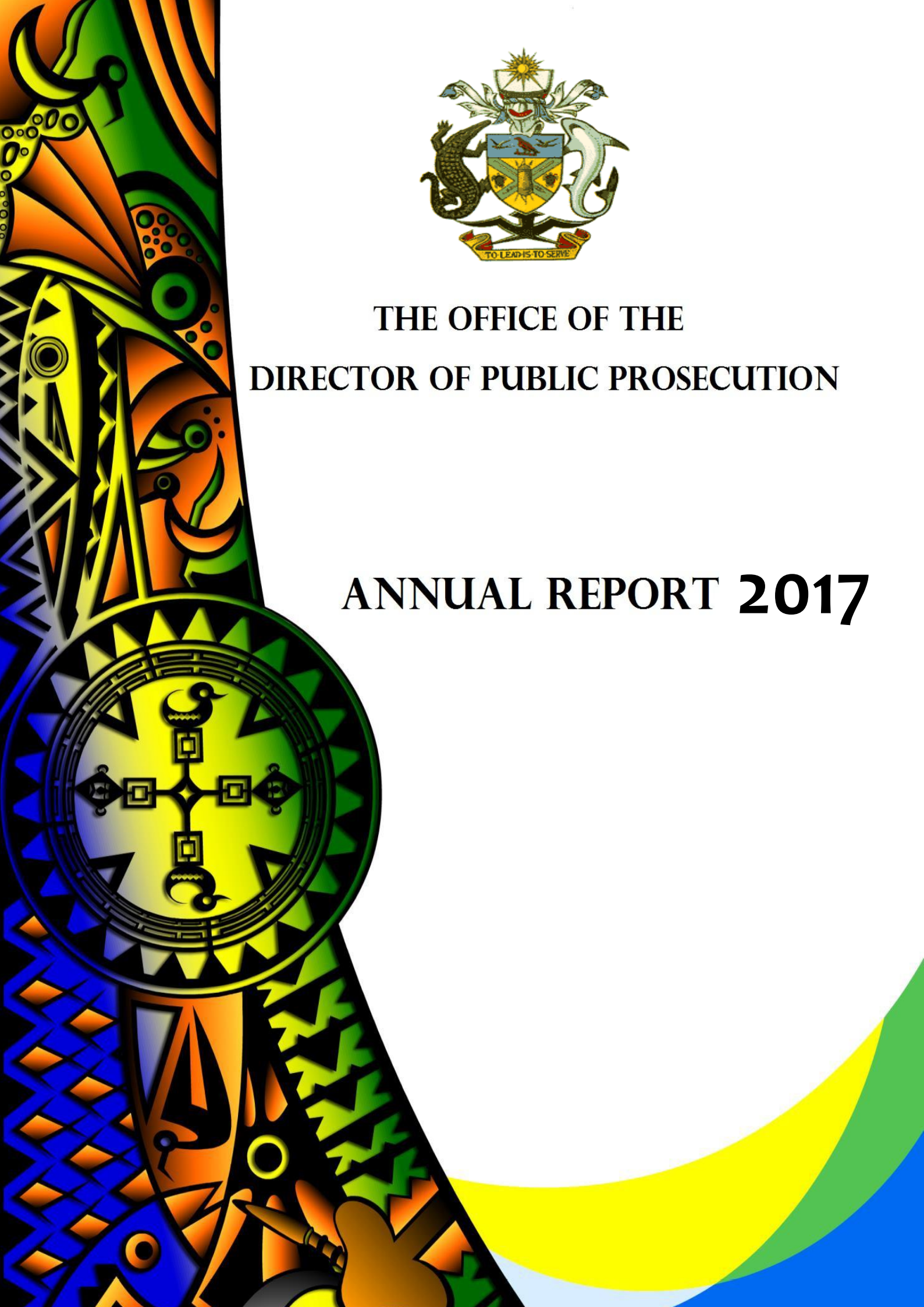
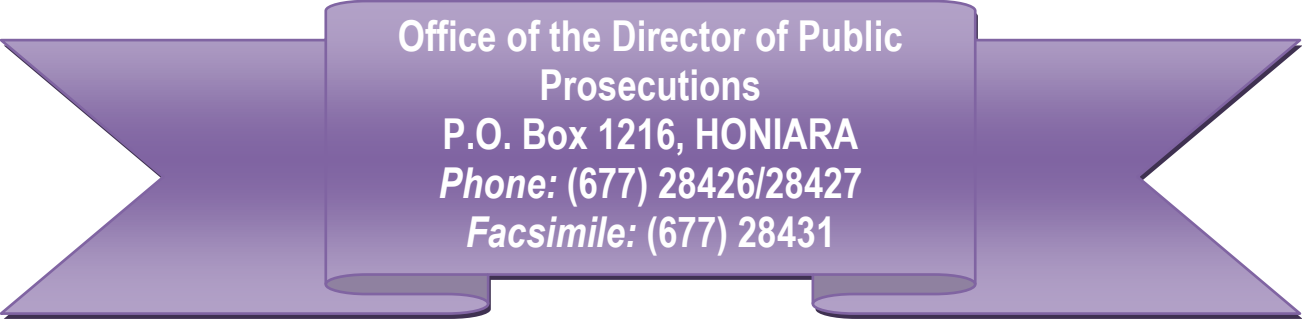





THE OFFICE OF THE
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTION

ANNUAL REPORT 2017






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Acronyms

AGS	Australian Government Solicitor
AACP	Australian Association of Crown Prosecutors
APG/FATFTREIN	Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering/ Financial Action Task Force Training and Research Institute
APTC	Australian Pacific Technical College
ACMLPCU	Anti-Corruption, Money Laundering and Proceeds of Crime
AVI	Australian Volunteers International
CBSI	Central Bank of Solomon Islands
CLE	Continue Legal Education
COA	Court of Appeal
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DPP	Director of Public Prosecutions
ET	Ethnic Tension
FASO	Family and Sexual Offence Unit
FC	Financial Controller
HRM	Human Resources Manager
IAP	International Association of Prosecutors
IPAM	Institute of Public Administration and Management
IT	Information Technology
JIMS	Justice Information Management System
LFPI	Long Form Preliminary Inquiry
LLM	Legum Magister
MFAET	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade
MJLA	Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs
MoFT	Ministry of Finance and Treasury
No.	Number
NT	Northern Territory
NZ	New Zealand
ODPP	Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
PEP	Prosecutor Exchange Program
PDLP	Professional Diploma in Legal Practice
PILON	Pacific Islands Law Officers Network
PR	Public Relations
PSO	Public Solicitors Office
R	<i>Regina</i>
RAMSI	Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands
RSIPF	Royal Solomon Islands Police Force
SIFIU	Solomon Islands' Financial Intelligence Unit
SGBV/WG	Sexual and Gender Based Violence Working Group
SIG	Solomon Islands Government
SIJP	Solomon Islands Justices Program
SILRC	Solomon Islands Law Reform Commission
UN	United Nations
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNPRAP	United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-corruption Project
WOA	Warrants of Arrest

Foreword



Just on the eve of Year 2018, I launched the Annual Report 2016. By international standards, it was indeed very late to report on our journey in 2016, as matters that could have been addressed in the following year were not made known until the twelfth day of the twelfth month, Year 2017.

As an illustration of our commitment to change and improve on our output, our story of Year 2017 must be told early. This is our story of Year 2017.

Year 2017 was heralded in as a crucial time for the office to push for a more concerted effort towards achieving our goals. All that were to be measured by the Key Indicators. These were well outlined in our Annual Work Plan!

In early December, just as officers were preparing to celebrate the end of a challenging but successful year, a sad chapter of our history as an office came to the fore: Our beloved Elizabeth Tito K, sadly passed away after suffering from breast cancer for some time. Ms Tito was being earmarked to head the ODPP Auki Branch on a permanent basis, after undergoing management and leadership training at the Head Office in Honiara. The staff and I, together with our families, grieved the loss of a young, dedicated and loyal officer.

Our vision to raise the standard of the office as those of our counterparts in the IAP culminated in the engagement, for 2 months, a senior prosecutor from Canada, under the IAP Prosecutor Exchange Program (PEP). He is John Lester. His time with us is highly commendable.

Year 2017 marked the end of an era, which now goes into legacy. For 14 years, the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) filled our airwaves, every page of the print media, as well as the subject of almost all our daily conversations. RAMSI came well, did well and left well.

Looking forward to Year 2018

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Bei Talasasa Jr.', written in a cursive style.

Mr. Ronald Bei Talasasa Jr.
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

1. FUNCTIONS

The core functions of the Office of the Director of the Director of Public Prosecutions are the functions articulated in section 91 (4) of the Constitution. They comprise the powers given to the Director, and include the power to institute and conduct, to terminate and to take over criminal proceedings.

There are additional ancillary functions that flow from these core responsibilities. They are Prosecution for “*stretim pipol lo ples*”, and sector strengthening and reform. The meaning of the second and third appears to be plain and require little explanation. The first broadly deals with community prosecution, the application of traditional law in a rural communal situation, community outreach and crime prevention. It embraces the broad concept of access to justice.

To manage this wide range of functions, the office is divided into three branches: the executive management, prosecution service and the corporate service.

1. CORPORATE SERVICES	2. PROSECUTIONS FOR <i>STRETIM PIPOL LO PLES</i>
Service Delivery to Core Functional Areas Management & Administration of Office Finance Planning Reporting Human Resource IT Statistics Communications & Information Systems Library Registry Maintenance & Property Transport & Logistics PR, Marketing & Media	(Mediation & Crime Prevention Platform) Community Prosecution Decentralisation Traditional Law Outreach Mediation Awareness Crime Prevention Sports Mediation
3. PROSECUTIONS SERVICES	4. SECTOR STRENGTHENING
Management Case Management Prosecution Services Rendering Legal Opinions	Law Reform Provincial Prosecution Centres Strengthening Gender Equity Capacity Building Change Management

2. STRATEGIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

ODPP Vision

A safe and just Solomon Islands supported by a constitutionally independent public prosecution service under the rule of law.

ODPP Mission

Delivering an independent, fair and effective prosecution service.

ODPP Values

Independence: *We act only according to the law of the Solomon Islands and in the public interest, without regard to inappropriate influences.*

Accountability: *We are responsible for and report on our actions decisions and performance.*

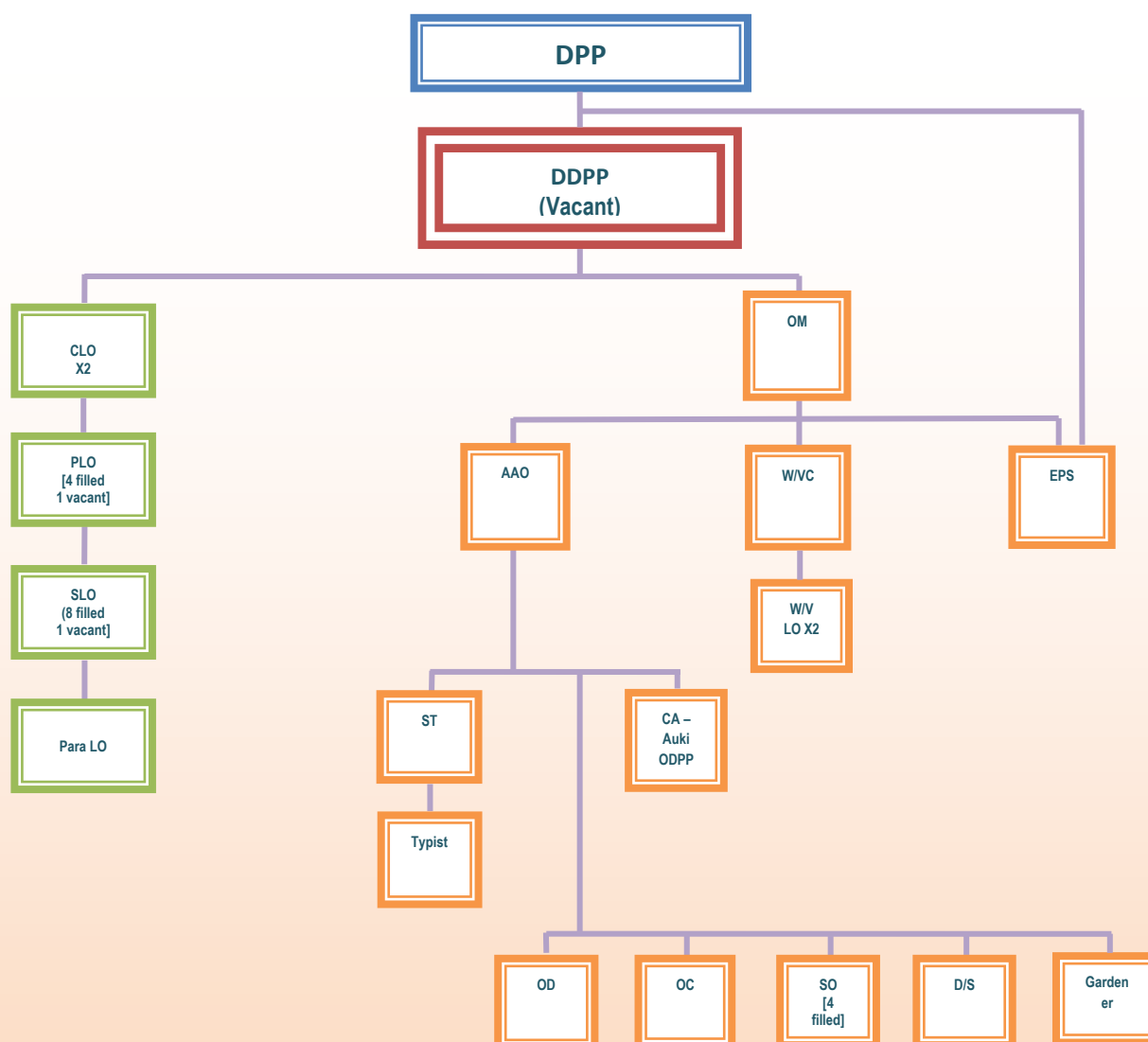
Respect: *We understand and value our diverse community and strive to meet its needs.*

