

## FOREWORD

In 1978, when Solomon Islands achieved the dream of an independent nation, the most valuable currency in this agrarian nation was hope. Hope that Solomon Islands would develop into a prosperous nation, a nation with a secured future for its citizens.

Forty years have passed, and yet the story of Solomon Islands progress to-date can best be described as “40 years in the development wilderness”. This experience demands us to move out from the status quo of doing business as usual by being more proactive, productive and efficient in our leadership to advance us into a more prosperous future. We may have built an airport here and a wharf or road there, but we have not yet built a nation capable of supporting the primary needs and development aspirations of our population. Despite having an abundance of talent, potential and natural resources, Solomon Islands has yet to really take-off and realize the abundant potential of our national resources.

During the 2019 elections, the people of Solomon Islands faced a choice. Do we want more of the same, or do we finally want to build that country that we can feel proud to leave to our children? We have always been a hopeful nation, but we must now realise that even hope has a time limit. With the Democratic Coalition Government for Advancement (DCGA) there is a mixture of former and new Members of Parliament. This mix of talent is important to ensure stability, security and continuity but at the same time embrace change and advancement.

The Democratic Coalition Government for Advancement (DCGA) in this policy statement pledges its commitment and ambition to develop Solomon Islands into a nation that is economically strong, fair and sustainable whilst socially advancing the livelihood of its people by reflecting on drawbacks from our past and drawing on experience to meet challenges into the future. The desire is to secure the socio-economic future of our people and natural resources whilst advancing economically beyond the status quo through its productive and resource sectors. DCGA commitment is to take the dreams of generations past and present by moving forward to translate them into realities capable of securing the future well-being of our nation as a whole.

Solomon Islands once known as the happy isle is blessed with rich and immense natural resources and diversity. DCGA in its foresight sees the importance of innovation, creativity and new way of thinking for the country to harness its natural resources and develop them into tangible and high valued products that will generate income and wealth for all. Through the establishment and implementation of foundation policies, we will strive to advance development across all sectors and improve the standard of living for everyone in the next four years. To this end, DCGA will strongly encourage and support innovation and rethinking in the public and private sectors and actively promote our young energetic population to become more productive members of the community.

DCGA recognises that the challenges facing the nation are complex socio-economic issues ranging from inadequate access to working capital for small businesses, accessing customary land for major developments, erosion of cultural, traditional and religious values to unsustainable harvesting of the country’s natural resources, to the eminent threats from the impacts of climate change and natural disasters.

DCGA recognise that the private sector is the engine room for economic growth and that the business environment must be conducive for investment, growth of the small medium enterprise and access to capital. This will result in more citizens being able to afford a better life, and participate in the country's development.

It is our desire that in the medium term, we will invest in the public service that is fully functional, accountable, transparent and productive to effectively deliver the services to the government and people of Solomon Islands. It will operate on a performance-based system to ensure that it can be held to a high standard.

The DCGA endeavours to bring development, services and investment to the majority of Solomon Islanders living in rural areas. It is envisaged that the capacity of constituencies will be enhanced to compliment the role of the provincial government as a delivery channel for rural development. This will generate broad economic participation and inclusive development.

Investment in the rural communities will require planned and predictable investment initiatives capitalising on each geographic economic competitive advantage built around existing infrastructure and natural and cultural resources. This will require a major paradigm shift from the dependency syndrome toward rural communities and people that are economically empowered to participate in nation building.

This policy statement represents the combined priorities of the four coalition Parties (OUR Party, Kadere Party, DAP & SIPFP) comprising the DCGA and reflects the desire and will of Solomon Islanders for a better life together with a peaceful and prosperous nation. It is our firm belief that a country that is united, progressive, secure and stable will emerge and thrive. DCGA believes that once again Solomon Islands will be known as the Happy Isles and will be a shining light and a beacon of hope not only for its citizens but to many beyond our shores.

In launching this Policy Statement, I therefore seek for your support and prayers, and to be united in our endeavour to provide the political leadership our people needs at this time.



.....  
Hon. Manasseh Damukana Sogavare, MP  
**PRIME MINISTER**

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**ACRONYMS** - A number of common acronyms are used in this document. These are outlined in alphabetical order below:

AMR	Antimicrobial Resistance
CA	Competent Authority
CDF	Constituency Development Fund
CMCC	Core Ministerial Coordinating Committee
CRVS	Civil Registration Vital Statistics
CSSI	Correctional Services of Solomon Islands
DCGA	Democratic Coalition Government for Advancement
EHD	Environmental Health Division
FBO	Faith-Based Organisations
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FIA	Financial Institution Act
FICOM	Financial Institution Commission
FSC	Forestry Stewardship Council
HAL	Health Administration Law
HIS	Health Information System
IMO	International Maritime Organisation
IPAM	Institute of Public Administration and Management
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MHMS	Ministry of Health and Medical Services
NCD	Non-Communicable Disease
NDMO	National Disaster Management Office
NDS	National Development Strategy
NGO	Non-Government Organizations
NHSP	National Health Strategic Plan
NRH	National Referral Hospital
OPMC	Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
PCDF	Provincial Constituency Development Fund
PG2023	Pacific Games 2013
PGSP	Provincial Government Strengthening Program
PIMEU	Policy Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit
PPP	Public Private Partnerships
RSIPF	Royal Solomon Islands Police Force
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDCCG	Solomon Islands Democratic Coalition for Change Government
SOE	State Owned Enterprises
TRC	Truth and Reconciliation Commission
WW II	World War II
PFMA	Public Financial Management Act

## DEFINITIONS

Words	Definition
A meaningful quality of life	Refers to the advancement of social and economic livelihood of all peoples of Solomon Islands in their respective localities.
Funding Modalities	Refers to the different funding sources that the Government will utilise to implement the DCGA Government policies and programs.
Whole of Government approach	Refers to collective decision making through effective Ministerial coordination by Cluster Groupings.
Cluster Groups	Refers to grouping of Ministries into respective sectors and managed by the PIMEU to further improve sectoral coordination and coherent policy implementation.
Ministerial Coordinating Committee	Refers to the four Core Budget Implementation Coordination ministries/institutions (MNPDC, MoFT, OPMC and MPS PSs) led by their respective Ministers and mandated to oversee implementation of DCGA policies.
Flexible Diplomacy	Refers to the ability to engage with traditional allies and pursue new relationships.
Bureaucratic Inertia	The inevitable tendency of <i>bureaucratic</i> organizations to perpetuate the established procedures and modes, even if they are counterproductive and/or diametrically opposed to established organizational goals.
Fiscal Consolidation	A Government policy to reduce deficits and accumulation of debts

## INTRODUCTION

The Democratic Coalition Government for Advancement (DCGA) recognises the National Development Strategy (NDS) 2016-2035 as the blueprint for development for Solomon Islands and provides clear pathways for all sectors. The vision of DCGA expressed in this Policy Statement re-enforces the NDS vision for a country that is peaceful, prosperous, resilient and sustainable. The country in implementing the NDS is in progress towards achieving the SDGs.

