



National Parliament of Solomon Islands

Public Accounts Committee

Committee Report

Report on the 2015 Supplementary
Appropriation Bill 2016



NP-Paper No. 18/2016

Presented on 23rd May 2016

National Parliament Office

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The current members of the Public Accounts Committee (10th Parliament) are;

Hon. Rick Houenipwela, MP Chairman
Hon. Mathew Cooper Wale, MP Member
Hon. Dr Derek Sikua, MP Member
Hon. Jeremiah Manele, MP Member
Hon. Connelly Sandakabatu, MP Member
Hon. Nestor Giro, MP Member
Hon. Derrick Manuari, MP Member
Hon. Steve Abana, MP Member

Secretary: Mr Peter Lokay, Auditor General

Secretariat:

Mr Gregory Fineanganofa
Miss Salome Pilumate
Miss Vanessa Rodie
Mr Wilson Orisi

Contacts

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Contents

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP	i
COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS	ii
CHAIR'S FOREWORD	iii
1.0 INTRODUCTION	1
Expanded Scope of the Inquiry	1
Conduct of the Inquiry	1
2.0 COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS	2
2.1 ISSUES OF CONCERN TO THE COMMITTEE	3
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT	3
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & MEDICAL SERVICES	6
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND AVIATION	7
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE, DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND METEOROLOGY	10
MINISTRY OF FORESTRY AND RESEARCH	11
OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET	13
MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND TREASURY	13
3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS	16
4.0 APPENDIX	17

COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS

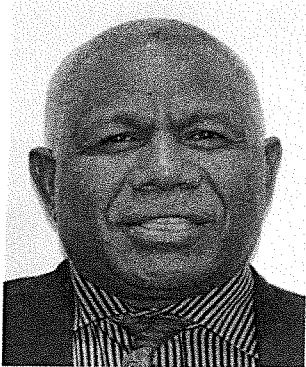
The Committee is established under *Standing Order 69*; an order made pursuant to the *Constitution*¹ and has the functions, together with the necessary powers to discharge such, to;

- a) examine the accounts prescribed by Section 77 of the Public Financial Management Act 2013, together with the report of the Auditor General thereon, and to report the results of such examination to Parliament;
- b) establish the causes of any excesses over authorised expenditure and to make recommendations to Parliament on any appropriate measures to cater for such excesses of expenditure;
- c) examine such other accounts laid before Parliament as the Committee may think fit, together with auditor's report thereon and to report the results of such examination to Parliament;
- d) summon any public officers to give information or any explanation, or to produce any records or documents which the Committee may require in the performance of its duties;
- e) consider in detail the Draft Estimates prepared by the Government in support of the Annual Appropriation Bill;
- f) summon and examine the Accounting officers and Technical staff of Ministries and Departments and require the production of background information and explanation in relation to Draft Estimates;
- g) report to Parliament in such a way that the report may inform Members prior to the Parliamentary debate thereon of the background to the Draft Estimates draw attention to those matters which the Committee feels should be the subject for such Parliamentary debates; and
- h) make such recommendations as the Committee sees fit and subsequently receive comments and reports on such recommendations from the Government.

¹ Section 62, *Constitution of Solomon Islands 1978*

CHAIR'S FOREWORD

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE



Hon. Rick Houenipwela, MP

Mr. Speaker,

Pursuant to Standing Orders No. 69 (1) [e] and [g] of the National Parliament of Solomon Islands, it is an honour and pleasure for me Sir, to present the Reports of the Public Accounts Committee of the Inquiry into the 2015 Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2016 for laying before Parliament.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R.S. Houenipwela". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a small, simple line drawing of a triangle.

Honourable Rick Houenipwela, MP

Chairman

Public Accounts Committee

May 23th, 2016

1.0 INTRODUCTION

On May 18th – 19th, 2016, the Public Accounts Committee conducted a hearing into the 2015 Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2016 to determine and establish the validity of line ministries usage of Contingency Warrants (CW) and Advance Warrants (AW).

