsible for compensations. It is also a very young Ministry, a unique ministry just like RAMSI itself.

Qs 3. RAMSI is a partnership with the government of Solomon Islands and as such this Inquiry is not just about what RAMSI has done or is doing.

a) What are your views on this partnership in relation to the Ministry of National Unity Reconciliation and Peace?

In terms of RAMSI Partnership with the other Ministries of government I defer this question to the key technical Ministries to answer.

I am tempted to say very little in terms of **direct partnership** between RAMSI and MNURP. This is because, as it is now MNURP do not have any direct program activities of assistance with RAMSI. This is to do more with the scope of RAMSI mandate, I understand.

This is not to say, however that I do not get along with the relevant Senior staff of RAMSI. Where our work cross we work very well and I have alot of respect for senior RAMSI personnel especially in the area of Reconciliation and community level programs when they join with the staff of the Ministry. I greatly acknowledge the level of understanding and also the high respect accorded towards local customs and traditions of our people.

Other areas, RAMSI and MNURP collaboration are through the **Forum Enhanced** Mechanisms, established to monitor the Partnership

arrangements Forum Eminent persons groups Reviews, where the Ministry is one of the 5 Ministries represented. MNURP through its representation contributes to the mandate of the mechanisms

In relation to other questions I will summarise (b) (c) and (d) **do you think that the Ministry of National Unity Reconciliation and Peace have played their part fully and effectively in this partnership?**

It is a pity that the Ministry, as I have described in terms of direct assistance hang in the air between the 3 pillars as far as policy sharing is concerned, but not ^{quite} through any form of direct assistance.

But in the areas mentioned above, I hope Ministry have contributed in what little way we could. In terms of future partnership, I hope under the SIG/ RAMSI Strengthened Partnership this area could be considered.

On the other hand, the fact that MNURP reconciliation program is fully funded under SIG is a reflection of SIG commitment. From a technical view RAMSI involvement would need careful consideration as they have suggested, because this might distort the traditional reconciliation community processes.

5 If you asked to identify the main challenges facing peace building in Solomon Islands

a) What would that be?

This is a very broad and hypothetical question hence I will focus on the Ministry programs in peace building at community level in translation of government policies.

Mr Chairman I can only speak from the Ministry's perspectives, the main peace building challenge for the Ministry is to identify and address the root causes of the ethnic tensions. The Reconciliation process, with the key emphasis on rebuilding relationships is one of the main mechanisms, pursued by the Ministry for addressing issues. The reconciliation process in itself is challenging. Logistical requirements place pressure on limited resources. Capacity of the Ministry to address all these very levels is very limited.

people to be process

b) Do you think RAMSI is addressing the challenges that you just mentioned and in what ways?

Directly, in terms of assistance from RAMSI, there is none. As I mentioned in my initial statement there has been limited support provide to my Ministry to assist in the Ministry's peace building work.

But indirectly though through its current programs through other sectors, RAMSI is contributing to long term peace building.

6. What are your thoughts on the view that there is an increasing dependency of the local police on RAMSI while public confidence in local police is declining?

Many witnesses who have appeared before the committee I am sure have reflected on the state of the RSIP back then, where it was compromised from head to toe in the period 1998 until 2003. Today, I would like to say that the local police do understand that they will have to take the front line. In turn public confidence and trust is slowly increasing in our local officers.

RAMSI first stage, I understand was to 'cleanse' the force and put in major reform measures across the Solomon Islands police Force. This, include major Technical and Advisory support. The challenges faced by the assistance with the state of the police then were enormous, and to start with there were no clear distinction between 'police' officer and the rogue officers etc.

From the reports that I have read I understand that this is the core of Capacity Development Building programs, where PPF is now playing an advisory and mentoring roles. One of the major goals I believe in the overall restructuring of the force is for Solomon Islands to restore trust and confidence in this important state institutions that is mandated to protect all citizens of this nation and enforce law and order.

I do not think that there is an increasing dependency, but that things are improving and though slowly but surely confidence in our SIPF is slowly gaining momentum. We must all appreciate and acknowledge that Reforms and Restructuring of the SIPF will take a long time and years.