The DCGA, in this Policy Statement, presents the vision and policies of the Coalition for the next four years to the people of Solomon Islands. The Coalition in its former life as the SIDCCG, has demonstrated that it has the right policies and leadership to lead Solomon Islands.

The DCGA recognises that many of the socio-economic development challenges that faced the country over the last 41 years of independence require strong leadership, focus and commitment. The Coalition is aware that the country is still a young democracy and that it suffers from dependency syndrome and poverty mentality. DCGA therefore seeks to inspire and empower citizens, building on right values and ethics. The Coalition looks forward to taking Solomon Islands in a new direction for the next 4 years and beyond.

The DCGA's commitment is towards socio-economic empowerment, self-reliance, independence and value based leadership and citizenship. The Coalition recognises that the true wealth of its citizens does not lie only in monetary values and materials but in their rich natural environment, culture, peace, diversity, family and freedom. The country's heavy dependence on natural resources means that this wealth and social harmony continues to be threatened by unsustainable extraction of its natural resources.

The DCGA Policy Statement strategies are premised on moving away from business as usual, to actually getting things done. Solomon Island is yet to reach its full potential for economic growth and this can be realised by investing smartly and focusing on key sectors such as tourism, agriculture, forestry, fishery and responsible mining. The country needs to shift from its dependency on logging and broaden investment in these sectors.

The DCGA through these policy intentions will deliver these policy priorities through the existing national government, the provincial government and constituencies. In doing so, DCGA recognises the critical role development partners, civil society, churches, private sector and community based organisations will play, to drive growth and effect change on the ground.

## **PART 1: POLITICAL DIRECTIONS**

### **VISION**

By the Grace of God, the Democratic Coalition Government for Advancement (DCGA) humbly pledges to empower all Solomon Islanders to attain a meaningful quality of life through social and economic reforms supported by stable and ethical leadership. With the united efforts of our leaders, we will strive to achieve the DCGA reprioritised programs and policies and as such, all Solomon Islanders can be assured to see sound political leadership, tangible and sustainable Socio-economic and Spiritual developments.

### **MISSION**

The Democratic Coalition Government for Advancement (DCGA) will advance the progressive development of policies and programs to create a God fearing, peaceful, united and progressive Solomon Islands, led by ethical, accountable, respected and credible leadership that enhances and protects Solomon Island's peoples' spiritual, cultural, social and economic wellbeing. In furtherance and fundamental to this mission the DCGA, will focus its efforts over the next 4 years on the core objective of delivering the priority policies outlined in this policy statement.

### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

The DCGA Government strives to uphold these guiding principles:

- Profess that the existence and progress of Solomon Islands is vested in God Almighty and His Divine Providence;
- Alleviation of all forms of Poverty and eliminate all forms of discrimination;
- Enhance Economic Growth and Strengthening our Economy;
- Promote and appreciate Solomon Islands as a country of diverse cultures and traditions;
- Promote Sustainable development in all sectors of the economy;
- Promote and uphold principles of good governance;
- Embrace and promote gender equality and equal opportunities for all;
- People the centre of decision making;
- Promote and cherish the values of our traditional governance systems and worthy customs and cultures;
- Accord the necessary respect and diplomacy in dealing with our foreign relations



## OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the DCGA Government are to:

- Advance national consciousness and promote a sense of ownership that Solomon Islands as a sovereign country belongs to all its citizens;
- Collaborate with Churches and government institutions;
- Provide equal opportunities for all;
- Identify and resolve the problem of informal settlements in rural and semi-urban areas;
- Provide an enabling environment to stimulate and advance social and economic growth;
- Strengthen and advance a good governance system;
- Advance and institutionalise a relevant traditional government system in the country;
- Ensure the roles of traditional leaders and land ownership are recognised, respected, strengthened and resourced for proper local governance;
- Address the needs of people in the rural areas;
- Establish effective measures to protect traditional rights of indigenous resource owners to ensure maximum benefit and ownership from the development and utilization of their resources;
- Adopt a pragmatic approach and foster strategic engagements in conducting Solomon Islands foreign and diplomatic relations.

## PART 2: DRAWBACKS AND CHALLENGES

Since attaining political independence on the 7<sup>th</sup> July 1978, Solomon Islands has experienced relatively poor economic growth, a direct result of poor governance at all levels and the failure to address fundamental issues within our society which has prevented us from capitalizing on our diversity as an asset rather than a hindrance. Besides, the civil unrest and continuing political instability, the state has been unable to effectively provide adequate and quality goods and services to all peoples in the country.

The inability of the state to meet the mandate of its people can be attributed to the following drawbacks and challenges as indicated in column 1 of the Table below. The DCGA's proposed reforms that should turn this situation around are indicated in column 2.

Challenges	Proposed Reforms
<i>Lack of ethical, accountable, respected and credible leadership</i>	Instil ethical, accountable, respected and credible leadership that will provide long-term and alternative visions for the country.