Expanded Scope of the Inquiry

- 1.1 The initial scope of the Inquiry was to inquire into the contents of the 2015 Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2016.
- 1.2 The above scopes are captured in the terms of reference of this Inquiry under Section 69 of the *Standing Orders*.

Conduct of the Inquiry

- 1.3 The inquiry process involves a hearing for line ministries appearing in the 2015 Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2016 in which written submissions were submitted to the Committee as well as production of necessary documents as requested by the Committee.

2.0 COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS

Background

The 2015 Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2016 is required to appropriate monies that have been spent during the year but without appropriation – through Contingencies Warrant Section 58 and Advance Warrants Section 60 of the *Public Financial Management Act 2013* which commenced 1 January 2014.

The amounts being appropriated were as follows:

Contingency Warrants

RECURRENT EXPENDITURE		AMOUNT	ITEMS
270	AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT	2,243,484	House and office rent
276	HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES	4,900,000	Electricity
289	AVIATION AND COMMUNICATION	212,145	Telephone and faxes
299	ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE, DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND METEOROLOGY	1,000,000	Disaster funding - for food relief supply to Malaita Outer Islands villages.
TOTAL RECURRENT EXPENDITURE		8,355,629	

Advance Warrants

RECURRENT		AMOUNT	ITEMS
280	FORESTRY AND RESEARCH	8,374,842	Sale of illegally harvested logs disbursed to landowners
DONOR SUPPORT			
281	PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET	9,353,314	ROC grant to members of parliament.
373	FINANCE AND TREASURY	379,230	Australian grant for Customs; 2015 implementation of ASYCUDA.

	TOTAL ADVANCE WARRANTS	18,107,386	
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2.1 ISSUES OF CONCERN TO THE COMMITTEE

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT

Matters raised by the Committee of concern included the following issues:

Use of Contingency Warrant

The committee expressed concern over the use of contingency Warrant for such foreseen expenditure. It seemed to the Committee that the Ministry was not defending its budget submissions during the 2015 budget process.

The Ministry stated that Ministry of Finance and Treasury placed a ceiling on their budget bids even though their budget bids were based on actual programs of the Ministry during the year. As a result their planned outputs could not be met.

Grants to Farmers

The Committee noted that the Ministry has been giving out grants in cash and materials to farmers but this was not translated into any real growth in the agriculture sector. The Committee was of the opinion that the extension services inefficiency, lack of capacity and underfunding might be the issues that affected the service delivery of the Ministry.

The Ministry informed the Committee that lack of technical capacity was the major issue for the Ministry. The Rural Development Project used to provide assistance in capacity development but the program has ended and SIG has taken over the funding.

Office buildings

The Committee understands that the Ministry is still without a headquarters building and the one in Auki was burnt down.

The Ministry told the Committee that various divisions of the Ministry are located in 5 different places in Honiara. This has created logistical issues for clients and stakeholders when doing business with the Ministry. Negotiations are ongoing with the Solomon Islands Postal Corporation and Ministry of Lands to acquire the SIPC building behind the Post Office. The Ministry is currently renting an office in Auki for \$30,000 a month and is in the process of building a new one.

Coffee, Cocoa, Kava, Coconut and Cattle Projects

The Ministry advised that some of these projects came under the Livelihood Project. The ministry has sent all registered application forms to Chief Field Officers in the provinces for farmers to collect. Funding should roll out once applications are screened and approved later this year.

The ministry is negotiating with suppliers in Vanuatu to acquire more cattle for the breeding program. Some cattle from the Tenavatu farm are being sent to Western Province farmers. The breeding program in West Kwaio is progressing well with 10 heads been given to selected farmers during the year.

Policy on Cattle Farms

The Committee would like to know if the Ministry has a policy on the cattle industry in the country. There used to be various scheme in the country such us the "cattle under tree", smallholders, extensive cattle farms but were no longer in existence.

The Ministry stated that the current government's policy is to revive or resurrect Livestock Development Authority. The Ministry is reviewing the LDA Act. Meanwhile the Ministry is encouraging farmers to do ranching and tethering. Land is the issue for large scale farming so the Ministry is providing support to smallholders.