Ethical and with Integrity: *We are fair to all, honest in all aspects of our work, always act in the best interest of justice, maintain confidentiality and practice our values in every aspect of our service.*

Efficiency: *We will build, making use of resources, high quality work practices and case management to meet deadlines, preparation and case completion requirements.*

3. ODPP ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE 2017

The ODPP Organisational Structure shows the staffing in various Units within the Organisation as at the end of December 2017.



Abbreviations:

DPP	Director of Public Prosecutions
DDPP	Deputy Director Public Prosecutions
CLO	Chief Legal Officer
PLO	Principal Legal Officer
SLO	Senior Legal Officer
EPS	Executive Personal Secretary
OM	Office Manager
AAO	Assistant Administration Officer

ST	Senior Typist
Para LO	Paralegal Officer
OC	Office Cleaner
SO	Security Officer
OD	Office Driver
DS	Domestic Servant
WVC	Witness/Victim Coordinator
W/V LO	Witness/Victim Logistic Officer
CA	Clerical Assistant

4. ODPP STAFF IN 2017

In 2017 the Office of the Director Public Prosecutions had a total of 38 staff.

4.1 Professional staffs

Ms. Florence Joel, Chief Legal Officer
Mr. Andrew Edgar Kelesi, Chief Legal Officer
The Late Mrs. Elizabeth Tito, Senior Legal Officer
Mrs. Margaret Suifa'asia, Principal Legal Officer
Mrs. Sirepu Ngava Ramosaea, Principle Legal Officer
Mr. Bradley Dalipanda, Senior Legal Officer
Ms. Olivia Ratu, Senior Legal Officer
Mr. Ishmael Kekou, Senior Legal Officer
Mr. Jasper Anisi, Senior Legal Officer
Ms. Elma Rizzu, Senior Legal Officer
Ms. Freliz Fakarii, Senior Legal Officer
John Wesley Zoze, Senior Legal Officer
Rajah Patrick Abe, Senior Legal Officer



Mr. Andrew Edgar Kelesi
Chief Legal Officer



Mr. John Wesley Zoze
Senior Legal Officer



Mr. Rajah Patrick Abe
Senior Legal Officer



Mrs. Elizabeth Tito
Senior Legal Officer



Ms. Freliz Fakarii
Senior Legal Officer



Mr. Jasper Anisi
Senior Legal Officer

4.2 Technical Advisors

This year 2017 the ODPP are grateful for the appointment of Advisors/Prosecutions mentors to be part of the Agency.



Mrs. Rachel Olutimayin
Prosecution Adviser



Mr. John Leslie
IAP - Advisor



Mr. Mark Brennan
AVI



Mr. John Ekegren
AVI



Ms. Molly Elliot
AVI

4.3 ODPP Unit Coordinators

Since 2008 the office appoints coordinators for specific areas of responsibilities. The practice allows for effectiveness, efficiency and therefore productivity gains, and perhaps importantly acknowledges managerial qualities possessed by certain officers and gives those officers a sense of recognition. Coordinators are appointed to look after the Magistrates Court, High Court and Court of Appeal, Anti –Corruption, Money Laundering and Proceeds of Crime, Family and Sexual Assault, Warrant and Advice, Tension Matters, General crimes and Cooperate Service/support unit. All unit coordinators are required to produce monthly activity reports and present them at monthly staff meetings. They may also be required to brief the DPP or Senior Management Team about any or a collection of matters.



Ms. Florence Joel
High Court/COA



Mr. Mark Brennan
Warrant and Advice Coordinator



Mrs. Olivia Ratu
Magistrate Court/Court Circuits



Mrs. Margaret Adifaka Suifa'asia
FASO



Mr. Bradley Dalipanda
Tension



Ms. Elma Rizzu
Anti-Corruption



Mrs. Sirepu Ngava Ramosaea
ODPP/Auki



Mr. Ishmael Kekou
ODPP/Gizo



Mrs. Mary Alasia
OM- Admin Corporate Services

4.4 ODPP Administration Staffs

There are 7 hardworking female staffs undertaking administration roles and responsibilities. All are stationed in the ODPP Headquarter in Honiara.



The Corporate Services ladies with their Friday wear. Left from right: Ms. Hellen Bennett, Ms. Margaret Buga, Mrs. Mary Alasia, Ms. Trish Waiwori, Ms. Daisy Sade, Ms. Evalyn Toliliu and Ms. Monica Tevio.

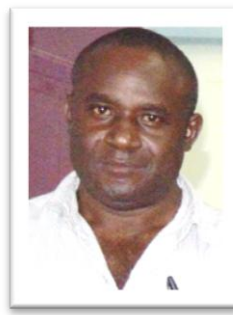
The 7 hardworking male staffs supporting the administration roles and responsibilities stationed in the ODPPP headquarter in Honiara.



Mr. Wilson Junior
Walekwate
Paralegal Officer



Mr. Benedict Kinika
Witness Coordinator



Mr. Spyros Koga
Witness Logistics Officer



Mr. Felix Ray
Office Driver



Mr. Celestine Ganioufa
Security Officer



Mr. Thomas Abisia
Security Officer



Mr. Alex Griffson
Security Officer

4.4.1 Legal Establishment

The Legal Establishment comprises of: -

- The Director with 14 prosecutors.
- 1 Adviser, Mrs. Rachel Olutimayin, adviser with the Solomon Islands Justice Program (SIJP) funded by Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT),
- 1 short term volunteer Adviser – Mr. John Lester, a Canadian, who came through a special arrangement between the Director and the International Prosecutors Association. He served in the ODPP for 2 months.
- 3 Prosecutions Mentors from Australian Volunteer International (AVI) – Mr. Mark Brennan was posted to our Honiara Office in June. Mr. John Ekegren joined the office on 3rd October and was posted at ODPP/Auki while Ms. Molly Elliot was posted to ODPP/Gizo at the end of October.
- 2 local volunteers – Ms. Geitaba and Ms. Belapitu, who continued on after their attachment during their Professional Diploma in Legal Practice Program.

4.4.2 Corporate Unit

The Corporate Unit comprise of: -

There was 16 administrative support or corporate services staff headed by the Office Manager, Mrs. Mary Alasia. This Team includes all admin staff, two witness/victim logistics officers who are funded by Australia Aid, and a number of non-established staff -security guards, driver, office cleaner and the Director's domestic servants.

The position of Deputy Director which was left vacant in 2014 remains vacant still. Vacant position of Senior Legal Officer was advertised, candidates were interviewed, and a recommendation was made to the Ministry. The recommended candidate has not been appointed by the Public service commission after several months of the recommendation.

4.4.3 Provincial Postings

For the first time an Administration officer was posted to ODPP Malaita province in Auki. Mr. Stephen Gu'urau was posted to Auki/ODPP to assist Resident Prosecutor Mrs. Sirepu Ramosaea to man the Auki Office.

Western Province Resident Prosecutor Mr. Andrew Kelesi who had responsibility for Gizo office for 4 years was recalled back to Honiara in late March. He was replaced by Mr. Ishmael Kekou who took up the post in July.

The DPP's office is always mindful of the need to fill vacant positions quickly or risk losing them at the end of the year; as such efforts were made to fill vacant positions. It has continually been difficult to fill vacant senior positions in ODPP. This may not be unrelated to the unattractive salary package offered to lawyers by Solomon Islands Government and the heavy workload carried by Prosecutors.

4.5.4 Tribute to late Mrs. Elizabeth Tito

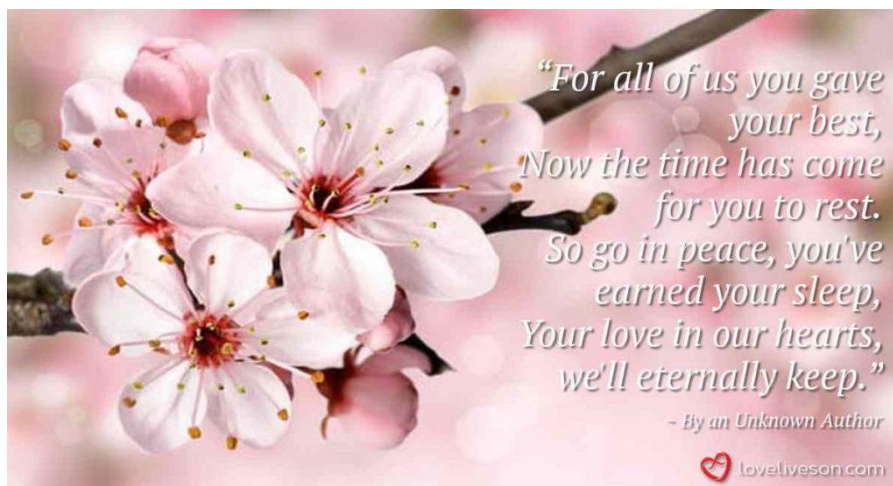


The Late Mrs. Elizabeth Tito

In the night of 2 December 2017 all members of the ODPP family went to bed with heavy heart and tears in our eyes. Our beloved colleague, friend, wife, mother of three children and team player the late Mrs. Elizabeth Tito was snatched away by the steel cold hands of death. The following days after the 2 of December were very difficult days as we struggled to come to terms with the stark reality that Eli would never be part of this family again. It was indeed a difficult time for us. All shed tears openly and profusely as we bade fare well to Eli at the Henderson Domestic Airport. Ms. Tito joined the ODPP in October 2016 as Senior Legal Officer. She was called to rest on the 2 of December and was laid to rest at her home in Malu'u village, Malaita where she desired and requested to be laid to rest.



Figure 1 ODPP staff carrying colleague's casket.



5. REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

5.1 2017 in Pictures



Figure 2 The Group from the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs attended morning devotion with the Prime Minister and his staff at the Cabinet Conference room.



Figure 3 At the Launching of the ODPP 2016 Annual Report with PS/MJLA, DFAT Representatives and Canadian IAP Short Term Volunteer Adviser.



Figure 4 the Director of Public Prosecutions and staff who took part in the Queens Baton 2017.

5.2 Witnesses and Logistics

Trials commenced in the Magistrates and High Courts throughout Solomon Islands in February 2017. The Courts were active till December. There was an increase in the number of witnesses mobilized for trials in Honiara, Gizo, Auki and other provinces. This is due to the increase in the number of High Court judges presiding over criminal matters, the posting of resident Magistrates to the provinces and the inclusion of newly appointment Chief Magistrate, Madam Emma Garo to the number of Magistrates towards the end of the year.

ODPP once again publicly acknowledge the continuous support of the RSIPF in attending to investigations, locating witnesses, serving summons and providing logistical support across the provinces to the remotest parts of Solomon Islands.