<i>The absence of a unifying vision that affirms national identity</i>	Strengthen national unity through shared visions and agreed social and economic development goals.
<i>Lack of commitment to the established long-term development strategy (NDS2016-2035)</i>	Provide Political Leadership that will ensure the implementation of the National Development Strategy (NDS 2016-2035) that will guide social reform and economic advancement.
<i>Poor economic management</i>	Improve economic management and facilitate reforms that will ensure broad-based economic development and increased investment opportunities for all Solomon Islanders.
<i>Insignificance of private sector-led growth</i>	Promote and facilitate private sector-led economic growth through the encouragement of the SME sector and facilitating for large scale FDI's in targeted sectors.
<i>Poor Whole of Government Governance</i>	Create a cohesive approach to public service delivery; improve and enforce good governance values and practices and ensure accountability and transparency at all levels of governance. Address gaps in the Public Service conditions of service and ensure administrative efficiency at all levels of the bureaucracy.
<i>Growing culture of corruption</i>	Prevent and eradicate corruption at all levels in the country. This should be apprehended by the implementation of the Anti-Corruption Act 2018.
<i>Absence of personal and collective security</i>	Ensure that Solomon Islands is a secured, peaceful and progressive country for all Solomon Islanders.
<i>Lack of communication between the National Government and rural populace</i>	Establish a formal communication mechanism to allow information transfer to and from rural stakeholders. Ensure National Government and Provincial Governments are well connected to the rural communities.
<i>Political Instability</i>	Ensure reviewing of legal and structural framework that will promote political stability, through the review and passing of the PPI Amendment Bill.

In acknowledging the above challenges, the DCGA is committed to addressing them head on with strong conviction and determination to improve the economy, provide good governance at all levels and improve livelihoods of all Solomon Islanders. The DCGA will make the Solomon Islands the “Happy Isles” once more.

### PART 3: LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The DCGA will continue to support the Twenty-Year National Development Strategy 2016-2035 that provides development targets for each sector and will facilitate fundamental and sectoral reform programmes. The long-term strategy also facilitates good governance and encourages broad-based economic development that enhances improved livelihood for all Solomon Islanders.

The Twenty-Year National Development Strategy is administered by the Ministry of National Planning and Development Coordination and addresses four major developmental phases;

Developmental Phases	Timeframe
<b>Rediscovery</b>	The first 5-years is a period of rediscovery.  Rediscovery lays the foundation of long-term recovery and reform
<b>Consolidation</b>	The second 5-years is a period of consolidation.  Reform programmes in the rediscovery phase will be consolidated.
<b>Expansion</b>	The third 5-years is a period of expansion.  This phase concentrate on building and improving on achievements of the reform programmes.
<b>Innovation</b>	The final 5-years is a period of innovation.  In this phase, innovative ideas will flow to roll this Twenty-Year National Development Strategy into the next twenty years.

The DCGA Government believes that this long-term development strategy will lead to:

- a) Sustainable and equitable economic development and growth;
- b) Greater investment opportunities for all Solomon Islanders;
- c) Making available rural and customary land for commercial and agricultural development;
- d) The prevention and alleviation of poverty and hunger;
- e) Assured environmental sustainability and ownership;
- f) The provision of adequate and accessible quality social services, infrastructures and utilities for all Solomon Islanders.

The DCGA also believes that the absence and non-implementation of these long-term development strategies is our major drawback in the attainment of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). By the same token, it can be inferred that without a long-term development strategy, Solomon Islands will not be able to achieve the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Learning from the past, the DCGA is determined to push for tangible changes by rediscovering, consolidating and innovating our platforms for development to attain our MDGs and sustain our SDGs in the long run.

## **PART 4: EFFECTIVE POLICY MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY FRAMEWORK**

The DCGA recognises the systematic issues of bureaucratic inertia and the negative net effect and impact it poses on the political government to effectively deliver on its policy intentions in a timely manner. Mindful of this real issue DCGA has put in place two strategic scrutiny and oversight mechanisms to ensure effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Government policies.

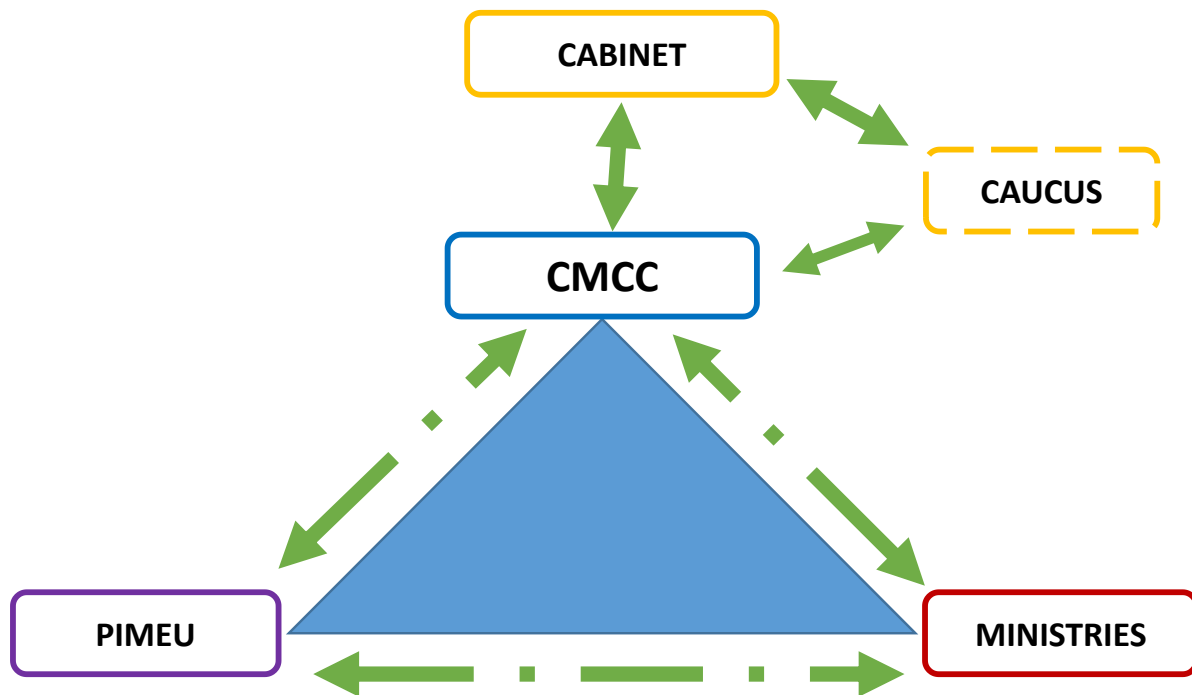
The first is the appointment of key personnel to the policy implementation, monitoring and evaluation unit (PIMEU) in the political office of the Prime Minister. This unit will provide oversight of the sectorial policy implementation and will work closely with implementing Ministries to ensure targeted outcomes are achieved according to stated timelines and budgets.

The second is the set-up of an oversight framework in the form of a Core Ministerial Coordinating Committee (CMCC). The Committee will be made up of senior Government Ministers holding key ministerial portfolios in each sector of development. Importantly the Committee will be co-chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Fisheries and Marine Research, and the Minister of National Planning and Development Coordination.