How we improve on the foundations now laid within the police requires our participation and we cannot fall back into the mentality and the common phrase "RAMSI save duim" because RAMSI will not be here forever. The question is if RAMSI were to leave tomorrow what is SI alternative strategy to fill in the gap? The urgency is on us Solomon Islands not to watch the opportunities go past fast.

In addition part of the ongoing review should enable us to all understand the issues that are creating that dependency by local police, even now 5 years after first arrival of RAMSI and investment of extensive amount of resources into the SIPP. Issue could be 'institutional issues' to do with conditions of service, capability resources (transport and logistics), security issues, attitudinal issues (wantokinism is a big issue)

I will conclude my answer to this question by saying that the SIPP need our support; plenty of public support so that we could regain sense of pride and discipline in our police force. At the personal level, I will congratulate, men and women of the force who have stood the test during those darkest years of the history of our country and who are still serving the people of this nation regardless.

7. in the previous hearings, this committee heard much about the ongoing negotiations regarding the partnership Framework between the government and RAMSI. It is said that the Framework will establish mutually -agreed condition- based timelines to phase down RAMSI's engagement in critical areas of government as the capacity continues to grow.

a) How is this going to be achieved in relation to the Ministry of National Unity, Reconciliation and Peace

Currently, the Ministry is not fall directly under the 3 pillars or in any of the main RAMSI programs within RAMSI. So, your question on condition- based timeline phase down does not directly affect the Ministry as such.

But generally, the Partnership Framework that is currently being consulted on further by SIG is a proposal that seeks primarily to **realign RAMSI programs** with Government priorities. In other words, this is how government sees the directions that the programs are taking; what needs to be absorbed under Bilateral programs, or those activities that have achieved objectives and SIG is now ready, then these can cease.

Apart from the details of the various proposition that will be put forward for RAMSI considerations and discussions, the process of negotiating the partnership framework has alot of merit in that it has engaged technical officers of the Ministries of government, to carefully assess the program activities in a transparent manner. Consequently, local ownership for the partnership is also strengthened.

9) What is your general view on any proposal to re-arm the Solomon Islands Police Force and do you think this will have an impact whether positively or negatively on the ongoing peace building initiatives currently undertaken by the Ministry?

I think the timing is not right and that the police should not be re-armed at this stage. The current Government has made it clear that it is 'No Guns' government. Even for the 'close protection unit' When and if for issues of National Security such as Border surveillance purposes for example, then this has to be done carefully and strategically. Even then this will put back to the people to decide through a National Referendum.

This issue was cause for heavy debate in 2007, although the idea at the time was for this to be very restricted to areas such as the personal protection unit etc. Alot of reasons were given against the rearming of the SIPP.

From the Ministry's perspective, Rearming at this stage now will have very negative effects on the reconciliation processes and peace building programs that the Ministry is facilitating between the peoples of the provinces that were directly affected.

Secondly, from community feed- back, this is because people still lack confidence and trust in the Police Force. People feel that the SIPP is yet to reach the stage where it can have the trust and confidence to be armed for the purposes of

10. From your own personal point of view, do you think the focus of RAMSI's work in Solomon Islands should be broadened and maintained in years to come, or do you think RAMSI should now be more focused on an exit strategy?

1. At the outset, we understand that RAMSI will not be here forever. This is the fact. The, onus is also therefore on our government and people to prepare ourselves to take over when RAMSI 'job is done'.

I would like to highlight the opportunities now that are being presented, through RAMSI assistance for SI to build on. To address issues of governance, economic progress, see ourselves as one people with a common purpose and destiny. In reality, 30 years on and after the years

of the violence, this is really a second chance at Nation Building for Solomon Islands if we are to learn from the lessons of our past.

2. I think the outcome of this Review will help in this regard in identifying or confirm the thinking of our people and in what areas and what needs to be done, with clear achievable objectives.

3. The other exercise of determining, what areas will need to be broadened and maintained will be through the Partnership Framework negotiations and mapping the way forward for the Partnership. This is just one mechanism, but technical officers, SI experts and academics, ordinary people should discuss the details of what this partnership should be.