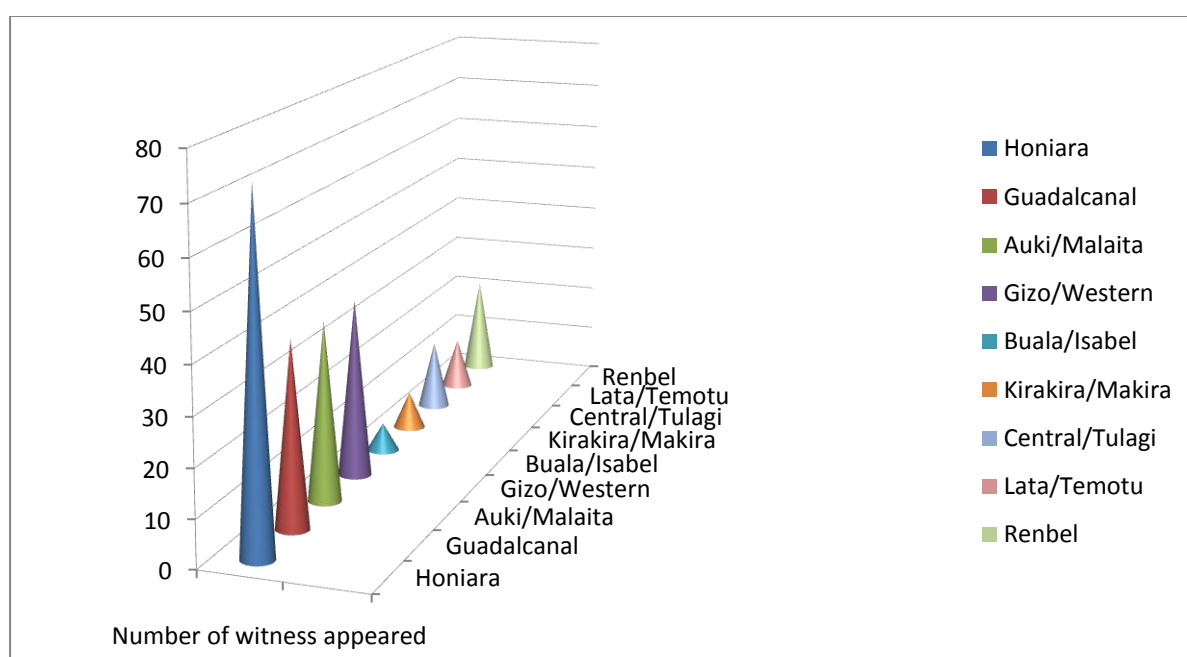
The office faced many challenges ranging from decrease in the number of prosecutors, increased workload, lack of resources, reduced budget, insufficient transport and others. For the third year the office business relies on only one vehicle to run daily errands, mail runs, filing documents in court, looking for witnesses, transport Prosecutors and witnesses to and from court and other things. This often slowed down the business of the office and impacted negatively on court appearances. Although the office bided for a new vehicle in the previous years, the bid was turned down by SIG each time.

Despite those challenges the witnesses support team provided excellent services throughout the year.

Our hard working Witness Support Team and the corporate services Team worked tirelessly liaising with the Police to ensure that deadlines are met and witnesses are organized in a timely manner. On the whole 2017 was a year of good success and several outputs.

Table 1 shows the Witness movement and attendance

Number of Witnesses travelling from various provinces to attend court in other provinces.	Number of Witnesses that attended Magistrates courts for trial and LFPI in 2017
Honiara	73
Auki/Malaita	38
Gizo/Western	38
Buala/Isabel	6
Kirakira/Makira	8
Central/Russel/Tulagi	15
Lata/Temotu	11
Guadalcanal	39
Renbel	21
Total	249



Bar Chart 5 showing the no. of witnesses appeared in Provincial Centres and Honiara

5.3 General Crimes Unit

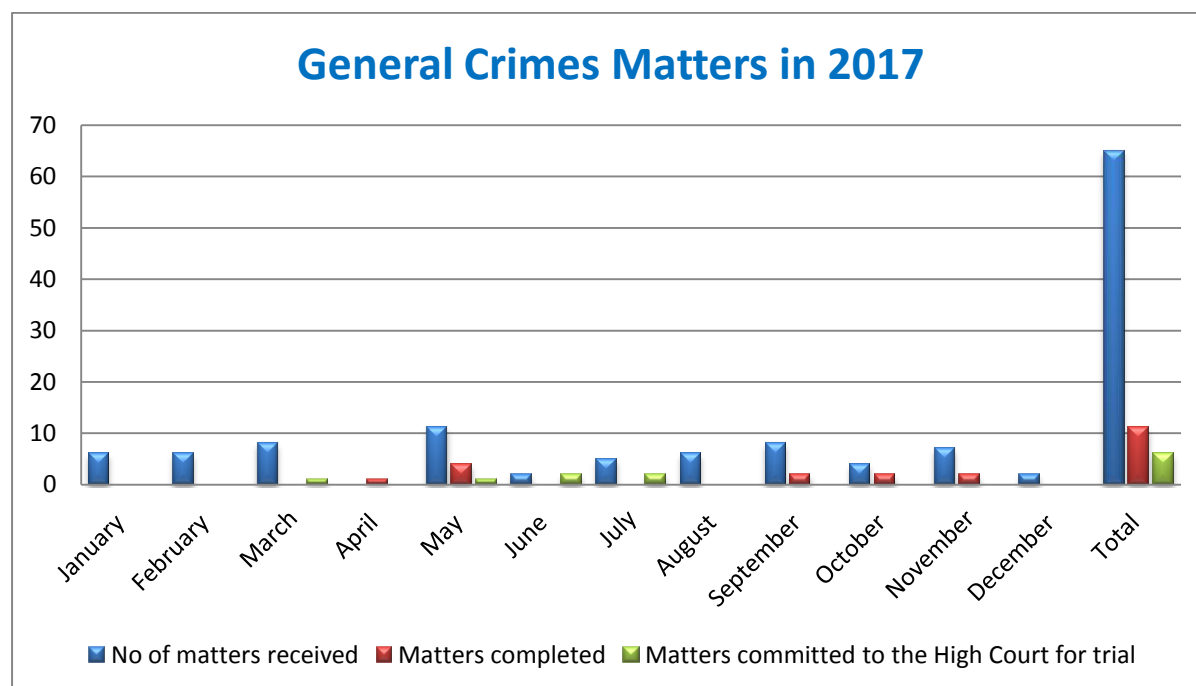
The General Crimes unit coordinates all matters except sexual offences, corruption related offences, transnational crime and tension matters. The unit is coordinated by a Principle Legal Officer who is supported by a Senior Legal Officer. The unit has responsibility for effective management and prosecutions of general crimes, monitors and reports on incoming and outgoing general matters and provides monthly reports to the Director of Public Prosecutions monthly on the status and progress of general crimes. The unit reports the progress of general crimes to the Director of the Public Prosecutions every month or whenever called upon to provide update on any or a collection of matters.

5.3.1 Summary of matters received, matters committed to high court and matters completed at the Magistrates Court in 2017

There were 65 new matters received in 2017. 11 of those matters were completed by way of trial, or guilty pleas or withdrawal. 4 matters were completed by way of trial, 4 by way of guilty plea, 2 were withdrawn for lack of sufficient evidence, and 6 matters were committed at the High Court for trial.

Table 2 showing the progress of General Crimes Matters

Month	No. of Matters Received	Matters completed				Matters committed to the High Court for Trial
		Total	Trial	Guilty pleas	Withdrawals	
January	6	0				0
February	6	0				0
March	8	0				1
April	0	1	1			0
May	11	4	1	2	1	1
June	2	1			1	2
July	5	0				2
August	6	0				0
September	8	2	1	1		0
October	4					0
November	7	2	1	1		0
December	2	0				0
Grand Total	65	11				6



Bar Chart 6 showing the progress of General Crimes Matters in 2017.

The table shows the progress of matters in 2017. As depicted in the table, there was an increase in the number of cases received; however there was a decrease in the number of matters completed. There are a number of reasons for the decrease in the number of matters completed, ranging from lack of finance, reduced number of Prosecutors and Public Solicitors, logistical

problems, accused and witnesses disobedience to summons to appear in court and so on. 11 matters were completed in 2017 as compared to 12 cases completed in 2016.

5.3.2 General Crimes Matters in 2017

There was an increase in the number of general crimes reported in 2017. An average of 4 new cases was received each month. Statistics show that there is a rise in general crimes being committed in the remote areas around the country. Statistics also show that there is a significant rise in Arson cases and offences against the person (Murder, Grievous harm and assault causing bodily harm) especially in rural areas. It is pertinent to investigate why serious offences are committed more in the rural areas than in urban areas.

Statistics also show that there is an increase in the number of juveniles involved with the law. More offences of serious nature are being committed by young people. The situation calls for more awareness campaigns for juveniles and young people on how to keep out of trouble with the law, such campaigns are to be mounted in rural areas where criminal offences are prevalent.

5.3.3 Developments

The appointment of a new Chief Magistrate after the exit of Advisor Chief Magistrate is a positive move in the right direction. Her addition to the Magistracy is a good sign for the country. She has shown clearly that matters have to progress to conclusion as quickly as possible and unnecessary adjournments will not be entertained by the Magistrates Courts. She is committed to reducing the delay of matters and unnecessary adjournments at the Magistrates Courts and has set guidelines to ensure that matters are dealt with as quickly as possible. The Chief Magistrate's commitment to dealing with cases efficiently and speedily has challenged lawyers on both sides of the bar to be more proactive in ensuring speedy disposal of matters. It is anticipated that this change will lead to increased disposal rate of cases in 2018.

From August to October 2017 ODPP received 3 Prosecutions Mentors (Australian Volunteers) from Australian Volunteers International. One volunteer is based in each of the 3 ODPP offices and provide support to Prosecutors in the office. They mentor younger Prosecutors in advice work, court matters and general office management. They have been of immense help to the 3 offices and Prosecutors by taking some of the workload from Prosecutors who are overloaded with court work. They provide assistance to Prosecutors in court, research work and conduct in-house trainings for Prosecutors. The provision of volunteers to ODPP is of great advantage and should be maintained.

5.4 Magistrates Court

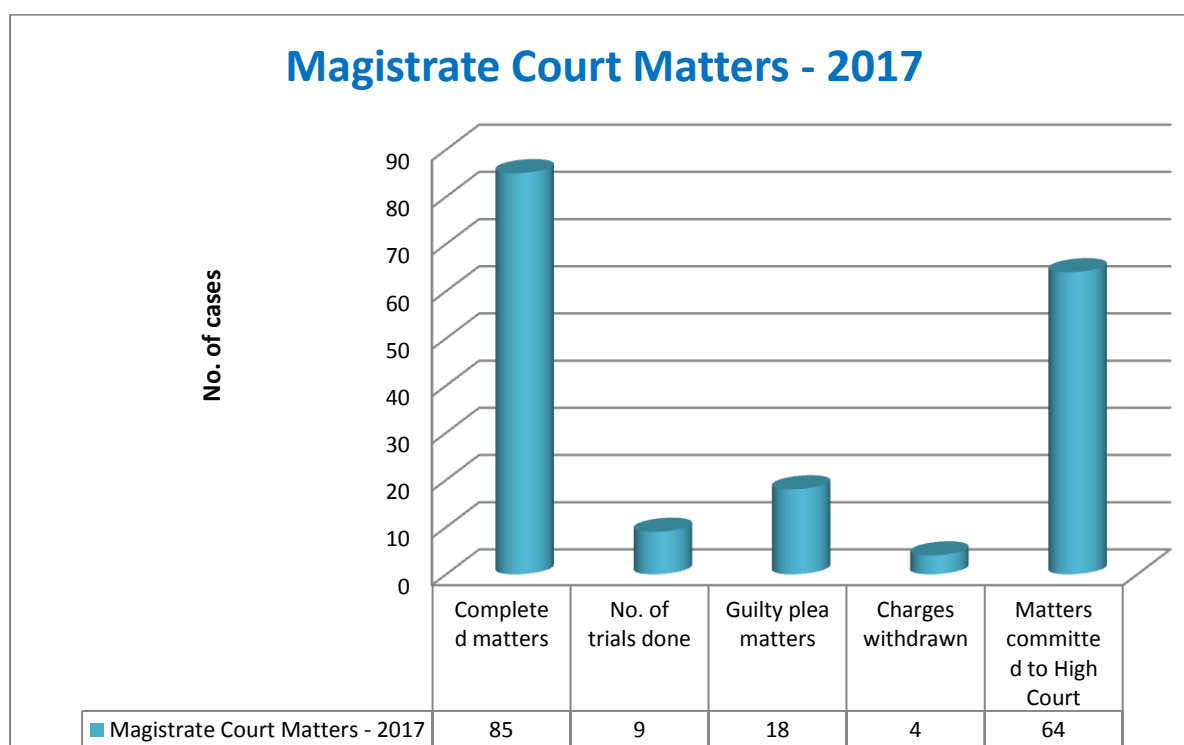
The Magistrates Courts is on the second level in the hierarchy of courts in Solomon Islands. The importance of that court made the ODPP devote a unit to it. It is the court of first instances for all criminal cases in SI. Every criminal offence (serious or not serious) is first charged to the Magistrates courts. It is a court of summary jurisdiction for all offences that are not serious and it is the committing court (to the high court) for all serious offences.