The Committee's primary function, amongst other things, is to ensure there is effective coordination of policy implementation and monitoring. In carrying out its responsibilities the Committee will conduct regular inquiries into ministries policy implementation activities. It will call in senior government officials to be accountable for their actions and or inactions in delivering against government policies, programs and projects. Through this strategic framework the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (OPMC) will be able to hold implementing agencies and their senior officials accountable for their actions.

The strategic framework ensures that proper and critical information on policy implementation is communicated effectively and in a timely manner to Cabinet and to the ministries. That will greatly assist the government in making timely and well informed decisions on the implementation of its key policy priorities and important national program and projects.

The diagram provided is a pictorial representation of the Core Ministerial Coordinating Committee and its relationship with other key agencies.



**Figure 1: Illustrates a pictorial representation of the committee’s organizational structure, relationship and interactions.**

## PART 5: REFORM PROGRAMMES

In implementing its long-term development strategy to achieve long-term goals, the DCGA will continue to carry on and fine tune existing key reform programmes commenced under previous governments and at the same time institute new additional innovative reform agendas and programmes to reflect the new DCGA government policy direction and the National Development Strategy (NDS).

Reform is about recreation and reorganization to achieve and boost socio-economic capacity to foster sustainable growth and development in Solomon Islands. The reform agenda or programmes of the DCGA are categorised under two reform programmes, namely fundamental and sectoral reform programmes. Basically, the reform programmes are carried out by line ministries and authorities.

## 5.1. FUNDAMENTAL REFORM PROGRAMME

On the fundamental programmes, the DCGA acknowledges the work of the previous governments in implementing some of the key fundamental reforms and DCGA will continue to support the ongoing reforms and make incremental fine tuning where appropriate on key elements of some of these key fundamental programmes and policies. At the same time DCGA will also institute new fundamental reform agenda to reflect the DCGA policies and address the binding constraints that are inhibitive to growth and development in the economy.

### 5.1.1 Fundamental reforms:

The DCGA will:

- a) Combat corruption through the strengthening of the country's governance institutions and effective implementation of the Anti-Corruption Act 2018 and other good governance legislations;
- b) Support the Federal Constitutional reform to respond to broad challenges facing the country;
- c) Pursue legislative and electoral reforms that shall improve conduct of elections, enhance party system and thus promote political stability;
- d) Support strengthening traditional governance by institutionalising the traditional governance structures;
- e) Accelerate the development of physical and economic infrastructures to build foundations of long-term growth and prosperity;
- f) Pursue and accelerate legislative and policy reforms that can create a conducive environment for enhanced productivity and increase trade.
- g) Promote fiscal consolidation and improve public finance management to avoid fiscal wastages;
- h) Accelerate structural and fiscal tax reforms and prudently advance tax legislations that promote fair and equitable tax regime and abate tax evasion.
- i) Support investment in human capital such as education and better health services to enhance economic progress and sustainable economic growth in the economy;
- j) Provide support to existing and new national initiatives on land reform programmes to support economic growth and development;
- k) Review and improve diplomatic engagements or foreign policy and support a policy of "friends to all and enemy to none" to attract trade and investment and enhance economic prosperity.

### 5.1.2 Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

The DCGA will;

- a) Provide effective coordination and administrative oversight to drive national policy implementation and delivery;
- b) Take a leading role in the planning and resourcing aspects of major OPMC infrastructure projects including the:

- (i) Joint OPMC-MFAET office complex;
  - (ii) Official residence of the Prime Minister, and
  - (iii) Official residence of the Speaker of National Parliament, and directing responsible authorities to expedite their scoping, planning, funding and construction.
- c) Drive implementation and monitoring of existing flagship programs & infrastructure projects through whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches;
  - d) Lead, direct and coordinate new, innovative transformational and game-changing development concepts and infrastructure projects;
  - e) Lead, direct, support and coordinate implementation of innovative solutions to several key social, cultural, education, health and economic challenges in Solomon Islands;
  - f) Drive preparation, resource mobilization and successful hosting of the 2023 Pacific Games;
  - g) Support legislative reforms and development of national institutions that support good governance;
  - h) Drive and coordinate the development and implementation of the National Security Strategy (NSS), the National Border Security Strategy (NBSS) and help strengthen the role of border security agencies within the country;
  - i) Strengthen and support CMCC and role of Cabinet Sub-Committees to ensure effective delivery of government policies;
  - j) Promote transparency through proactive dissemination of information and reports on the government's progressive achievements through media outlets;
  - k) Review and strengthened the legal frameworks that regulate appointments of Political Appointees and Constitutional post holders;

### 5.1.3 Foreign Affairs and External Trade

The DCGA will:

- a. Improve and enhance bilateral and multilateral trade agreements, foreign investments and pursue new opportunities with our traditional partners and other countries;
- b. Conduct a review and cost-benefit analysis of all Solomon Islands diplomatic missions;
- c. Review the Solomon Islands Foreign Relations Engagement Policy: considering an inclusive open-door approach;
- d. Pursue a forward-looking foreign policy that harnesses maximum benefit from our diplomatic relations premised on an open engagement policy of being 'a friend to all and enemy to none';
- e. Respect and live up to our international and global commitments, protocols and obligations;
- f. Support the UN Human Rights Council to take appropriate actions to address human right concerns and acknowledge the sovereignty of independent states;
- g. Promote and support regional and international sports and cultural exchange schemes;
- h. Promote and facilitate the transfer and exchange of appropriate skills and knowledge with our development partners and agencies: including businesses;

- i. Support and advance the labour mobility initiative programme through increasing resources and capacity to the Labour Mobility Unit to facilitate and develop a National Labour Mobility Strategy to address unemployment and enhance growth in the country;
- j. Facilitate the introduction and application of appropriate technology by our development partners and other trade and development agencies;
- k. Signing and ratification of all new Conventions that will need parliamentary approval;
- l. Pursue opportunities on South-South Cooperation and Partnerships, targeting specific countries to balance geopolitics.

