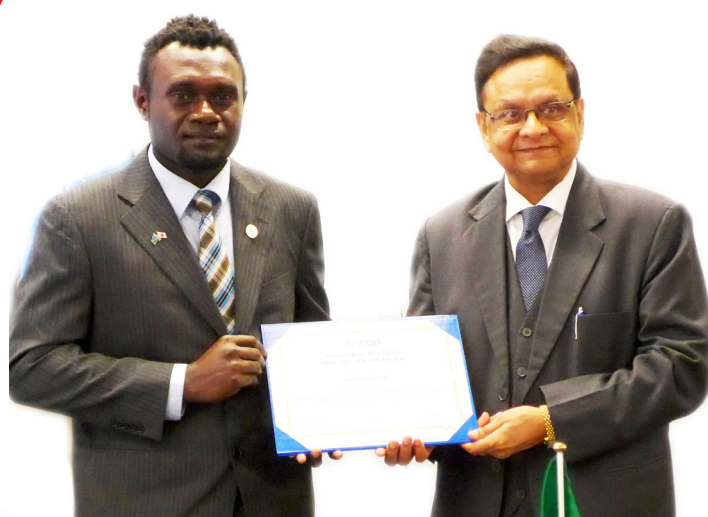


SINSO NEWS

Your monthly guide to the Solomon Islands National Statistics Office News, Information and Events • Issue 4 • January-February 2018



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Tako shares experience, achievement



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Government Statistician Douglas Kimi's welcome message to readers

On behalf of the Solomon Islands National Statistics Office (SINSO), I take this opportunity to welcome you to the fourth issue of our monthly E-newsletter. This is a wonderful opportunity for the SINSO to embrace this communication medium and to fully maximize its capacity to disseminate statistical news, stories and information to meet the needs of its readers. This is our 4th edition thus we're grateful that you're taking your time to read it.

As the central statistical agency of government, the SINSO through this newsletter will ensure that information is disseminated widely to inform the public of the activities and developments that are happening within the SINSO. In this issue, we share with you the Japan experience and achievements of one of our young statisticians (Josephat Tako), stories on the Government Statistician's participation in the Development Finance Assessment workshop held in Honiara, UNFPA dialogue with NSO on the 2019 census preparation, update on the current Village Resource Survey (VRS), NSO participation in the Managing Fishing revenue workshop in Marshall Islands, Honiara Consumer Price Index (CPI) for December, NSO Social Section refresher training and more with ac-

companying photos. Now that the internet is increasingly becoming a channel for disseminating news and information, SINSO is very glad that through this network (monthly newsletter), its readers can be better and easily informed online through this fact file on its active website. Feel free to read the bulletins inside this issue. For public interest, the issue is downloadable on our website: www.statistics.gov.sb The newsletter comes out at the end of every month. We hope to continue bringing in interesting articles, news and facts via this medium now and into the future. Please feel free to also forward this issue to your colleagues and friends and also feel free to get in touch with our media team for further information.

Kimi joins development finance assessment inception workshop



Government Statistician Douglas Kimi far right from the front row with officials that attended the development finance assessment (DFA) inception workshop held in Honiara on 8th February. Photo: UNDP/Sandra Barrows.

The Government Statistician Douglas Kimi has participated in a Development Finance Assessment (DFA) inception workshop held in Honiara on 8th February 2018. Held at the Mendana Hotel, the DFA exercise is intended to support the development of a Solomon Islands Integrated Finance Framework to help attain the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the effective implementation of the National Development Strategy 2016-2035 (NDS). It has been initiated by the Ministry of Development Planning and Aid Coordination (MDPAC) with the technical and financial support of