The unit is established to ensure effective coordination and speedy disposal of cases in the Magistrates courts. The unit works in conjunction with the Magistrates' Courts Registry, the Public Solicitors Office and some private practitioners. The unit looks after cases in Honiara and all provinces. Magistrates' courts circuits are convened in all the provinces on scheduled dates/weeks throughout the year.

Crime is on the rise in Solomon Islands as in other countries around the globe. There is a need for effective and speedy disposal of cases so that the system does not become clogged.

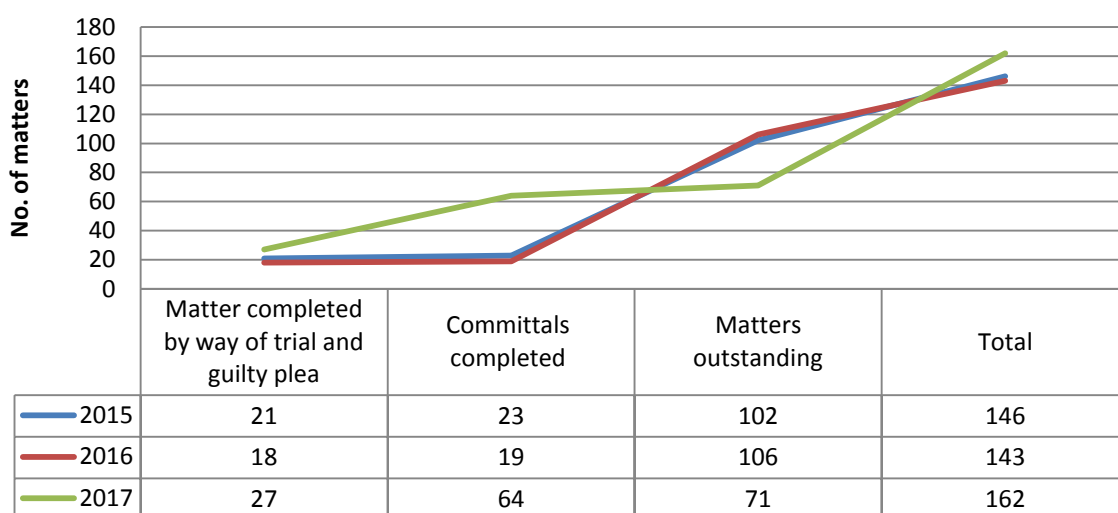
Despite the challenges faced, more cases were disposed of in 2017 than in 2016. 2017 was a very busy and tasking year for Prosecutors for various reasons including fewer Prosecutors in 2017 than there were in 2016, extremely tight budgets, inadequate transport for office use, incomplete Police investigations in several cases, inability of accused persons to obtain legal representation from the Public Solicitor's Office, inadequate number of Magistrates and court rooms, and others. Every player in the Magistrates court is overloaded with work as a result of inadequate staffing. Despite those challenges the Central Magistrates Court kept its doors open and Magistrates presided over cases daily, morning and afternoon. Magistrates insisted on progressing matters before them, they discouraged adjournments and stretched Prosecutors and Public Solicitors to their limits. This stance enabled more cases to be disposed of in 2017 than in 2016.

The following figures show the number of cases disposed and how they were disposed by ODPP in 2017



Bar Chart 7 showing the number of cases disposed and how they were disposed.

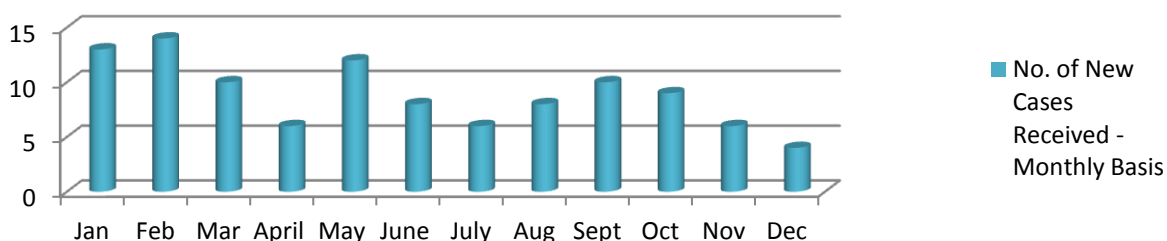
Magistrate's Court Comparative Data - 2015 - 2017



Line Graph 8 showing the disposal rates from 2015 to 2017

Line Graph 10 shows a gradual and significant increased disposal rate of matters from 2015 to 2017. The graph also shows that the number of outstanding matters was much higher in 2015-2016 than it was in 2017. The number of outstanding matters every year includes new files received from the Police in those years. Without the new files, the number of outstanding matters would be far lower than they are every year.

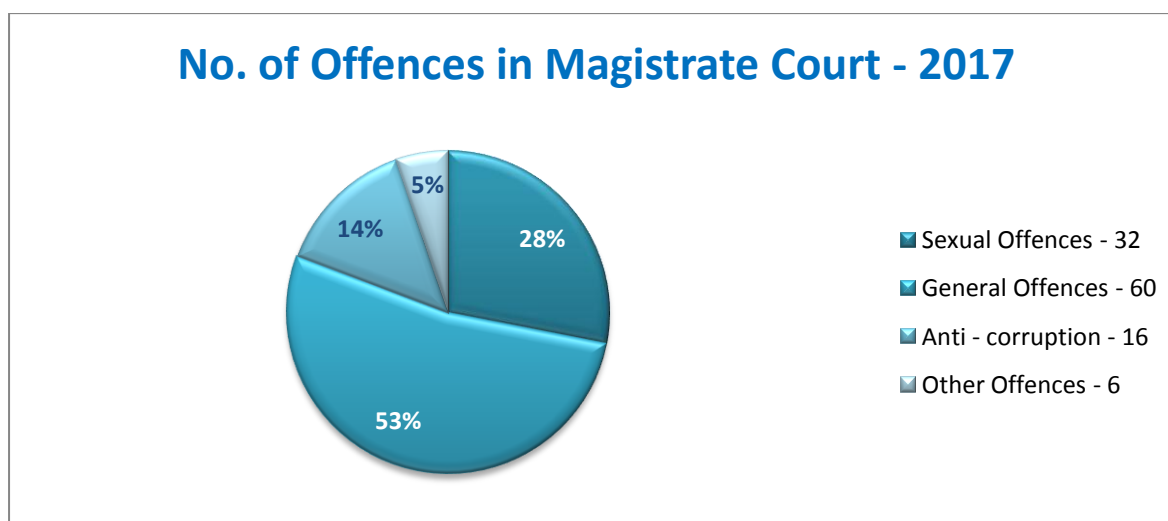
No. of New Cases Received - Monthly Basis



Bar Chart 9 showing the number of files received by ODPP every month

There were 106 new cases received by ODPP in 2017. When new cases are received, registered in JIMS, allocated to Prosecutors and charges are filed in court they are classified as ACTIVE CASES. Most of the new matters are active court matters. A few of them are Advice matters while 1 or 2 may be Death Inquiry matters. Received matters are classified further into the type of offences

that are committed. Offences are categorized into three main categories-general sexual and anti-corruption offences.



Pie Chart 10 shows the category and percentage of cases in each category in the Central Magistrates Court.

In 2017 there were about 106 new and active cases in the Magistrate Courts. The matters are divided into sexual, general and corruption offences. Sexual offences include rape, indecent assault, buggery and defilement. General Offences include matters that generally endanger life and property, like murder, arson, grievous assault, intimidation and others. Corruption matters are crimes that involve leaders, inappropriate use of official powers, money and questionable financial transactions. There are matters that are classified as Tension matters, these are offences committed by militants and their followers during the ethnic tension period.

The statistics for 2017 show that there were more general crimes committed in 2017 followed by sexual crimes and anti- corruption crimes. 45 of the 106 matters were committed to the High Court for trial and 71 of them are brought forward to 2018.

5.5 Provincial Court Circuits

As usual in 2017, the Central Magistrates court organized Provincial circuit to the Central and Eastern Districts where there are no resident Magistrates. There were circuits to Lata, Tulagi, Yandina, Marau, Buala and Renbel. ODPP Prosecutors attended circuits to Lata and Buala. ODPP Prosecutors did not attend circuits to other centres because the serious offences emanating from those centres were forwarded to the Central Magistrates courts in Honiara. A number of cases were disposed of during those circuits to Lata and Buala.

5.5.1 Details of cases in Buala and Lata

Table 3 shows that the number of cases disposed of in Lata and Buala are low. This was due to reduced budget as a result of which only one circuit was conveyed in each Centre in 2017. The circuits were for two weeks only. Police Prosecutions and ODPP cases were heard.

Table 3 showing the no. of cases in Lata and Buala, no. of new cases, disposal rate and outstanding cases

Location	No. Of case brought forward to 2017	No. of Case completed in 2017	New Cases	Outstanding cases.
Lata	5	3	7	9
Buala	12	5	6	7

5.5.2 Kirakira Monthly Visit

Apart from circuits to Lata and Buala, ODDP conducted monthly one week visits to Kirakira Magistrates Court because there is a Resident Magistrate and PSO office in Kirakira, while ODDP has no office there. It was necessary for a Prosecutor to attend Kirakira every month to conduct ODPP cases in Kirakira Magistrates Court. Visits were made from March to October. There was no visit in other months as a result of reduced SIG budgets.

5.5.3 Kirakira case disposal



Bar Chart 11 showing case disposals in Kirakira, Makira/Ullawa Province

There were 17 outstanding cases were brought forward to 2017. 12 new cases were added to the list. Two cases were completed by way of trial and another two by way of guilty plea. Five matters were committed to the High Court, one case was withdrawn due to insufficiency of evidence and two cases were withdrawn due to the demise of the accused persons. 12 matters were disposed of. There are 17 outstanding cases. There is need for an ODPP officer to be based in Kirakira since there is a resident Magistrate and a Public Solicitor are based there.

5.6 High Court

The High court of Solomon Islands commenced hearing of criminal cases after the opening of the legal year on 16 January 2017.

There were 3 criminal courts were established for 2017. Towards the end of 2016 the Case Listing Committee had listed cases for the first half of 2017 for the 3 criminal courts. At least 2 matters

(principal trial) and 2 matters (reserve trial) are listed for each court every month of the year. In most months each of the 3 courts heard 3-4 cases. In the event that the principal trial does not proceed for some reason the reserve trial should proceed in its place. In June 2017, the Case listing Committee met again to list cases for the second half of the year for the 3 criminal courts.

In 2017 ODPP Honiara, received 47 new cases from RSIPF and other Investigating authorities. Those cases included homicide, fraud, sexual offences, maritime offences, Immigration offences, environmental offences and others. 3 of those cases were completed the same year. Auki and Gizo ODPP also received new files from RSIPF.

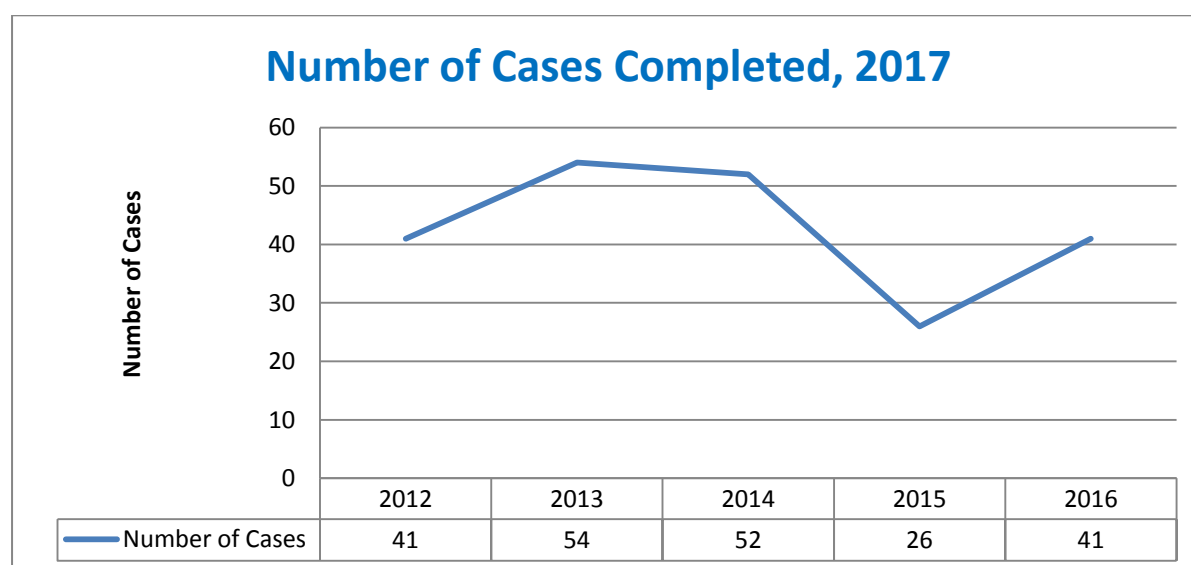
There were 15 matters completed in ODPP Honiara, 6 were completed in ODPP Auki and 4 were completed in Gizo.