#### **5.1.4 National Planning and Development Coordination**

The DCGA will:

- a) Support implementation of the Solomon Islands Twenty-Year National Development Strategy 2016-2035;
- b) Facilitate the implementation of the Threshold Program of the Millennium Challenge Cooperation Framework;
- c) Embark on a Partnership Framework with donors, private sector, NGOs and NSAs to ensure effective implementation, coordination of donor assisted development programmes in the country;
- d) Ensure that tangible results of development programmes in the Annual Development Budgets of the country accumulate to attainment of long-term goals of the Twenty-Year National Development Strategy of the country;
- e) Build capacity of staff to deliver better project proposals to improve evaluation, monitoring and coordination between national and provincial planning offices.

#### **5.1.5 Economic and Finance Sector**

The DCGA will :

- a) Facilitate broad based growth and a resilient economy through sound macro-economic policies.
- b) Create a conducive environment to promote local private entrepreneurship to boost economic development;
- c) Enhance SME access to financing mechanism and financial inclusion to cater for development in the rural areas;
- d) Support initiatives to strengthen State Owned Enterprises performances to drive socio- economic growth;
- e) Strengthen the public procurement and tender processes to improve transparency and accountability and enhance efficiency and effectiveness;
- f) Develop robust financial sector legislations and creating an enabling environment to support development and expansion of financial market;
- g) Accelerate tax reform and improvement of the current national tax system to augment domestic revenue collection;
- h) Secure funding and support the implementation of national flagship projects;



- i) Support and promote Public Private Partnerships (PPP) investment model of engagement to encourage FDI's and private sector participation in domestic industries to promote economic growth;
- j) Support the improvement in the national budgetary processes to strengthen accountability and transparency in spending.

### **5.1.6 Justice and Legal Affairs**

The DCGA will:

- a) Provide budgetary support to construct and renovate Justice Sector infrastructures;
- b) Ensure that the National Judiciary receive some form of financial autonomy;
- c) Review the relevant Act that governs warrant of arrest or enforcement of Court order against a citizen;
- d) Improve access to fair, respectful and efficient legal process through judicial, administrative and other public processes;
- e) Ensure Citizens have easy access to legal and judicial services and reduce delays and the backlog of cases;
- f) Develop a human resources development plan and put in place human resource development strategies that adequately meet the needs of the Justice Sector.

### **5.1.7 National Parliament Office**

The DCGA will ensure that:

- a) A relevant form of Parliamentary autonomy is realised;
- b) Members of Parliament are served effectively;
- c) The roles of Parliamentary Committees are strengthened;
- d) Parliamentary processes are strengthened through Constitutional reforms and amendments;
- e) The Parliamentary Standing Orders are reviewed and reformed;
- f) Parliament Infrastructure is developed and improved to depict the significance of the legislative roles of the House.

## **5.2 SECTORAL REFORM PROGRAMME**

DCGA will continue to improve from where the two previous governments in the 10<sup>th</sup> Parliament have left, with the focus on productive, resource and social sectors. Equally important are judiciary, national security sector and development sector in the Sectoral Reform Programme.

### **5.2.1 PRODUCTIVE SECTOR**

On the productive sector, DCGA will prioritise in building a broad-based sustainable economy focusing on policies that will be achieved during its tenure in Government:

#### **5.2.1.1 Agriculture and Livestock Development**

The DCGA will;

- a) Facilitate and support the development of commercial agriculture;
- b) Facilitate research, development and marketing of high value cash crops;
- c) Review National Agro-forestry regulations;
- d) Restructure and reform the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock to effectively provide policy, regulatory, quality assurance and technical capacity to improve agriculture production and marketing;
- e) Enhance food security to alleviate rural poverty and improve the livelihood;
- f) Pursue agribusiness and livelihood ventures through diversified agriculture enterprises;
- g) Strengthen quarantine and protection against exotic pests and diseases;
- h) Establish the National Agriculture Research Institute to support the improvement of crops and livestock;
- i) Restructure and reform agricultural extension services to ensure it is effective and robust in providing appropriate support service to rural agriculture;
- j) Support land use planning to improve food security;
- k) Ensuring qualified and adequate human resources and facilities are available to the sector.

### 5.2.1.2 Tourism Development

The DCGA will:

- a) Increase Tourism products and offerings through supporting and encouraging investment in internationally recognized quality standard accommodation, attractions and activities;
- b) Improve the human resource capacity and build skilled tourism workforce in the tourism sector and raise community and public awareness about tourism and its benefits and impacts, set realistic expectations, and enable sustainable tourism enterprise development;
- c) Facilitate and support the development of transport infrastructure that improves access and connectivity to and from and within the Solomon Islands;
- d) Support the marketing and promotion of Solomon Islands as a desired tourist destination in order to stimulate and convert market demand;
- e) Encourage the active participation of Solomon Islanders cultural industries;
- f) Facilitate the effective participation of traditional institutions in formal governance processes;
- g) Foster the protection, preservation, revival and promotion of Solomon Islands' tangible and intangible cultural heritage and traditional knowledge;
- h) Ensure the cultural, arts and creative sectors are supported as vital means for rural participation in economic activities by men, women and youth;
- i) Provide an enabling environment and capacity for the development and enhancement of core organizational functions, process and growth through the establishment of appropriate systems, policies and legislations and development of key infrastructure;

- j) Establish the SINM as a recognized leader in the arts and culture sector and the promotion of standards and stewardship to safeguard, manage and promote both tangible and intangible culture heritage of Solomon Islands;
- k) Promote the roles of arts and culture in sustainable development and encourage cultural tourism initiatives, creative industries and sustainable livelihood generation in our communities and Islands;
- l) Support partnerships and enhance effective networking, communication and linkages between individuals, groups, communities and institution both locally and internationally.

### **5.2.1.3 Trade, Commerce, Industry and Immigration**

The DCGA will:

- a) Enact Small and Medium Enterprise legislation to enable participation of locals in local investment entrepreneurship;
- b) Develop Special Economic Zones, Economic Growth Centres and Industrial Parks in the country through Public Private Partnership arrangements;
- c) Provide strategic investment incentive packages in targeted growth sectors;
- d) Encourage foreign trade and market access with emerging economies;
- e) Review the National Wage Policy;
- f) Design and Develop a concept on the establishment of a Unit Trust of Solomon Islands;
- g) Provide an avenue conducive for foreign investment through investment promotions, investment facilitation & registration and monitoring;
- h) Review current foreign investment legislation and registration of foreign businesses with the view of establishing a foreign investment commission to lead investment interests and ensure strict compliance by foreign investors;
- i) Pursue major investment plans in agriculture, fisheries, forestry, mining and tourism sectors;
- j) Provide state of the Art systems to enable efficiency in the work of immigration and work towards having immigration and border security officers;
- k) Support industrial development in the country and work to attract more;
- l) Support human resource development initiatives to support respective sectors in corporate and business development;
- m) Promote more opportunities for income generation and employment for citizens in the country.