Slaughter houses

The Ministry informed the Committee that the slaughter houses planned for Auki and Honiara are for food security. The landowners are occupying the site in Auki so the Ministry is working on an alternative plan.

Giant Snail and Coconut Rhinoceros beetle infestations

The Ministry advised that it had lost the battle to eradicate the Giant Snail as it is now too widely dispersed in Guadalcanal. The Ministry is putting in place control measures to prevent it migrating to other provinces. The Ministry is using chemical baits as well as working on biological agent to distribute to the affected areas. A worm is being bred as the identified biological agent. The Ministry is investigating other measures to eliminate the snails.

The Rhinoceros Beetle and its infestation is still only found in Honiara and the Ministry is liaising with SPC for chemical to trap them. The beetle is a threat to coconut and oil palm. The Ministry is also researching into biological agents to control or eliminate the beetles. Farmers and stakeholders with the assistance of the Ministry are doing physical clearance of the breeding grounds of the beetles. It is difficult to control since the beetles fly from place to place so can spread quickly.

Honey bees

The Committee also queried status of diseases within the honey industry. The Ministry advised that a survey on honey diseases was completed in particular the Asian Bees. Some islands are free of the Asian Bees. The Asian Bees are a threat to the honey industry.

Bio security Legislation

The Committee raised the issue of lax bio security controls at the border where people from Bougainville bring in agriculture products/plants to Taro for sale.

The Ministry advised that the regulations are now in place. Staffs are being trained by an Australian Technical Advisor to better understand and implement the new legislation and regulations. One officer will be stationed in Shortlands to monitor movement of people.

Commodity Exports Marketing Authority

The Ministry advised that the government has appointed a subcommittee to review and revitalize CEMA. Currently CEMA only undertakes a regulatory role. The Ministry collaborates with CEMA to promote quality control for prescribed commodities. CEMA does not come under direct control of the Ministry.

Oil Palm investors

The Ministry advised that the main impediment for investors in the agriculture sector is the lack of infrastructure in the provinces. Only Guadalcanal has the necessary infrastructures such as roads, utilities that investors view as prerequisite for them to invest in a location.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH & MEDICAL SERVICES

High cost of electricity

The Committee was informed that electricity budget was centralized and the high cost of electricity was due to air-conditioning and refrigeration. In some locations such as National Medical Stores and National Referral Hospital these facilities have to be used twenty four hours every day. The Ministry is reviewing these with the aim of reducing the cost.

National Referral Hospital Operating Theatres

The Ministry confirmed that the operating theatres became operational on 17/05/2016 after final inspection and clearance by the Labour Department.

Relocation of National Referral Hospital

The Committee is informed that land is still an issue that slows down the relocation program. The survey of the land cannot be done until legal impediments around the proposed land plots are cleared. South Pacific Community has been engaged to assist in procuring experts to undertake various types of surveys on the identified land. Service plan is already completed and as part of the relocation process Naha clinic will be upgraded to provide some of the services that are currently being provided by NRH.

Policy on regional hospitals

The Committee enquired into government policy on converting Area Health Centres into regional hospitals.

The Ministry advised that policy on service delivery package was completed. The Ministry is now working on manpower plan policy which is expected to be completed by the end of the year. Reform is ongoing to clearly identify roles and responsibilities of the different levels of the health sector from HQ down to the rural clinics including the cost implications on the recurrent and development budget.

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND AVIATION

Appropriation not utilised

The Committee was advised that the CW was not utilized and the arrears for telephone and faxes were settled using the 2016 Budget. This expense was previously met under the Civil Aviation Special Fund. The Ministry's policy is to use the special fund to meet safety obligations only.

Undersea Cable Project

The Committee queried the current status of the undersea cable intended to improve telecommunications data connections. The Committee is concerned over the long delay in implementing the project. The Committee is of the view that SIG should set up a company under the ICSI to manage the project.

The PS advised that there were two alternative projects being considered by the Government – one to connect directly to Sydney and the other to connect to the PNG – Vanuatu cable which also connects to Sydney. The PNG option is no longer pursued.