Of about 30 cases that were listed for trial in Honiara, Auki, Gizo, Lata and Kirakira high courts, 15 of them were completed. Other cases were vacated for a number of reasons ranging from no defence counsels available to represent the accused, no judge available to preside over some cases prosecution witnesses were not available and cancellation of court circuits.

High Court circuits were scheduled for different provinces every month. Provinces covered by High Court circuits in 2017 are Reef (Lata), Western (Gizo), Malaita (Auki) and (Makira) Kirakira. The Court, the Prosecutors and Defence travelled to the Provinces to conduct court circuits.

In 2017 the DPP's office did not have a full complement of legal staff. The shortage of experienced Prosecutors continued. This impacted greatly negatively on the few senior Prosecutors who were often in back to back trials and had little time to recover from one trial and to prepare for another one.

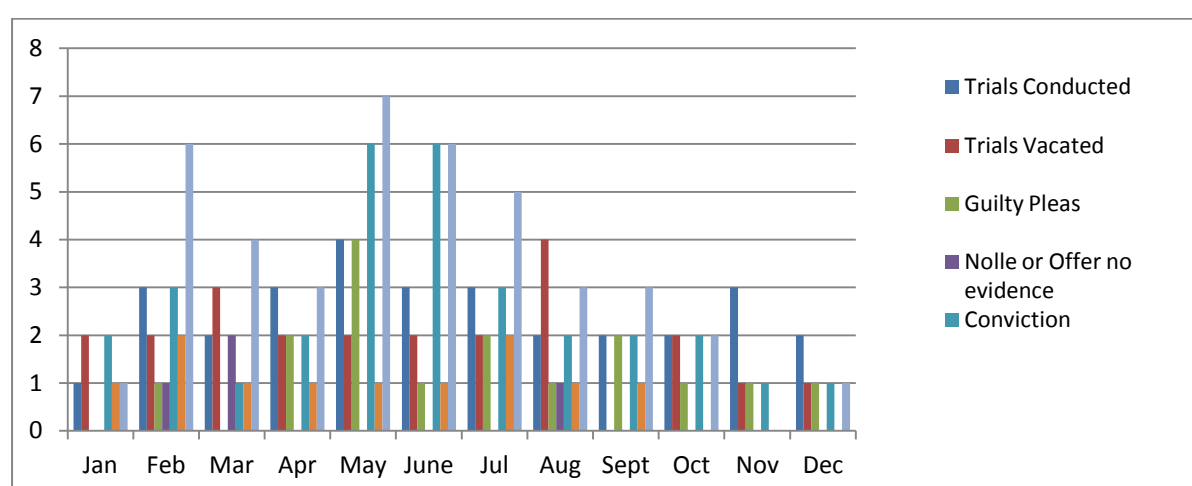
There was a decrease in the number of cases completed in 2017 over those that were completed in 2012 to 2016.



Line Graph 12 showing the annual comparison of number of cases completed from 2012 to 2017

Table 4 showing the number of cases completed each month

Month	No. of Trials Conducted	No. of Trials vacated	Guilty pleas	Nolle or Offer no evidence	No. of Conviction	No. of Acquittals	No. of matters Completed
Jan	1	2	0	0	2	1	1
Feb	3	2	1	1	3	2	6
March	2	3	0	2	1	1	4
April	3	2	2	0	2	1	3
May	4	2	4	0	6	1	7
June	3	2	1	0	6	1	6
July	3	2	2	0	3	2	5
August	2	4	1	1	2	1	3
September	2	0	2	0	2	1	3
October	2	2	1	0	2	0	2
November	3	1	1	0	1	0	0
December	2	1	1	0	1	0	1
Total							41



Bar Chart 13 showing the breakdown of cases each month

5.7 Court of Appeal

The Court of Appeal of Solomon Islands convenes twice every year in the months of April and October to hear appeals from the High Court. In the hierarchy of courts, the court of appeal is the highest court in Solomon Islands and its decision is final. In the criminal justice system, appeals against decisions of Magistrates are heard by the High Court and appeals against decisions of High Court judges are taken up to the court of appeal.

There were two Court of Appeal sittings in Solomon Islands during 2017.

The first Court of Appeal sitting was held between April and May. Three judges of appeal including the president presided over all the civil and criminal matters that were appealed to that court. Criminal matters were heard in the first week and civil matters were heard in the second week. All judgements were delivered on the last day of the sessions.

The second Court of Appeal sitting was held in October. The same judges of appeal presided over all the matters. Criminal matters were heard in the first week and civil matters were heard in the second week. All judgements were delivered on the last day of the sessions.

The DPP is always a party in all criminal appeals, either as the appellant or the Respondent.

There were 2 Criminal matters were heard in the April session and 6 matters were heard in the October sessions.

It is significant to report that all the cases except one were argued by local Prosecutors including the DPP. Adviser support was provided in researching, preparation of written submissions and preparation for oral arguments.

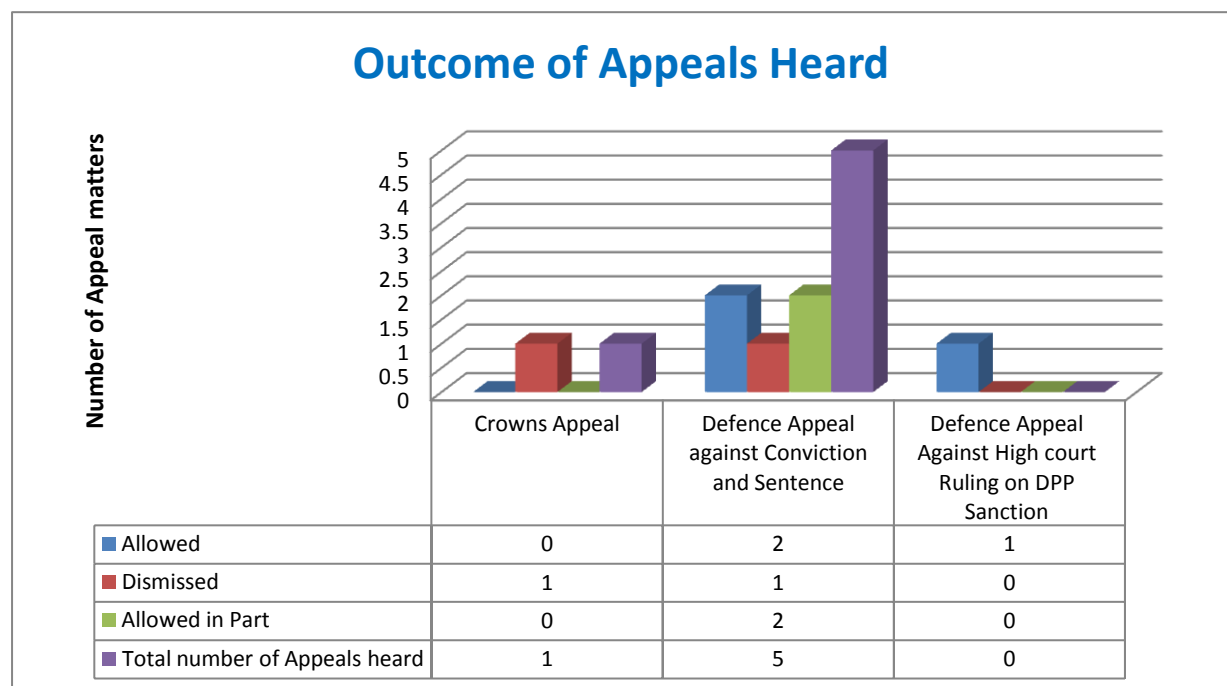
Table 5 shows the COA cases in 2017.

Session	No. of cases	Appeal Type	Offence	Outcome	Sentence
April	1	Sentence	Murder	Successful for the Appellant	Sentence of 10 years was reduced to 6 years because offender was a juvenile at the time of offending.
April	1	Sentence	Rape, ACABH and IA	Unsuccessful for appellant	Sentence of 6 years was confirmed.
October	1	Sentence	Armed Robbery and GBH	Unsuccessful for appellant	14 and 10 years imprisonment to run concurrently.
October	1	Conviction	Rape/Defilement	Successful for appellant	Conviction for defilement quashed.
October	1	Sentence	Rape/Indecent Assault	Successful for appellant	Sentence of 12 years imposed.
October	1	Conviction		Successful for appellant	Matter sent back to Magistrates court for trial to continue.
October	1	Conviction	Murder	Unsuccessful for appellant	Conviction upheld. 18 years non-parole period of imprisonment.
October	1	Sentence	Murder	Successful	Sentence of 8 years non-parole period increased to 18 years non-parole period.

There were 5 appeals against sentence and 3 appeals against conviction. There were 3 Crown appeals and 5 appeals by the defence. 2 Crown appeals were against sentence and one was against acquittal. 3 defence appeals were against sentence and 2 were against conviction. 2 Crown appeals were successful, one was unsuccessful. 3 defence appeals were successful and 2 were unsuccessful.

It is significant that there are no backlogs of cases in the court of appeal. Appeals are filed promptly by parties and the court insists on prompt hearing of cases. Cases are not adjourned except in very rare cases where adjournments are necessary in the interest of justice.

The ODPP through an appeals committee will be more proactive in analysing judgments of Magistrates and high courts with a view to lodging appeals where necessary.



Bar Chart 14 shows the outcomes of cases in the COA

5.8 Sexual Offence (FASO) Unit

The Family and Sexual Offences Unit (FASO) were established in 2012 by the initiative of the Director of Public Prosecution to better monitor sexual offences and gender based violence. The Unit is coordinated by a Principal Legal Officer and supported by a Senior Legal Officer. The Coordinators report to the Director on a monthly basis on the receipt of new sexual offence matters and progress of cases in the Courts. The collation of data on sexual offences like other general offences has improved since the introduction and implementation of the Justice Information Management System (JIMS). JIMS has enhanced storing of information and facilitates easier and credible compilation of data for our use as well as required information from stakeholders.

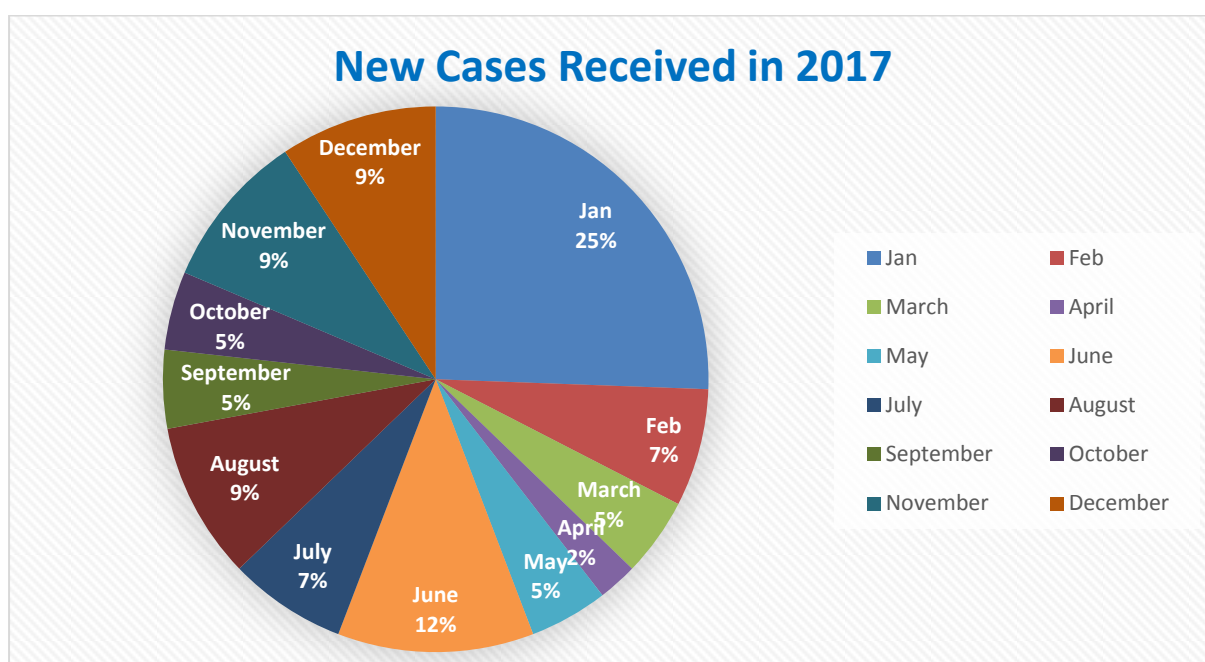
In 2017 a total of two hundred and forty one (241) cases were prosecuted by our office including provincial cases. Hundred and sixty six (166) cases were active throughout the year and Seventy five (75) cases were closed. Closed matters reflect complete cases.