### **5.2.1.4 Civil Aviation and Telecommunication**

The DCGA will:

- a) Improve enforcement of International Civil Aviation Safety requirements in the country, focusing on air rescue, navigational aid, fencing and lighting;
- b) Review and strengthen Civil Aviation legislation and agreements to improve and strengthen service delivery of the Aviation sector;

- c) Review and strengthen Telecommunication Act to improve and strengthen service delivery of the communication sector;
- d) Strengthen human resources capacity;
- e) Facilitate the rehabilitation and development of rural infrastructure;
- f) Promote and encourage participation in the industry in the area of broadband services;
- g) Develop counter measures and establish mechanisms to safeguard and prevent cybercrime including protocols to censor and regulate access to illicit information.

### **5.2.1.5 Infrastructure Development**

The DCGA will:

- a) Maintain and improve all roads and feeder roads throughout the country;
- b) Develop seaport facilities to ensure safety and convenience for the travelling public;
- c) Support the planning and development of the National Referral Hospital;
- d) Secure land and develop a new township with all urban amenities and utilities;
- e) Review the provision of domestic shipping services serving uneconomical routes in the country;
- f) Establish relevant 'Authorities' to govern and manage infrastructure development in the country;
- g) Support the transport sector to provide regular shipping and air services to all areas of the country;
- h) Develop and maintain infrastructure Aid to improve safety and accessibility to resources for development;
- i) Implement the new Maritime Authority Act 2018;
- j) Ensure the country is effectively participating at the IMO by appointing a permanent representative.

### **5.2.1.6 Aquaculture, Fisheries and Marine Resources**

The DCGA will:

- a) Strengthen and establish a national and Provincial fisheries governance and institutional arrangements;
- b) Improve and strengthen the contribution of small-scale fisheries for food security and socio-economic benefits of fishing communities;
- c) Distribute the benefits of Solomon Islands fisheries and aquaculture endowments through innovation and technology, accelerated trade and marketing;
- d) Strengthen and develop coordinated mechanisms among regional economic organizations and regional fisheries bodies to ensure coherence of fisheries policies and aquaculture development;
- e) Improve and increase the contribution of commercial and large-scale tuna fisheries to national revenue generation, food and nutrition security and socio-economic benefits of Solomon Islands citizens;

- f) Provide opportunities for rural fishers and communities improve their standard of living through the promotion of on-shore fisheries processing;
- g) Strongly support indigenous resource owners to establish business for management and utilization of their marine resources;
- h) Monitor and evaluate Tuna Fishing with license holders, and provide timely information for decision making;
- i) Support the establishment of marine managed parks and important marine ecosystems.

### **5.2.1.7 Lands, Housing and Survey.**

The DCGA will:

- a) Prioritize the Customary Land Law Bill;
- b) Develop a Restitution Policy and establish a Commission to deal with and address alienated land issues;
- c) Formalise current informal settlements within Honiara City and Provincial boundaries;
- d) Encourage landowners and land resource owners to participate in economic development activities and to become partners in development opportunities;
- e) Support urban and rural dwellers to build or buy appropriate and affordable housing to meet individual and family needs;
- f) Implement climate change relocation/resettlement programme;
- g) Improve systems of allocation of urban land, recording and registration of customary land;
- h) Establish the customary land reconciliation and recording commission that will focus on land reconciliation and recording;
- i) Facilitate implementation of the Strata Title Act.

Productive sector is the main driver for economic recovery and growth in the country. To ensure this is realised the DCGA will aggressively pursue progressing the implementation of key priority projects and programs within the sector and will undertake the necessary and urgently needed reforms to ensure all Solomon Islanders enjoy an improved standard of living through provisions of reliable, accessible and affordable goods and services.

On infrastructure development, the DCGA will advance appropriate and necessary policy directions that ensure those who live in disadvantaged, vulnerable and uneconomical rural areas in the country are connected and receive appropriate government services.

### **5.2.2 RESOURCE SECTOR**

On the resource sector, the DCGA will build a broad-based and environmentally sustainable economy.

### 5.2.2.1 Mines and Energy

The DCGA will:

- a) Strengthen Energy Sector Planning, Management, and effective Service delivery both in urban and rural areas;
- b) Pursue comprehensive access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services;
- c) Increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the country energy mix;
- d) Expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in the country;
- e) Identify and develop alternative renewable energy sources<sup>1</sup>;
- f) Strengthen Mining institutions;
- g) Develop a Mining Regulation to supplement the current Mining Bill.
- h) Promote the mineral resources potential of Solomon Islands to investors and other stakeholders through the generation and publication of mineral resources information;
- i) Develop Monitoring guidelines to monitor Mine sites, camps, prospecting sites in the country;
- j) Formalize the establishment of Solomon Islands Minerals Advisory Centre (SIMAC), where land custodians can seek advice on the mineral sector undertakings and processes;
- k) Claim regions of extended continental shelf appertaining to Solomon Islands including appropriate legislative reforms to strengthen the national continental shelf legislation;
- l) Update and proclaim Solomon Islands maritime zones consistent with national and international legislation;
- m) Develop a National Geochemical and petrological laboratory;
- n) Update the national mineral occurrence map and associate reports;
- o) Identify and assess potential sites for industrial aggregate around Honiara and the Provincial centres and also raw material for cement production in Solomon Islands;
- p) Support current reforms within Solomon Water and ensure the provision of safe and reliable water and wastewater services to urban communities<sup>2</sup>;
- q) Reduce vulnerabilities of our populations who are prone to geological hazards through Seismological and Volcano Monitoring
- r) Support Solomon Water reform program ensuring safe and reliable water service is provided in urban areas
- s) Develop and establish a Legal Framework in management and administration of water resources;
- t) Establish a National Program to support appropriate interventions in water supply and sanitation systems through Adaptation Strategies for increasing the resilience of water supply and sanitation systems and communities to the impacts of climate change;
- u) Strengthen and reforming sector organisation responsibilities and coordination to increase effectiveness and efficiency of the delivery of water supply and sanitation services in the rural areas;

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<sup>1</sup> [WRD is involved in this object through hydrological monitoring programs ]

<sup>2</sup> [Support submitted to MTDP and SINIIP]

- v) Develop a program engaging landowners in acquiring lands in water source areas for the protection of and providing access to source areas for water supply and hydro-power generation<sup>3</sup>;
- w) Support studies to identify appropriate alternative options to provide water to Honiara City to avoid water shut down in the city<sup>4</sup>;
- x) Support the rehabilitation, improve and operate Gizo water supplies and identify new water supply sources for Munda, Choiseul Bay and Lata.

