

OPEN LETTER TO CANDIDATES



Dear Candidates and Political Parties,

As the nation prepares for the upcoming 2010 General Elections in August, the Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Industry on behalf of the private sector, continues to be apprehensive about the new government's capacity to deliver the change this country needs to move forward. The private sector is passionate about the Solomon Islands and believes that strong economic growth and high quality of life depends on the quality of leadership and strong governments.

We invite you and political parties aspiring to form the new Government, the opportunity to share their views on the following issues:

1. **Infrastructural Development** (Roads, Water supply, Fuel and Energy)
2. **Employment and Workplace Reform** (updating labor laws, consistent with global best practice standards capable of increasing business growth and productivity)
3. **Improvements to Doing Business in Solomon Islands** (reducing cost of doing business, improving access to finance, enhancing tax conditions and increasing local manufacturing and export capacity)
4. **Institutional strengthening** (improving functionality of committees, addressing corruption and maladministration, SOE and machinery of government reform)
5. **Policy on public expenditure** (initiatives to reduce government expenditure and debt servicing amidst a Global Economic Crises)
6. **Trade and Investment policy** (improving industry expansion and market access for local enterprises)

The Chamber of Commerce has no political affiliations, but as the national private sector organization and the voice of business, we maintain our demand for candidates and political parties to demonstrate your policies and plans on how you intend to take the Solomon Islands forward in a generation such as tomorrows. Solomon Islands businesses have a right to know what to expect.

Respectfully

Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Industry

www.solomonchamber.com.sb