5.8.1 Number of new cases received in 2017

Table 6 illustrates the number of sexual offence cases received in 2017. There were forty three (43) new cases.

Table 6 showing the no. of new cases received per month

Months	Number of Cases
January	11
February	3
March	2
April	1
May	2
June	5
July	3
August	4
September	2
October	2
November	4
December	4
Total	43



Pie Chart 15 showing the % of new cases received

Pie Chart (Figure 16) depicts the trend of sexual offence cases received by the ODPP over the twelve (12) months period in 2017.

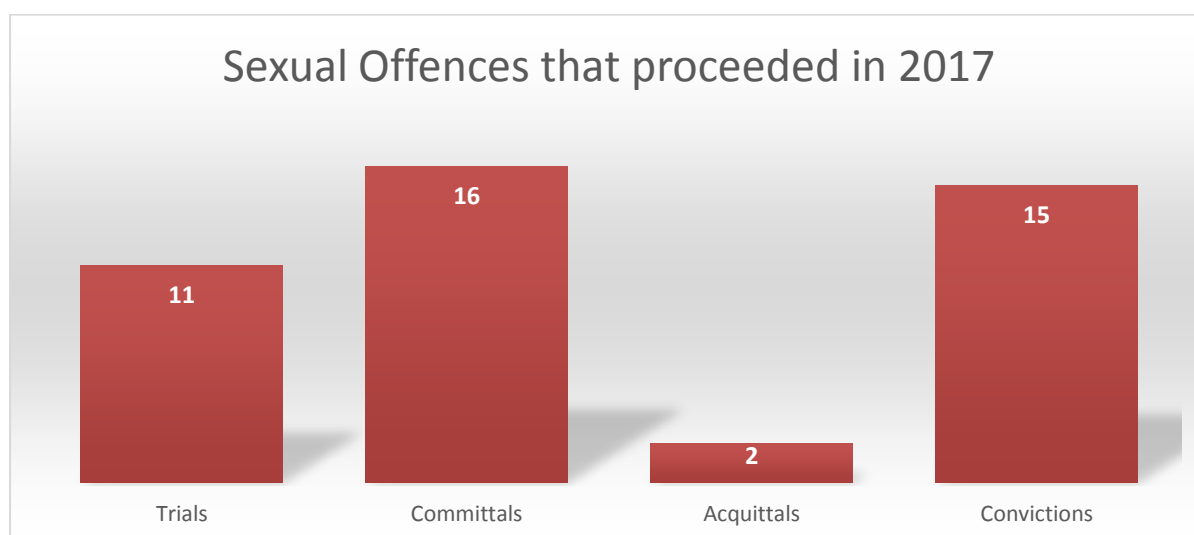
5.8.2 Sexual Offence cases progress in 2017

Table 7 shows the Sexual Offences progress in 2017.

Trials		Committals	Acquittals	Conviction	
High Court	Magistrate's Court	16	2	Not Guilty Pleas	Guilty Pleas
7	4			7	8

Table 7 and Bar Chart 17 illustrates that a total of eleven (11) matters proceeded through trial following Not Guilty Pleas; Seven (7) in the High Court and four (4) in the Magistrate's Court. A trial involves the prosecution calling witnesses to testify in Court. The accused will have an opportunity to challenge the prosecution witnesses and may opt to give evidence under oath, remain silent or give unsworn evidence. Seven (7) matters resulted in convictions and Two (2) cases resulted in acquittals.

Sixteen (16) matters were committed from the Magistrate's Court to the High Court for trial. This includes provincial matters. Two (2) out of the sixteen matters were committed for sentencing. Serious sexual offence cases are committed to the High Court for trial once the Magistrate is satisfied that there is sufficient evidence against the accused. These are mostly sexual assault cases with the maximum penalty of 15 years to life imprisonment. Eight (8) matters were resolved through Guilty Pleas. This means that the accused admitted committing the offence charged against him. The court will impose an appropriate sentence taking into account the defendant's plea of guilty and allowing him some discount on the punishment for saving the Court's time and saving the Complainant from relieving the painful experience of the offending against her.



Bar Chart 16 showing the Sexual Offences that proceeded in 2017.

5.9 The Anti-Corruption, Money Laundering and Proceeds of Crime Unit (ACMLPC)

ACMLPC Unit was established to ensure effective coordination and speedy disposal of Corruption, Money Laundering and other fraud related cases.

Table 8 showing the Total No. of Files (Court cases & Advice files) in 2017

Cases	No. of files	Completed	Outstanding
Active files	16	3	13
Advice files	5	5	0
Total	21	8	13

The Unit received Corruption and fraud-related files regularly from the RSIPF and other agencies throughout the year, some files are for legal advice while others are for prosecutions. All files pending legal advice or Prosecutions are termed “active matters”.

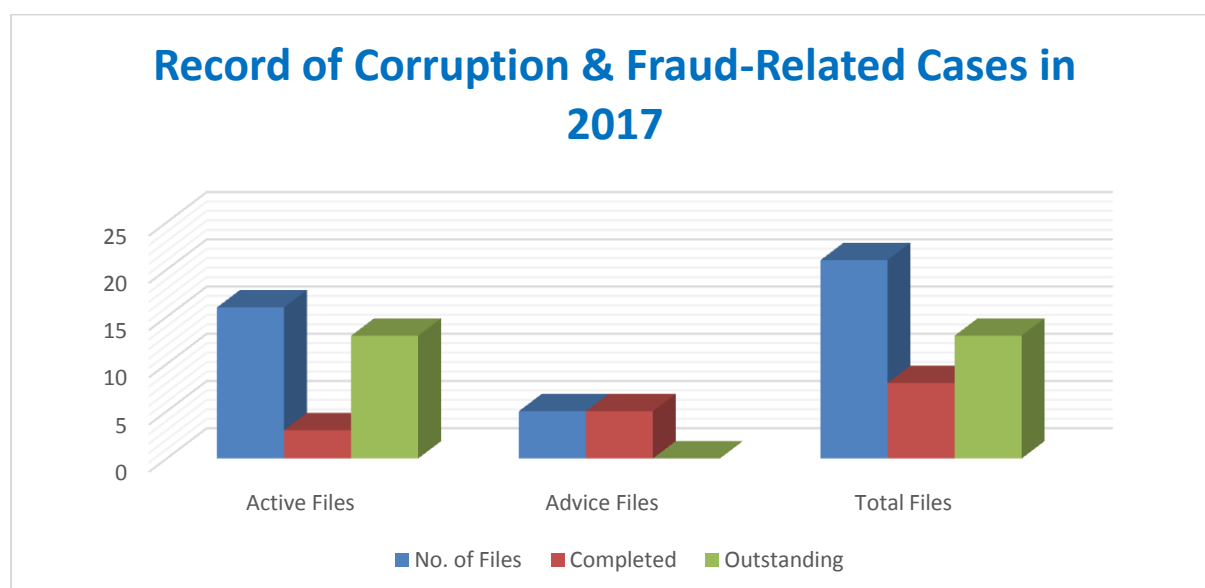
The battle against corruption is a never ending battle, our records show that corruption related offences are on the rise from year to year.

The ODPP through ACMLPC continues the fight against corruption with the input of stakeholders who share the same mission and passion to fight corruption, money-laundering, proceeds of crime and other fraud-related offences.

The Unit regularly follows-up with RSIPF on case by case basis. This is to ensure that no case is left unattended for longer time than is acceptable. The Unit also meets with stakeholders regularly to share information and deliberate on matters of joint interest.

The Unit diligently observes and follows national discussions on matters that concern corruption, money laundering and fraud related cases. In 2017 the Unit closely observed the withdrawal of the Anti-Corruption Bill 2016 from the Business Paper on the floor of Parliament. That was the second time the Bill was withdrawn. ODPP is working with other stakeholders to educate people about the Bill and why Solomon Islands must pass an Anti-Corruption Bill soon.

The table below shows active advice and prosecution files held in our office in 2017. It covers matters that were completed by way of guilty plea and matters in which legal advice were given to RSIPF and other agencies.



Bar Chart 17 showing the Record of Corruption and Fraud-related Cases

The Bar Chart 18 shows a slight improvement in the number of cases disposed in 2017. The Unit registered 21 cases of corruption and fraud-related matters in 2017. 16 of which are active court cases while the remaining 5 cases are advice matters from RSIPF requesting advice on high profile corruption cases. 3 out of the 16 active matters have been completed by way of guilty plea. All 5 advice matters were completed within the year. 13 matters are carried over to 2018.

The Unit is short staffed and sometimes unable to meet deadlines for advice matters and court directions. Furthermore fraud and corruption cases are often complex because offenders are becoming more advanced in their criminal activities. More time is required to shift through, understand, render advice or prepare fraud cases than for other types of offences. More experienced and trained Prosecutors are required to work in the Unit so that the Unit can be more effective.

An ongoing hand on training is essential to equip Prosecutors with the required skills for the job.

During the year Prosecutors in the Unit had the opportunity to attend local and international trainings, workshops and conferences on money laundering and proceeds of crime, corruption and fraud related matters. The ODPP also participated in national and international events on corruption and financial crimes.

5.10 Tension Trials matters

Five Ethnic Tension (ET) cases were carried over to 2017 from December 2016. One ET Matter was completed in 2017 by way of trial. One ET matter was committed to the High Court in 2017.¹ Two of the outstanding cases have outstanding Warrant of Arrest (WOA) against the offenders. By December 2017, there were 4 outstanding matters before the High Court awaiting trial dates.

The ODPP continues to strive to improve procedures and case management systems within the office to enable us keep track of cases and ensure that they are listed for hearing as quickly as possible. However a number of difficulties appear on the way to date.

One of the major problems faced in the timely disposal of cases is the inadequate number



Figure 18 the DPP and some of his staff at the March to mark the 2017 Anti-Corruption Day.

¹ R v Bonafes ERA and Ors.

of judicial officers, defense counsel and Prosecutors. This accounted for part of the reason why only one ET matter was listed for trial and disposed of in 2017.²

Development Partners have been very generous and helpful in assisting us in the timely disposal of Tension cases in the past, we are grateful to them. Their help consisted of provision of logistics and technical advisers. As a result of such help we were able to effectively prosecute and complete a number of Tension cases in previous years.

A major change occurred in 2017-RAMSI's leaving Solomon Islands. This may impact negatively on logistics, mobilization of witnesses from the weather coast, execution of WOA and conduct of further investigations in some cases. That is not to say that the RSIPF cannot do the work but, RSIPF relied on RAMSI for provision of resources and funding for logistics, further investigations to reach remote places in the weather coast where many of the offences occurred.

Another problem faced in the quick disposition of Tension cases is inability to mobilize witnesses. Because the offences were committed over 12-15 years ago, a good number of witnesses have relocated and cannot be located. A number of tension cases were delisted because witnesses could not be located. One particular case is listed for Permanent stay of criminal proceedings due to inordinate delay in prosecuting the charges.³ This application will be heard in 2018.

Lack of communication with Police in remote places, where there are no communication equipment, proper roads and transportation contributes to inability to bring witnesses to court. In the remote Police Posts, Police officers find it difficult to mobilize witnesses for trial. They need long notices of trial dates so that they can arrange 'make do transports' to mobilize witnesses. Sometimes they have to walk hours to get to witnesses' locations only to find out that the witness/es no longer reside there. When they are given short notices of trial dates it is almost impossible for them to mobilize witnesses for trial.

A continuing challenge for the office in prosecuting Tension cases is the lack of experienced local prosecutors to prosecute such cases. Presently, the Director; a Chief Legal officer and an advisor are the only three who have experience in prosecuting complex ET matters. Those who were trained in the past have left the office for better employments.

An ongoing difficulty is recruiting and developing suitable local capacity and ensuring continuity of staff in ODPP.