### 5.2.2.2 Forestry and Reforestation

The DCGA will:

- a) Review the Forest Resources and Timber Utilisation Act and legislate for other forest resources, activities and products;
- b) Support downstream processing programmes in the country in small, medium and large-scale investments;
- c) Partner with Institutions and Organisations on establishing the Timber Industry training course to provide downstream processing skills and knowledge to develop value adding to forest products;
- d) Encourage small, medium and large forestry plantations in-partnerships with resource owners and landholders in ‘out-growers’ schemes;
- e) Encourage rehabilitation schemes in the country through reforestation, afforestation and regeneration management programmes;
- f) Implement the recommendations of the Sustainable Logging Policy (SLP) and enforce the sustainable forest management principles on harvesting of forest resources;
- g) Become part of the global society in assessing and valuing plants carbon storage services of the world’s remaining forests and progressing REDD+ Roadmap;
- h) Encourage research in forests, forest products including NTFP and plantations to determine resilient genetics with improved tree growth and timber quality of forest resources;
- i) Encourage and support local entrepreneurs to participate in the forestry and timber industry.

### 5.2.2.3 Environment, Conservation, Climate Change, Meteorology and Disaster Management

The DCGA will:

- a) Review legislation to ensure effective management and promotion of the country’s environment and ecosystem to address climate change and biodiversity protection;
- b) Strengthen and support the national meteorological services;
- c) Improve waste management and Disposal in the Solomon Islands;
- d) Protect, preserve and promote the biological diversity in the country;
- e) Strengthen and support the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO);

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<sup>3</sup> [Needs to be done now to avoid water supply catastrophe in Urban areas .... starting with Honiara]

<sup>4</sup> [Looking at potential to acquire water from Tina hydropower project]

- f) Promote and Protect World Heritage sites in the country;
- g) Establish and support national, provincial and community nature parks and nature sanctuaries throughout the country;
- h) Establish research focus strategies to enable information on biodiversity to be collected and publish data on research findings;
- i) Develop a resettlement policy for low-lying atolls and artificial islands highly vulnerable to climate change;
- j) Promote the Sky Islands Initiative to protect and conserve all land located at and 400 metres above sea level.
- k) Develop a resettlement policy for low-lying atolls and artificial islands highly vulnerable to climate change

#### **5.2.2.4 Rural Development**

The DCGA will:

- a) Review and strengthen rural development related legislations;
- b) Support Constituency Development by establishment of Constituency Development Centres and providing financial resources as incentives to encourage development;
- c) Embark on the establishment of regional economic hubs with support from province and constituencies;
- d) Support investment and development project planning, implementation, monitoring & evaluation for all constituencies;
- e) Utilize constituency funds to support poverty alleviation, rural livelihoods and housing for rural based public servants;
- f) Improve service delivery by expanding market access to rural products.

### **5.2.3 SOCIAL SECTOR**

The DCGA aims to efficiently and effectively deliver adequate and quality social services to the people of Solomon Islands through:

#### **5.2.3.1 Health and Medical Services**

The DCGA will:

- a) Review and strengthen the health sector related legislations;
- b) Review, strengthen, develop and implement health sector related policies;
- c) Implement the proposed Civil Registration Vital Statistics (CRVS) to link with the National Statistics Office and strengthen the Health Information System (HIS);
- d) Improve, increase and deliver basic health services to all citizens of Solomon Islands through an efficient mode of service delivery and cost-effective mobilization of resources;
- e) Pursue the acquisition of specialized medical equipment for Referral Hospitals and Health facilities in the country;



- f) Strengthen and support the Competent Authority (CA) at the Environmental Health Division (EHD);
- g) Review Para-Professionals' Scheme of Service with an intention to prevent and reduce brain drain in the country;
- h) Build, upgrade, rehabilitate, renovate, reopen and relocate hospitals, mini hospitals, health clinics and other health centres in Honiara, urban centres and rural communities in all Provinces throughout Solomon Islands;
- i) Commit to universal access to basic water, sanitation and hygiene; taking responsibility to slow down, halt and reverse the NCD crisis; and the National Malaria elimination by 2030;
- j) Develop a Partnership Framework with Faith-Based Organizations (FBO);
- k) Continue with the NRH Re-location Development;
- l) Pursue Restructure Reform within MHMS;
- m) Strengthen Health Surveillance and Health Disaster and Emergency Response Systems;
- n) Address Climate Change health related issues.

### **5.2.3.2 Education and Human Resources Development**

The DCGA will:

- a) Advance relevant legislations to the education sector;
- b) Develop and implement a National Education Infrastructure Development plan for all sectors of education;
- c) Develop and review Education policies for the respective education sectors and cross cutting areas such as teacher training and development;
- d) Establish an efficient and effective inspectorate to monitor and evaluate the education Services provided;
- e) Support initiative to subsidise the cost of paying fees for basic education in all educational institutions;
- f) Develop policies for students' scholarship program;
- g) Develop a multi-tier scholarship program inclusive of skill-based performance and career pathways for youths;
- h) Continue to support and assist 'faith based' schools/colleges, including schools for peoples with special needs;
- i) Facilitate transport service arrangements for schools;
- j) Develop Curriculum targeting vulnerable groups and people with Special needs;
- k) Develop and implement the National Teachers' Scheme of Service;
- l) Develop and introduce a problem-solving mechanism for teachers;
- m) Develop and establish specialised skills training focused on promoting vocational and employment opportunities;
- n) Develop new building infrastructure for Ministry of Education;
- o) Rehabilitate, reconstruct and build new educational infrastructures to accommodate increases in the enrolment of students at all levels of the education system;

- p) Introduce conceptual framework for the establishment of a National Research Institute in Solomon Islands;
- q) Support Solomon Islands National University.