11. How do you feel generally about RAMSI personnel carrying firearms openly in public?

The thinking is that either this promotes 'violence' or fear amongst society. But we understand the strategy for the weapons and backup. I think I do not feel intimidated because I know this is done with great discipline; and it is not done excessively; it reflects law, it shows protection for the far majority of ordinary citizens and a means of deterrent from rogues who feel they can 'test' the arms of law and order, are reminded of the arms of the law. The military component have toned down' this to a reasonable level than before.

12. What do you see as some of the successes, failures and areas of improvement of RAMSI programs in the area of peace and reconciliation during the last 5 years

Peace and reconciliation is really people centred and which needs to come from the heart. Therefore people need to own the process. RAMSI has no direct partnership with the Ministry.

But it without denial and we must be thank full like other stakeholders that RAMSI has enabled Reconciliation process to take its course

13. What are the main bench marks in terms of promoting and fostering National Unity and sustainable peace that you would see as essential prior to any proposal to reduce or remove the presence of RAMSI in the Solomon Islands.

Promoting and fostering National Unity and sustainable peace, is the core of government responsibility. The citizens of any nation have the right to peace and to be united.

The different RAMSI pillars and programs all contribute to the return of peace and in strengthening state institutions this will enable government to deliver services ^{and} unite its people.

Some of the bench marks are that SI have a truly Strengthened Police and National Security and law and order this must continue for some time yet and this must have clear milestones that should be achieved within specific time frame work. SIG contributions and responsibilities should be clearly mapped out to take over.

The Democratic Institutions and the 3 arms of government must be allowed to function according to law and enforceable by law.

Local level governance and the role of local structures should also be strengthened. There should also be indicators to *measure it*

Specific Program reviews to be conducted so that clear areas can be identified.

Qs 14. Under 2008 Development Budget for the Ministry there are number of important projects that fall under the consolidated and non-consolidated funds that the Ministry is implementing as part of the overall peace building initiatives by the Ministry

a) Could you please inform the Committee on the progress of these projects and your assessment on the impact of these projects?

Yes, I am happy to provide a progress report on our Development Budget projects. At the outset, the Ministry of National Unity, Reconciliation and Peace are one of the smallest in terms of both human and budgetary resources and therefore capacity to implement program activities.

We have a total of **\$5.9 m budget for Development activities.**

Under government funding we have the **National Reconciliation program** at the value of \$5m. This covers the various reconciliation processes as outlined in the CNURA policy statement. This encompasses the Intra Constituency based reconciliations on Guadalcanal and Malaita, Inter-provincial and also between the provinces and the process of reconciliation between SIG with all the provinces. The key activities include training components and also workshops and peace building activities at the Constituency based levels. A Reaffirmation ceremony was conducted in July 2008 which paves the way ahead. The Malaita Intra-reconciliation process has continued from 2007-2008. The major constraining factor had been the late passage of funds only in June/July. Guadalcanal Province Intra-constituency based Peace building and Reconciliation processes though delayed due to the late start of its Peace Building Committee is an important mechanism that would help in coordinating the process on Guadalcanal. One of its important tasks is to discuss the SIG High Level Committee report on the peace and reconciliation process is to set the direction for the Guadalcanal Intra-reconciliation program. Western provinces will also start its office soon.

The passage of the **truth and Reconciliation Commission ACT** is one of the major achievements. The process of establishment of the Commission proper should start in 2009

Design phase of a **Rehabilitation project** has now reached project concept note. With Cabinet approval Project Documentation should commence.

What are the impacts of this project in relation to the expected outcomes? Measuring impacts of some of these initiatives are qualitative and descriptive.

The key strategic outcomes of the National reconciliation programs are

- i. Completing truth and reconciliation process and established what happened during the years of the conflict
- ii. Creating functioning networks and partnerships between stakeholders and identify and recognise potential conflict and work to resolve tensions and
- iii. Empower community leaders to be able to deal with conflict and prevent conflicts etc.

Some of the impacts are being felt in terms of general understanding of 'what is true and meaningful' reconciliation. The dialogues processes are important where victims and perpetrators were provided the opportunity to come together and talk over issues which had led to a number of community reconciliations. Etc.