The constraints identified in this report should be given considerable and priority attention. If they are not addressed quickly it will be difficult to progress the balance of ET cases.

Efforts are being made by all stakeholders to ensure that some Tension cases are listed for trial and heard in 2018. However, unless the underlying issues highlighted above are adequately addressed, the cases may not be disposed of in coming years.

² R v Edmond Sae

³ R v Carradine Pitakaka CRC 556 of 2004.

The Office receives requests from investigative bodies and other stakeholders for legal advice. They are received by the Office as Advice Files. The Office has an Advice Policy that prescribes the timeframe within which written advices are to be completed and submitted to the Director. The Moratorium is two to four weeks, depending on the complexity of the case.

In 2017, the Office received a larger number of Advice Files than previous years – 10 more new files in total. The Office also had 10 Advice Files carried forward from 2016. We are happy to report that a total of 15 advices were completed and dispatched to stakeholders in 2017. This is a significant number given the increase in new files and the number of files carried forward from previous years.

5.11 Advice matters

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5.12 Gizo Provincial Office - WESTERN PROVINCE

The Gizo ODPP is responsible for prosecuting crimes in the Western and Choiseul Provinces. The office is managed by only one (1) staff member, meaning that the Prosecutor who manages the office is not only conducting their prosecutorial duties, but also undertaking all of the administrative roles associated with running the office, with some limited assistance from the Honiara administrative team. From time to time senior prosecutors from Honiara, including the DPP, will travel to Gizo to assist in the running of major trials. This assistance demonstrates the cohesive nature of the ODPP across its offices in Honiara, Auki and Gizo.

2017 was a year of change for the ODPP in Gizo with resident Prosecutor Chief Legal Officer, Mr Andrew Kelesi transferring back to Honiara in April 2017 after running the office since 31 August, 2013. Senior Legal Officer, Mr Ishmael Kekou, took up the post at Gizo from July 2017 and has enjoyed his first six (6) months in Gizo and is looking forward to the challenges ahead.

Despite this change, the office continued to perform its duties and a summary of its work is detailed below.

5.12.1 Active cases between January and April 2017

At the beginning of 2017 there were eighteen (18) existing DPP files, including seven (7) matters that were transferred to the DPP office at the conclusion of 2016.

As there was a resident Principal Magistrate during this time there were ongoing mentions before the Magistrates' Court, including the committal of matters to the High Court. There was a High Court circuit to Gizo from 6 to 10 March 2017.

On 31 March 2017 outgoing resident Prosecutor conducted trainings for police officers and Police Prosecutors.

5.12.2 Active cases between July and December 2017

As at December 2017 there were 39 active cases for the ODPP in Gizo. This comprised of both High Court and Magistrates' Court matters. The number of matters disposed of between July and December 2017 was seven (7). This included three (3) High Court matters; two (2) Magistrates' Court; and two (2) files returned to Police for prosecution.

5.12.3 Police Training

From 15 to 17 August 2017 Technical Advisor to the ODPP was assisting the resident Prosecutor at the Gizo office and, during her time here, conducted training at the Gizo Police Station for local officers. The topics covered included sexual offences, investigations, conducting records of interview, preparing witness statements, preparing briefs, and elements of offences.

In mid-November the resident Prosecutor conducted training with officers from Noro and Munda at the Noro Police Station relating to the *Penal Code (Amendment) (Sexual Offences) Act 2016*.

There were no new advice matters from the Police between July and December 2017, however the Gizo ODPP provided ongoing support to Police Investigators and Prosecutors by providing oral advices about matters and the conduct of investigations as and when issues arose.

5.12.4 Court Circuits

Between July and November 2017 there was a resident Principal Magistrate based in Gizo. Circuits were conducted at Noro and Munda in September and November of 2017. Unfortunately, due to the unavailability of defence counsels, no substantive progress was made on matters during these circuits.

The resident Principal Magistrate left Gizo as at December 2017 it is expected that a Principal Magistrate will be appointed permanently to Gizo in 2018. Therefore, it is likely that Magistrates' courts circuits will be set up for Western Province in 2018 whereby a Principal Magistrate will travel from Honiara to hear matters in Gizo and other centres (including Munda, Noro, Seghe, Ringi, Taro, Wagina, Mono, Kuletanai, Harapa, Potitete).

The lack of a permanent Principal Magistrate will have an impact on the provision of justice services in the Western Province. The ODPP in Gizo intends to work collaboratively with the Courts and Public Solicitors Office to make the most of the circuits and to keep matters progressing in a timely manner.

5.12.5 Magistrates' Court Users' Meeting

To address concerns about the administration of justice in the Western Province the new Chief Magistrate, Emma Garo, convened a stakeholders' meeting at the request of the ODPP Gizo when she attended Gizo in December 2017. The meeting was held at the Western Magistrates'

Court on 4 December 2017 and provided an open forum to discuss issues specific to the Western Province. Some of the important outcomes of that meeting included:

- confirmation that the Magistrates' Court would hold a general call-over of all current active files in early 2018;
- that if the Magistrates' Court is unable to appoint a resident Principal Magistrate to Gizo in 2018 it will arrange a circuit to Gizo for one week every month;
- a reminder about the legal requirements for charge sheets and ensuring that the Form 6 is filed on every file (new and existing); and
- that regular stakeholders' meeting should be conducted with the Magistrates' Court.

The meeting provided a great opportunity to consider the issues being faced by relevant stakeholders in the Western Province and to encourage the Court and ODPP to work collaboratively to ensure the provision of justice services in the Western Province. Stakeholders who attended the meeting included Court Registry staff, a Police Prosecutor and a Police Investigator. Unfortunately there was no representative from the Public Solicitors Office due to unavailability of staff.

5.12.6 Moving Forward

The Gizo ODPP faced a number of challenges in 2017, but it will continue to strive to overcome these in 2018. The departure of the resident Principal Magistrate and the unavailability of other stakeholders at certain times, such as the Public Solicitors' Office (due to limited staff and funding issues) create challenges with respect to the effective management of cases.

It is imperative that the ODPP continue to ensure that there is always a Prosecutor in Gizo even during periods of leave. The very limited human resources across the ODPP, Public Solicitors' Office and Court in Gizo mean that an absence of one person can have significant impact on the progression of cases. This issue requires adequate funding to ensure that the wheels of justice continue to turn.



Figure 19 Gizo ODDP mentor Ms. Molly Elliot being welcomed by the resident Prosecutor Mr. Kekou, Director, Mr. Talasasa together with AVI SI Coordinator Ms. Camari Bainivalu.

In November 2017 the ODPP Gizo welcomed Australian Volunteer, Molly Elliott, who will be based with the office for a period of 12 months. During this time, the primary goals will be to progress and dispose of matters, whilst also developing office and file management procedures to ensure the efficient running of the Gizo office.

Moving forward into 2018, the ODPP at Gizo is excited to continue striving towards the organisation's mission of delivering an independent, fair and effective prosecution service to the communities in the Western and Choiseul Provinces.

5.13 Auki Provincial Office – MALAITA PROVINCE

2017 was a successful year for the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions in Auki. The Auki Team consist of three staffs.



Mrs. Sirepu Ngava Ramosaea
Principal Legal Officer



Mr. John Ekegren
AVI



Mr. Stephen Dexter Gurau
Clerical Clerk

The office is manned by a Principal Legal Officer, who took up residence in Auki in February 2017, a clerk who was transferred from the Head office in Honiara to ODPP Auki in April 2017, and Mr. John Ekegren, from the Australian Volunteers International, who joined the office in Auki in October 2017. Mr. Ekegren will be with the ODPP Auki for 12 months as a Prosecutions Mentor.

5.13.1 Magistrates Court

A resident Principal Magistrate is based in Auki, however no trial matters were conducted in that Court throughout 2017, the matters disposed of were committal matters.

5.13.2 High Court

There were 4 High Court Circuits in Auki in 2017.

In April, two plea matters were completed. One offender pleaded guilty to killing an unborn child and was sentenced to 3 years imprisonment, the second offender pleaded guilty to acts intended to cause grievous harm and was sentenced to 5 years imprisonment.

In July, two matters were completed. One was the trial of a murder case. The accused was acquitted on self-defence. The other matter was the hearing of an appeal wherein the Appellant appealed against the severity of the sentence of 2 years imprisonment imposed by the Magistrates Court for the offence of house breaking. The sentence of 2 years imprisonment was imposed on the basis he was at the time, a juvenile offender. The High court allowed the appeal, the sentence of 2 years imprisonment was set aside and replaced with a sentence of 6 months imprisonment.

In the last week of August to the first week of September, two part-heard matters which commenced in Auki in 2016 were completed. One offender was charged with manslaughter and the other was charged with rape. Both matters were adjourned to Honiara for judgement. Both accused persons were acquitted. A third matter (rape charge) commenced during the same circuit and adjourned for continuation of trial in Honiara. Trial was completed in Honiara and now awaiting judgment.

In the last week of November to 1st December, two plea matters were completed. One offender was charged with unlawful wounding and was sentenced to 2 years imprisonment and the other offender charged with manslaughter was sentenced to 4 years imprisonment.

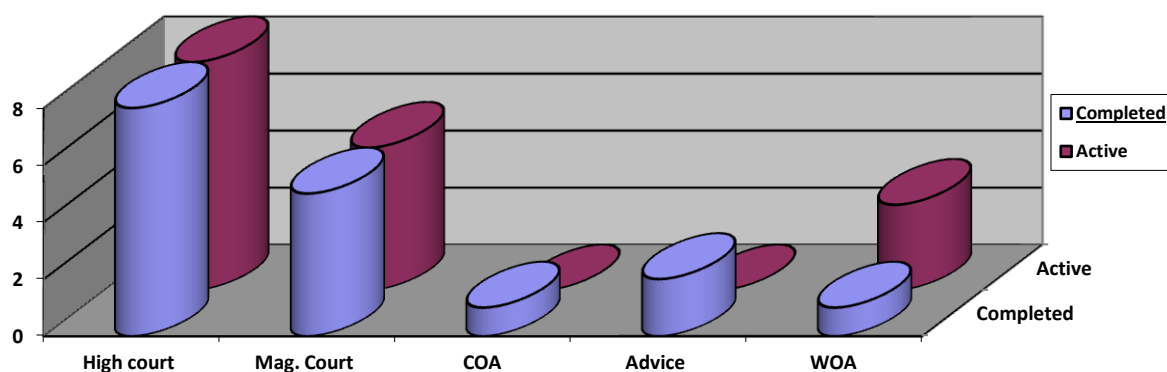
5.13.3 Malaita Magistrates Court Circuits

Due to budgetary limitations there were no Malaita Magistrates Court Circuits this year. However on the 14th November 2017, the new Chief Magistrate attended Auki to discuss proposed circuits for 2018. In 2018 the Magistrates Court will sit in three locations in Malaita Province, Malu'u, Atori and Afio. It is hoped that there will be other Magistrates Court sittings to follow throughout the year.

5.13.4 Summary of cases in ODPP Auki 2017

Table 9 showing the Magistrates and High Court matters

	Active (to date)	Completed in 2017	Total for 2017
MAGISTRATE	5	5	10
HIGH COURT	8	8	16
COURT OF APPEAL	-	1	1
ADVICE	-	2	2
WOA	3	1	4
Total	16 still active	17 completed	



Bar Chart 20 showing the No. of High Court, Magistrates Court, Court of Appeal, Advice and Warrant of Arrests Matters completed and active

The active files column shows the number of active cases we have as at the last day of December 2017. There are 5 active cases in the Magistrates Court. There is a plea matter, where submissions have been completed and awaiting sentence. 5 cases were completed in the Magistrates Court- 4 committal matters and 1 plea matter where the offender was sentenced to 2 years imprisonment.

There are 8 active cases in the High Court. Most of which are already set for trial in 2018. In regards to completed matters, 9 matters were completed. 1 matter is awaiting judgment, 4

matters were disposed of by way of guilty pleas, 3 matters resulted in acquittals after trial and one appeal from the Magistrates Court was finalized.

One Auki matter went on appeal to the Court of Appeal, the Prisoner was convicted of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment. He appealed against conviction; the Court of Appeal disallowed the appeal and confirmed the conviction for murder and the sentence of life imprisonment.

In relation to Advice matters, we received only two advice matters this year, both of which have been completed and the advice sent back to the Auki Police.

As for warrant matters, with the assistance of the Police, a warrant dating back to 2011, for the arrest of one offender was successfully executed in May and the offender was committed to the High Court in July. His case is set for trial sometime in 2018.