The Ministry advised that new tender was made and two companies placed their bids. The bids were slightly lower than the previous tender. One tender was for new cables and new repeaters and the other was for old cables and new repeaters. The total cost of the project is about US\$55 m and there is a funding gap of US\$10m. A technical committee through technical assistance is currently assessing funding options, whether to use new cables plus new repeaters or a combination of old cables and new repeaters. The technical committee is also reviewing the composition of the cable company that will manage the project.

The Ministry will get government approval once the technical committee has produced its report.

Recommendation 1

Undersea Cable Project

The Committee recommends that the Ministry take urgent action to implement the project by;

- creating a new cable company under ICSI to manage the project;
- formulating a plan to secure funds to address the \$10m funding gap; and
- direct the technical committee to produce the assessment report within a reasonable time frame.

Gwaunaru'u Airport

The Ministry advised that a deal was done with landowners through a different approach than previous attempts. The Ministry has created a committee which included the Attorney General who provides legal advice to the landowners as well as SIG. This new approach will be replicated in other problem airports. Flights will resume on the 30/5/2016 with 3 flights a week.

Munda airport

The Committee was informed that the New Zealand Government is assisting the Ministry to create an SOE to manage all government owned airports in the country. The Minister and PS obtained agreement from the NZ Foreign Affairs Minister where funding for the airport would be released soon.

The Ministry officials will visit communities in Munda to update them on further developments that will take place in the airport. Fencing of the airport boundary and provision of fire engines will be done as soon as funds are released.

Management of airspace

The Ministry advised that Solomon island airspace fees are managed and collected by Australia and charges 60% for the service. Once the Non-Directional Beacons are installed and staffs are trained Solomon Islands will be able to take responsibility for its own airspace by 2019. Expert is being engaged to assess the machines and provide advice on the installation requirements. The procurement was not done properly thereby complicating the installation of the equipment.

Maanaoba Airfield

The Committee was informed that the Ministry committee that dealt with Gwaunaru'u will start discussions with the various landowners to resolve the issues preventing the opening of the airport. The Ministry committee will also deal with landowning groups in Parasi and Lomlom airports.

Other provincial airports

The Ministry stated that Taro airport is included in the list of 6 provincial airports that NZ will fund. The Ministry will upgrade SIG owned airports first and these airports will then be transferred to the newly created SI Airports company. Those airports in customary land will be acquired first before they are upgraded. Land dispute has delayed the construction of the airport proposed for Sasamunga in Choiseul.

There was no strategic plan for the aviation sector to identify civil aviation needs of the country. MID will develop this plan on behalf of the Ministry.

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE, DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND METEOROLOGY

\$3.3M to constituencies

The Committee queried whether acquittals reports were provided by MPs on the funding that was channeled through them to assist victims during the disaster of 2015.

The Ministry advised that only about 2 or 3 reports were received.

Policy on disaster relief

The Committee enquired if there is a policy on disaster relief. The Ministry stated that the National Disaster Council has a process when dealing with disaster relief. The first stage is to do a disaster assessment. The victims and communities are encouraged to assist where possible. Community resilience and self-support is promoted by the Ministry. Victims of disasters are assisted by communities as well as government and donors. It was only recently that Cabinet approved funding to be channeled through MPs because of the perception that NDMO were very slow in responding to disaster.

Disaster Relief Fund

The Committee expressed concern the Ministry relied too much on CWs to address disaster relief when there's already a mechanism in place. The Disaster Relief Fund should be used to provide funds to support victims on an annual basis. This Fund needs to be replenished on an annual basis by the Government.

The Ministry advised that their annual bids for disaster relief were always reduced by the Government so the need for CWs every time a disaster strikes.

Risk Financing Scheme with World Bank

The Committee was informed that the Government pulled out of the scheme because of the strict criteria that must be followed in order to qualify for funding even though premiums were paid.

Risks to World Heritage site at Lake Tengano

The Ministry confirmed that the world heritage site was in danger due to logging and mining activities in the area. The failure of successive governments both provincial and national to facilitate alternative income generating activities for the communities resulted in them pursuing the above means of generating income.