### **5.2.3.3 Public Service**

The DCGA will:

- a) Finalise the proposed Public Service Bill and support its passage in Parliament;
- b) Review and adjust the Public Service salary structure and remuneration;
- c) Develop an effective administration mechanism in all government ministries;
- d) Support provincial government's human resource development plan;
- e) Develop and improve women's opportunities and participation in leadership positions in government and all sectors;
- f) Pursue the New IPAM Complex Project.

### **5.2.3.4 Home Affairs**

The DCGA will:

- a) Develop and review relevant legislations;
- b) Ensure National General Elections are managed and administered effectively and efficiently and are conducted fairly and peacefully;
- c) Strengthen and empower the Cinematography and Censorship Committee to censor audio/visual material coming into and out of the country;
- d) Support Sports institutions to construct, upgrade and maintain sport stadiums and fields;
- e) Ensure effective administration of Non-Government Organizations in Solomon Islands.

### **5.2.3.5 Provincial Government**

The DCGA will:

- a) Review the Provincial Government Act in line with the Federal System reform;
- b) Support institutional strengthening of Provincial Government Systems;
- c) Facilitate and support Provincial Governments to increase and enhance their provincial revenue collection systems;
- d) Support PCDF and PGSP through budgetary provision;
- e) Review the functions of both the Central and Provincial Tender Boards.

### **5.2.3.6 Women, Youth and Social Development**

The DCGA will:

- a) Support the implementation of Women, Youth & Children's Policies;
- b) Strengthen and increase support for women and youth empowerment programmes in the Solomon Islands;

- c) Develop, promote and facilitate socio-economic, cultural and environmental development programmes that addresses the specific needs of women, youth and children and people with special needs;
- d) Strengthen and support gender equality, eliminate gender violence and stop abuse of women and children, programmes;
- e) Promote the role of family as basis for stable, secure, fair and prosperous country;
- f) Encourage faith-based organisations to engage youths, women and children to take up community leadership roles;
- g) Develop and strengthen programs to encourage our children’s participation in national development.

### **5.2.3.7 Police, National Security and Correctional Services**

Under Police and National Security, the DCGA will focus special attention on maintaining law and Order, and advancing the value of respect and peaceful coexistence.

The DCGA will:

- a) Review and update laws and regulations relevant to Law and Order, Criminal Investigations, National Security, Parole and Liquor;
- b) Work in-partnership with stakeholders in the development of the National Security Strategy;
- c) Support the implementation of the National Security Strategy and establish relevant mechanisms including the establishment of an Institutional Intelligence Agency;
- d) Increase Support to Border Security (Infrastructures & Deployment) at the main entry points;
- e) Strengthen relations with international security and intelligence agencies and establish supportive collaborations between law enforcement agencies in Solomon Islands;
- f) Support Royal Solomon Islands Police Force's crime prevention and community policing strategy;
- g) Support the establishment of the Explosive Ordinance Disposal facility to ensure the safe collection and demolition of WW II explosive ordinances and remnants of war;
- h) Support the Solomon Islands National Reconnaissance and Surveillance Force to maintain and upgrade its maritime assets and provide patrols to protect Solomon Islands exclusive economic zone;
- i) Develop the operations and capabilities of the RSIPF to ensure that it has the ability to respond to and manage the security or serious criminal threats to Solomon Islands including transnational crime and terrorism;
- j) Upgrade Police and Correctional Academy to offer internationally recognized qualifications and policing and correctional standards;
- k) Support the development of specialized facilities for young offenders, mentally ill prisoners and immigration detainees;

- l) Review the policy on rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners and review the Correctional Services development programs;
- m) Improve terms and conditions of service for Police and Correctional Service Officers;
- n) Strengthen and support operational functions of the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force and Correctional Services of Solomon Islands to ensure the effective and efficient provision of policing and correctional services;
- o) Ensure that professional standards are improved and maintained through continuous training in police and corrections service work.

### 5.2.3.8 Traditional Governance, Peace and Ecclesiastical Affairs

The DCGA will implement recommendations of the Parliamentary Foreign Relations Report passed in 2009 recommending government to recognise traditional governance structures and Churches.

The DCGA will:

- a) Recognize, strengthen and empower traditional governance systems and structures to protect and preserve the diversity of our organic traditions and cultures in Solomon Islands;
- b) Continue to pursue with stakeholders the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) recommendations;
- c) Promote National Consciousness, Identity, and Unity;
- d) Support and engage in peace education with relevant institutions;
- e) Support, strengthen and engage with peace building stakeholders;
- f) Recognise and support the roles of ecclesiastical institutions.

## PART 6: CONCLUSION

The Democratic Coalition Government for Advancement policy statement is structured to reflect the priorities and fundamental areas it aspires to advance, with the intention that the outcomes of such policies will prosper, unify and develop peaceful coexistence that will translate into stability in governance and an appreciation of our diverse cultures and Values.

Translations to the DCGA policy statement is done and its layout comprised of activity-based action-items, with performance indicators, in a subsequent document referred to as “**DCGA Policy translation- Priorities, Strategies and Outcomes** “. This Policy Translation document will provide implementers the actions and performance outcomes required to successfully implement the DCGA-Policy Priorities in 2019 and beyond.

As a political entity, the DCGA-Government believes that:

- Progressing development aspirations that will benefit the beloved citizens of this country cannot eventuate unless there is stability in Government;

- Change can only be realised if all citizens of this country are given the opportunity to better utilise their resources, talents and skills to realise their dreams and aspirations;
- Peoples ownership to their land, resources, cultures and tradition is an asset that once given the relevant recognition and necessary support to develop them, Solomon Islands will become a country that its citizens will prosper and proud to call 'Home';
- An effective Government system that addresses issues and challenges that people in the country face is one that is home grown;
- Premised on these beliefs, DCGA as a Government will ensure that the implementation of this Policy Statement is of paramount importance;
- Relevant legislation needs to be passed and/or amended to reflect the true meaning and intention of ownership and advancement of our country and people;
- REALISING Change for the better entails supporting and advancing stability in society and Government and respect for one another;
- Solomon Islands will become a more inclusive society through the reforms of this Policy Statement; and
  
- The Policy Statement implementation will ensure the advancement of a **“Peaceful, Progressive, Prosperous and United Solomon Islands”**.

**May God Bless the Solomon Islands, from shore to shore!**