5.14 TRAININGS

5.14.1 Continuing Legal Education (CLE)

Continuing Legal Education (CLE) is one of the most important activities in ODPP. It is an activity that is compulsory for all staff. It is conducted once a week or fortnightly if Prosecutors are busy in court. It is an internal training arrangement organized by the office for the staff, its purpose is to train staff to sharpen their advocacy skills and increase their knowledge of substantive law, practice and office administration. It includes trainings on Criminal law and Evidence, Immigration Law, Marine Law, Environmental Law, health and other areas of work. It affords Staff the convenient opportunity of internal regular training to sharpen their legal and administrative skills. Issues encountered in court are also raised for discussions and collaborative learning at the weekly CLE sessions.

In the beginning of the year a Training Calendar is drawn up by the Training Coordinator. The calendar contains topics that will be taught at CLE sessions. The topics are suggested by all staff. The topics usually relate to areas of law where staff requires training/knowledge. Facilitators are selected from among senior staff and advisors in the office. Sometimes facilitators are invited from outside the office and sometimes staffs of the office are invited to attend CLE organized by other agencies. Prosecutors often attend CLE at Police Prosecutions Directorate and Public Solicitors Office.

CLE also create the avenue for Prosecutors to learn from Prosecutors who attend international conferences and training.

A number of CLE sessions were conducted in 2017 although it was not as consistent and regular as in previous years. This is due to other commitments attended to by the Training Coordinator. Apart from attending and facilitating our in-house trainings, ODPP provides trainings to other agencies and organisation as requested. Some Prosecutors were visiting lecturers at the Professional Diploma in Legal Practice (PDLP) of the University of the South Pacific at the Solomon Islands Campus here in Honiara. Adviser Rachel Olutimayin, senior Prosecutors Florence Joel, Andrew Kelesi and Bradley Dalipanda were Guest Lecturers on the program. They facilitated sessions on Ethics and Professional Responsibility, Criminal Law and Advocacy.

The Director of Public Prosecutions Ronald Bei Talasasa was a Faculty at the Pacific Islands Law Officers Network Basic Litigation Skills course held in Samoa. The workshop was organized by

PILON in conjunction with NZ Crown Law Office. Participants on this course were drawn from all Pacific Island countries.

DPP Mr. Ronald Bei Talasasa and Mr. John Lester (Volunteer IAP Prosecutor from Canada) provided trainings at the Police Academy at Rove in October 2017 for the Criminal Investigation Officers of the Royal Solomon Islands Police.

Prosecutors who attended court circuits in the Provinces also provided trainings to Police Investigators and Police Prosecutors in the Provinces after court sessions. Table 10 below shows the 2017 CLE Time table and topics covered.

Table 10 CLE 2017 Topics and Facilitators

Topics	Facilitators	Dates
Presentation Skills	Elizabeth Tito & Daisy Sade	14 August
Good Governance and Ethics	Daisy Sade, Spyros Koga & Margaret Buga	22 September
Reflection on LLM course	George Gray	15 September
Customer Services	Wilson Wale & Evalyn Toliliu	5 October
Time Management	Rajah Abe, Spyros Koga & Benedict Kinika	20 October
Diarizing Your Activities and making effective use of your Diary	Rachel Olutimayin	5 October
APTC – Leadership & Management – Cert IV.	Mary Alasia & Sirepu Ngava Ramosaea	7 Sept & 22 November
How to Deal with Unfavourable Witnesses	Rachel Olutimayin	6 October
Examination in chief	Mark Brennan	30 November
Preparing Closing Argument and Using That to Structure Trial Preparation	John Lester	26 October
Parties to an Offence and the Special Considerations Generated by Multiple-Accused Cases	John Lester	2 November
Developing a Trial Plan	John Lester	9 November
Organizing and Creating a Trial Book	John Lester	20 November
Trial Strategy and Preparing the Opening Submissions	John Lester	29 November
Oral Advocacy Workshop	John Lester	7 December
Legal Writing	John Lester	7 December
Crown Role as Gatekeeper: Preventing Wrongful Convictions	John Lester	8 December

5.14.2 Trainings, Workshops and Conferences

Training is crucial for organizational development and success. Trainings are opportunities to expand the knowledge and skills of staff. Capacity development of staff is an important aspect in any work force.

Every year ODPP lawyers and corporate services team receive invitations to attend trainings, conferences or workshops in- country and internationally. Those trainings and workshop help to build the capacity of staff and improve the needed skills for the jobs we do. In particular International trainings provide opportunities for staff to learn best practice procedures from around the globe and build a network of collaborators.

In 2017 ODPP staff attended ten international trainings, workshops and conferences.

The highlight of the trainings was the ODPP Northern Territory, Australia twinning program which was attended by 2 senior Prosecutors. It was the second time this program was sponsored by DFAT. 2 senior Prosecutors attended a twinning program in the ODPP Northern Territory, Australia for one month. This is the second pair of senior Prosecutors that took part in the twinning program. This placement program exposed them to how the ODPP office in the Northern Territory of Australia operates professionally and administratively. They had the opportunity to observe court proceedings and advocacy in practice in a more developed jurisdiction.

An Intensive Skills Workshops was conducted for ODPP and PSO lawyers by the Victorian Bar held at Heritage Park Hotel from 22-26 May 2017. The 5 days training helped prosecutors and defense counsel to refresh and improve their advocacy skills. Participants were presented with certificates at the end of the course.

ODPP prosecutors and corporate services staff attended 14 local training and workshops in 2017. APTC and IPAM provided most of the trainings. Two senior Prosecutors went through APTC training on Leadership and Management. Another Prosecutor went through a Training and Assessment course. The trainings provide them with new skills in leadership, management, training and assessment.

The two tables below show the International and National trainings and workshops attended by the staff in the year 2017.

5.14.3 International Trainings, Workshops and Conferences

The International Trainings, Workshops and Conferences attended by ODPP staffs in 2017 are displayed below in Table 11.

Table 11 International Trainings, Workshops and Conferences, 2017

N o.	Course Title & Core program Objectives	Training Organizer	Venue, Date & Duration	Sponsor/Officer attended
1	3 rd Pacific Islands Law Officer's Network (PILON) Sexual and Gender Based Violence Working Group (SGBV/WG) Meeting	PILON	Apia, Samoa 3-6 May	Ronald Bei Talasasa (DPP)
2	United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-corruption Project: Training for Prosecutors and Investigators	UNODC	Nadi, Fiji 12-14 June	Bradley Dalipanda
3	NT ODPP Darwin Twinning Program	SIJP	Darwin, NT, Australia 27 th Feb – 7 th April	Margaret Suifa'asia & Sirepu Ramosaea
4	Australian Association of Crown Prosecutors Annual Conference	AACP	Tasmania, Australia 5 th – 7 th July	Ronald Bei Talasasa & Margaret Suifa'asia
5	Cyber-crime conference	PILON Secretariat	Tonga 22 nd -26 th May	Ronald Bei Talasasa & Olivia Ratu
6	APG/FATF TREIN Joint Typologies and Capacity Building Workshop	APG/FATF TREIN	Busan, South Korea 13 th – 16 th November	Elma Rizzu
7	Third Meeting of Asia-Pacific Law Enforcement Practitioner Network	OECD & Government of Korea	Seoul, South Korea 15 th – 17 th November	Florence Joel
8	Bali Process- Trafficking in persons	MFAET	Bali, Indonesia	Andrew Kelesi

			23 rd – 25 th May	
9	The Africa-Asia Pacific Symposium on Strengthening Legal Frameworks to Combat Wildlife Crime	Asia and the Pacific Office UN Environment	Bangkok, Thailand 4 th -5 th July	Sirepu Ramosaea
10	PILON Meeting	PILON SECRETARIAT	Marshall Islands	Ronald Bei Talasasa



Figure 21 ODPP Prosecutor, Olivia Ratu and Rodney Whitney from Police Prosecutions during AACP Conference



Figure 22 DPP during an overseas Meeting.

5.14.4 National Trainings, Workshops and Conferences

Table 12 Trainings, workshops and conferences attended in Solomon Islands

No.	Course Title & Core program Objectives	Training Organizer	Venue, Date & Duration	Sponsor/Officer attended
1.	Customer Care Service	Institute of Public Administration and Management (IPAM)	Sol-Plaza, Honiara 16-18 August	Evalyn Toliliu
2.	Victorian Bar Intensive Advocacy Skills Workshops	Victorian Bar/SIJP	Heritage Park Hotel , Honiara 22-26 May	All Prosecutors
3.	Budget Preparation and Financial Management	IPAM/SIG	Honiara 1-10 March	Bradley Dalipanda & Hellen Bennett
4.	Knowing Your Public Service	IPAM	Honiara 20-22 Feb & 6-9 March	Rajah Abe
5.	Implementing, Evaluating and Monitoring Anti-corruption Strategies, Reforms and Programs in the Solomon Islands	U4, Anti-corruption Resource Centre	Honiara 15-17 March	Patrick Rajah Abe
6.	Legal Policy Development Training	Solomon Islands Law Reform Commission (SILRC)	Honiara 8-9 May	Patrick Rajah Abe
7.	Time Management	IPAM	Honiara 15 August	Patrick Rajah Abe, Spyros Koga and Benedict Kinika
8.	Certificate IV Leadership and Management course	APTC	Honiara 6 Jan – 7 April (3 blocks)	Mary Alasia
9.	Certificate IV Leadership and Management course	APTC	Auki 10 July – 17	Sirepu Ramosaea

			November (3 blocks)	
10.	Certificate IV in Training and Assessment	APTC	Cema Building Honiara Jan – 1 May	Florence Joel
11	Legal Reasoning	Australian Government Solicitor (AGS)	Honiara 14-15 September	Ronald Bei Talasasa, Florence Joel, Andrew Kelesi, Freliz Fakarii and John Wesley Zoze
12.	Anti-Money LAUNDERING AND COUNTER Financing of Terrorism: Draft National Risk Assessment Report Workshop	Solomon Islands' Financial Intelligence Unit, Central Bank of Solomon Islands	SIFIU, CBSI Honiara 19 September	Elma Rizzu
13.	Plan Safer Cities Consultation Workshop	Plan Senior Policy & Advocacy Advisor) and Julianne Wickham (Plan Consultant)	SIBC, Honiara 4 April 2017	Freliz Fakarii
14.	Report Writing	IPAM	Honiara 4 September	Trish Waiwori, Daisy Tahisi, Hellen Bennett, William Walekwate

5 BUDGET INFORMATION

Each year the office deals directly with our Ministry (MJLA) Financial Controller (FC).

The Ministry account division see to our baseline proposal for the new financial year begins with submitting bids to our Min. HQ accounts section and forwarding to Ministry of Finance for their final approval.

This year we also request that our Standing Imprest to be increase especially for Witness Costs, still await approval from MoFT.

The office only bid for our human resource positions for x2 for Witness/Victim Liaison Officers post, will await approval from Ministry of Public Service together with MoFT. On the other hand no other bid was submitted as instructed by our FC and HRM due to the tight budget for next year.

We thank SIG for generously supporting the increase in court/witnesses costs enabled us to meet all financial obligations for all trials held in Honiara, and court circuits to various provincial centres.

2017 Budget was a very tight for the office to carry out all its annual work plans as some of the votes were conversely other operations suffered as we did not have the human and financial resources to carry them out. Our targets were not accomplished as a result of reduced human and financial resources.

Three matters are worthy of mention in this report; 'witnesses expenses vote' 'stationaries' including Computer/IT (toner/cartridge) costs and 'vehicles'. Witness expenses vote and stationaries are regularly replenished at the end of every month. The votes for these 2 are for

Honiara, Gizo and Auki offices. SIG is often confronted with situations where the regular method of paying for goods and services can be tiresome and an impediment to prompt and effective management. To avoid that situation, special payment systems are put in place. One such system is the use of imprest accounts. The office operated two imprest accounts each year, one was for witnesses and court costs and the other was the office standing imprest. The first was very useful as it supported the prompt and effective management of trial work in the provinces and Honiara. Witnesses could be catered for and trials proceeded as planned because funds were always available in the office imprest.

The continued shortage of vehicle to service the activities of ODPP in Honiara and the Provinces requires urgent attention by SIG. This year see to the purchase of a new vehicle by Ministry of Infrastructure for the Director after his old vehicle involved in an accident, this has been dealt with accordingly by the Ministry of Infrastructure and the courts. Now we are still using our 10 year old hilux.

As we look forward to 2018 we anticipate bids for a new vehicle and increased human and financial resources to carry out our constitutional mandate promptly, effectively and efficiently.

The ODPP is committed to fulfil its vision, mission, values and constitutional responsibilities the required resources must be readily available.