Relocation of communities due to rising sea levels due to climate change

The Ministry admitted that it was really difficult to implement relocation of communities affected by sea level rise due to competing stakeholder demands. Studies have shown that conflicts arise between landowners and settlers, settlers found it difficult to adapt to new environment, new way of life, and the settled areas have become over populated.

Recommendation 2

Disaster Relief Fund

The Committee recommends that the Ministry immediately review the NDC Act so that a proper legal frame is made for the administration, control and management of the Disaster Relief Fund.

MINISTRY OF FORESTRY AND RESEARCH

Forestry Bill

The Ministry advised that a committee chaired by the PS has reviewed the bill and issued drafting instructions to the AG Chambers. The Ministry has started consultation in Temotu with the assistance of the Ministry's legal adviser.

Forestry revenue

The Committee noted that the amount in the Bill is actually higher than the annual revenue of the Ministry.

The Ministry stated that the revenue was a one off payment for logs seized from an illegal logging operation. The proceeds of the sale were shared between landowners and the government.

Status of Logging

The Committee raised concerns over the issue of sustainability of logging. Logging was expected to begin decreasing in 2015. However, harvesting is still increasing, and the Solomon Islands economy will continue to depend upon logging for years into the future.

The Ministry advised the Committee that 2015 was the peak year for logging and 2016 is expected to be at the same rate or it could decrease. The main factors contributing to this are: the number of logs being felled under the agro forestry scheme, the harvesting of new species of logs such as tubi in Choiseul and Isabel, availability of new markets for new species of logs, harvesting of logs in conservation or protected areas, and repeat logging of previously logged areas. The Ministry sees the need for better monitoring but cannot do much due to staff shortage.

Carbon Mapping Project

The Committee was informed the road map for REDD+ was endorsed by Cabinet. The Ministry collaborates with Donors, Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Land in order to fulfill the requirements of REDD+. Solomon Islands is in Phase 1 and is working toward getting into Phase 2. Fiji and PNG are now in Phase 2. Forests conserved after 1990 get benefit from REDD+.

Herbarium

The Ministry advised it is working toward building a new National Herbarium Building over a three year period due to budget constraints. Only \$3m is available in 2016 budget. Once the building is completed then 30,000 specimens will be relocated to Honiara from Suva.

Medicinal Plants Project

The Committee noted the Ministry has received a report on the collaboration with the Korean Institute for Research and similar activity with Taiwan in creating an inventory of medicinal plants including herbal cures. Some tests were done in Taiwan but the Ministry require capacity development for its staff to fully participate in the project. The collaboration will end in July 2017 and a proposal is submitted to Taiwan to fund the project for some more years.

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET.

National Development Fund

The Committee queried that only Government MPs after October 2015 actually received the funding.

The OPMC advised that ROC fund was transferred to MRD through a Departmental Warrant. MRD actually disbursed the grant to 33 constituencies.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND TREASURY

Misuse of Contingency Warrants

The Committee expressed once again its concern over the continued use of Contingency Warrants to expend unappropriated monies when the purposes for those expenditures were foreseeable or not urgent. The Committee was of the view that such practices lent themselves to political expediency.

The Committee's concerns were heightened in the light of assurances by the Ministry of Finance during previous hearings that the new arrangements under the new *Public Financial Management Act 2013* would lead to improved budgeting practices – but that this appeared not to be the case.

The Committee noted that this was used as a cash management tool by the Ministry. There is a need for the Ministry to develop robust budgeting tools so that the requirements of the PFM Act are adhered to.

Status of ASYCUDA

The Committee was informed that ASYCUDA a Customs information management system was successfully implemented in June 2015. The project funded by Australia was handed over to SIG. A post implementation review is currently being done.

Advance Warrant to PMO

The Committee expressed concern that the amount was only paid to 33 MPs but the explanatory notes stated 50.

The Ministry stated that the information was not available when the budget submission was made.

Accounting for donor funds

The committee noted that donor funds were not accounted for when received and only later did it get into the system. Rollover donor funds should be provided for in the budget in the following year.