UNDP. The exercise will be guided by the NDS Implementation Oversight Committee. The assessment brings together stakeholders from across government, private sector, development partners and other key actors to analyse and find solutions for financing efforts towards the 2030 Agenda and NDS. Globally, development efforts are being financed through new resources that are alternatives to aid. Recognizing this reality, currently more than 15 countries around the world have been engaged in developing and strengthening integrated

approaches to mobilizing domestic and international, and public and private finance to support sustainable development. The inception workshop came at the end of a two-week research mission, following the scoping mission held in December 2017, that involved consultations with a wide group of government ministries, private sector representatives, development partners and civil society representatives including churches. Participants in the workshop discussed preliminary findings and recommendations such as the potential for a national strategy to attract investment in key industries as well as regulations for the Rural

Constituency Development Fund. Senior staff from various government and private sector provided valuable inputs to the discussions. The DFA assesses trends in public and private finance linked to the objectives of the NDS, analyzing the sectors and industries that it prioritizes. The DFA identifies key areas in which there are opportunities to mobilize new sources of finance and enhance the impact of others. The DFA team with support from the NDS Implementation Oversight Committee will continue to guide the development of the SIIF over the coming weeks.

NEWSFLASH

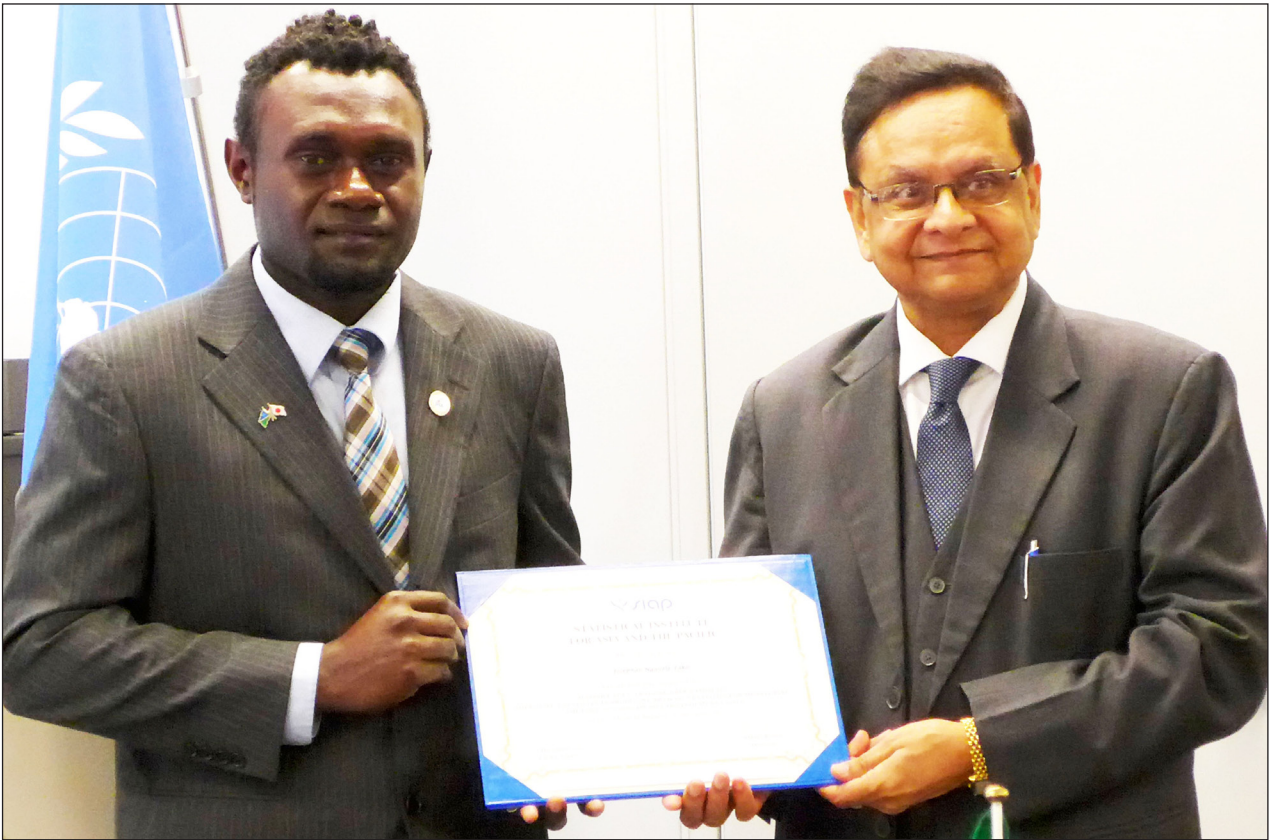
Boost for young statistician

It's a boost for me," says young and enthusiastic statistician Josephat Tako. Hailed from Choiseul Province, 32, Tako works as an Assistant Statistician within the Social Demography Unit in the National Statistics Office (NSO), Ministry of Finance & Treasury (MoFT). Recently he attended and successfully completed a second group training programme on Improving Capability in Producing Official Statistics for Monitoring the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) held in Chiba, Japan. The program runs from 21 August to 15 December 2017.

It was conducted by the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and Pacific (UN SIAP), in alliance with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) of the government of Japan. The training involved theory and hands-on (practical) tasks with a total of 27 statisticians from 15 countries attending. The participants are from; Asia & the Pacific- Bangladesh, Ghana, Cameroon, Congo, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Ma-

laysia, Myanmar, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tajikistan and Timor-Leste. The training aims at strengthening the capacity of national statistical systems to produce data, apply statistical methods to produce official statistics and indicators and interpret and use these for monitoring progress in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Young Tako said the program is really a bonus for him as it helped enhance his statistical knowledge and skills. "The training has offered me a great learning opportunity and experience.