The Ministry stated that it was a system problem as well as a policy issue. The Act is adequate but more needs to be done at operational level to address reporting and transparency issues.

Payments to Ex-combatants

The Committee raised the issue of where the payment to ex-combatants was charged in 2015 and if the Government will make further payments during the year.

The Ministry informed the committee that the payment came out of the Ministry of Peace and Reconciliation budget and it was in line with the program of the Ministry of Peace. It was fully accounted for. Any future payments will depend on SIG policy.

Fiscal operations to date

The Ministry advised the performance to April 2016 was as follows in pro-rata basis:

Revenue

Inland Revenue Division	83%
Customs	103%
Other Ministries	148%

Expenditure

Payroll	82%
Other charges	111%
Development	58%

Statistical data on jobs

The Committee was told that no official statistical data has ever been collected on job created each year. Only data available was from NPF.

Recommendation 3

Misuse of Contingency Warrants

The Committee recommends that

- the Ministry of Finance & Treasury put in place a robust budget process to make it difficult for CWs to be issued contrary to the requirements of the PFM Act; and
- Ministries submit properly costed and quality budget bids and defend them convincingly at Ministry of Finance and Cabinet.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

This Chapter provides a summary of the recommendations.

Recommendation 1

Undersea Cable Project

The Committee recommends that the Ministry take urgent action to implement the project by;

- creating a new cable company under ICSI to manage the project;
- formulating a plan to secure funds to address the \$10m funding gap; and
- direct the technical committee to produce the assessment report within a reasonable time frame.

Recommendation 2

Disaster Relief Fund

The Committee recommends that the Ministry immediately review the NDC Act so that a proper legal frame is made for the administration, control and management of the Disaster Relief Fund.

Recommendation 3

Misuse of Contingency Warrants

The Committee recommends that

- the Ministry of Finance & Treasury put in place a robust budget process to make it difficult for CWs to be issued contrary to the requirements of the PFM Act; and
- Ministries submit properly costed and quality budget bids and defend them convincingly at Ministry of Finance and Cabinet.

4.0 APPENDIX



NATIONAL PARLIAMENT OF SOLOMON ISLANDS

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

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MINUTE 1/2016

Minutes of Proceedings

Committee Hearing into the 2015 Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2016

Day 1 /2016

Wednesday 18th May 2016, CR II, Parliament House 10.55 am

1. Members Present

Hon. Rick Houenipwela, Chairman

Hon. Matthew Wale, MP

Hon. Jeremiah Manele, MP

Hon. Dr Derek Sikua, MP

Hon. Connelly Sandakabatu, MP

Secretary: Mr. Peter Lokay- Auditor General

Secretariat

Mr Gregory Fineanganofu, Committee Secretariat

Miss Salome Pilumate, Admin Committee Secretariat

Mr Wilson Orisi, Committee Secretariat

Miss Vanessa Rodie, Committee Secretariat

Mr Marlon Keni, Hansard Reporter

Mr Whitmon Tabiru, Hansard Reporter

Mr Sunjay Dhari, ICT Officer

Mr Philemon Loe, Media Officer

Mr Lawrence Scott, Media Officer

2. Welcome and Opening Remarks

The Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee Hon. Rick Houenipwela made his opening remarks. The Chair informed the witnesses of the Parliamentary privileges.

3. Inquiry into the Supplementary 2015 Appropriation Bill 2016

The Hearing proper commenced and the following witnesses from the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development were admitted:

Hearing 1 Witnesses

- i. Mr. Jimi Saelea (Permanent Secretary)
- ii. Mr. Paul Ne'e (Financial Controller)

The witnesses made their presentations before the committee.
The committee questioned the witnesses based on the evidences presented.
The examination concluded.

Hearing suspends at 12:00 pm

The Hearing proper resumed at 2:30 pm and the following witnesses from the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology were admitted:

Hearing 2 Witnesses

- i. Mr. Barnabas Bango – National Project Coordinator
- ii. Mr Loti Yates _ Director of National Disaster Management Office
- iii. Mr. Bobby Ramo – Financial Controller

The witnesses made their presentations before the committee.
The committee questioned the witnesses based on the evidences presented.
The examination concluded.

Hearing suspends at 3:15 pm

The Hearing proper continued at 3:20 pm and the following witnesses from the Ministry of Communication and Aviation were admitted:

Hearing 3 Witnesses

- i. Mr. Moses Virivolomo, Permanent Secretary

The witness made their presentations before the committee.
The committee questioned the witness based on the evidences presented.
The examination concluded.

Hearing Suspends at 4:15 pm

The Hearing proper continued at 4:31 pm and the following witnesses from the Ministry of Forestry and Research were admitted:

Hearing 4 Witnesses

- i. Mr Vaeno Vigulu, Permanent Secretary
- ii. Mr Coleman Vuke, Senior Accountant

The witnesses made their presentation before the Committee.
The Committee questioned the witness based on the evidence presented.
The examination concluded.

Hearing Suspends at 5:10 pm

The Hearing proper continued at 5:15 pm and the following witnesses from the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet were admitted:

Hearing 5 Witnesses

- i. Mr James Remobatu, Secretary to the Cabinet
- ii. Mr Derek Futaiasi, Deputy Special Secretary to the Prime Minister
- iii. Pellion Buare, Financial Controller
- iv. Mr Christian Nieng, Human Resources Manager

The witnesses made their presentation before the Committee.
The Committee questioned the witnesses based on the evidence presented.
The examination concluded.

4. Adjournment:

The committee adjourned hearing at 5:30 pm

5. Documents Tabled

- a. Ministry of Communications and Aviation (Submission #1)

Day 2/ 2016

Thursday 19th May 2016, CR II, Parliament House 10.04 am

1. Members Present

Hon. Rick Houenipwela, Chairman
Hon. Matthew Wale, MP
Hon. Jeremiah Manele, MP
Hon. Dr Derek Sikua, MP
Hon. Connelly Sandakabatu, MP

Secretary: Mr. Peter Lokay- Auditor General

Secretariat

Mr Gregory Fineanganofu, Committee Secretariat
Miss Salome Pilumate, Admin Committee Secretariat
Mr Wilson Orisi, Committee Secretariat
Miss Vanessa Rodie, Committee Secretariat
Mr Marlon Keni, Hansard Reporter
Mr Whitmon Tabiru, Hansard Reporter
Mr Sunjay Dhari, ICT Officer
Mr Philemon Loe, Media Officer
Mr Lawrence Scott, Media Officer

2. Welcome and Opening Remarks

The Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee Hon. Rick Houenipwela made his opening remarks. The Chair informed the witnesses of the Parliamentary privileges.

3. Inquiry into the Supplementary 2015 Appropriation Bill 2016

The Hearing proper commenced and the following witnesses from the Ministry of Finance and Treasury were admitted:

Hearing 6 Witnesses

- i. Mr. Harry Kuma, Permanent Secretary
- ii. Mr. Norman Hiropuhi, Director Budget
- iii. Paula Uluinaceva, Accountant General
- iv. George. H. Tapo,
- v. Aylton Jamieson, CIR
- vi. Nathan Kama, Comptroller
- vii. Richard Brun, Senior Strategic Advisor
- viii. Selwyn Takana, Director ERU
- ix. Primula Kingmele, Chief policy Analyst
- x. Ruth Moore, Senior Advisor
- xi. Kevis Kimasaru, Senior Policy Analyst

The witnesses made their presentations before the committee.

The committee questioned the witnesses based on the evidences presented.

The examination concluded.

Hearing suspends at 11: 10 am

The Hearing proper continued at 11:15 am and the following witnesses from the Ministry of Health and Medical Services were admitted:

Hearing 7 Witnesses

- i. Dr Tenneth Dalipanda, Permanent Secretary
- ii. Mr Arnold Moveni, Under Secretary

The witnesses made their presentation before the Committee.

The Committee questioned the witnesses based on the evidence presented.

The examination concluded.

4. Adjournment:

The committee adjourned hearing at 11:30 am

5. Documents Tabled

None

List of Submissions

No	Authors
1	MCA – Telekom Bills 2015