"The lessons taught really boosted my statistical knowledge to be more effective and efficient in serving the National Statistics Office (NSO) and the country as a whole," he said. Mr. Tako vowed to utilize the knowledge and skills acquired and help his colleagues in producing official statistics and indicators, interpret and use these for monitoring progress in SDGs and also to produce official statistics that would help policy-makers for future planning. Mr. Tako said what interested him is the



Josephat Tako receiving his certificate from the UN SIAP Director, Ashish Kumar.

fieldwork/field study based on the Japan household survey. "I acquired much from the fieldwork. "It enriched my skills and ensured I got new experiences through the Japanese household survey and methods they use to collect official data. "In fact, household surveys are one of the main duties of the statistics office, as performed by statisticians. "I believe if we could learn from Japan's strategies, it would create a way forward for Solomon Islands with regards to improving and defining new strategies for the country's data collection approaches. "For me, the training

is worthwhile and I am happy to say that I took as much value as I could, not only about technical skills but also moral lessons," Mr. Tako said. The programme also included a field trip to Hokkaido Prefecture/Miyagi Prefecture from 13 to 15 November, 2017 for all the participants. The purpose of the outing is;

- To increase participants' knowledge on the statistical activities of the prefectural government offices and in particular, the field operations of the Family Income and Expenditure Survey, and
- To enhance participants' understanding of the role of statistics in the economic and

social situation of the prefectures through the activities of manufacturing corporations/academic in Japan. The field visit involved observation and making courtesy visits to the Japan Statistics Bureau and the Office of Policy Planning (Statistical Standards) of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications and the National Statistics Centre, industrial establishment, academic institutions, other Japanese statistics divisions and talks on the Japanese Statistical System. Meanwhile, Mr. Tako thanked UN SIAP in cooperation with JICA and the Japanese Government for the oppor-

tunity and for all the support rendered to him during the course of the training. "As there is a global commitment to working towards achieving the SDGs under the slogan "No one left behind", so I am hopeful that development partners including Japan will continue to support and cooperate with developing country like Solomon Islands to attain these goals and targets." Young Tako also expressed his sincere gratitude to the Government Statistician Douglas Kimi for the trust he has placed on him and the support the NSO rendered that made his study program a success.



Mr. Tako delivering a speech on behalf of the participants.



Josephat Tako (far right) from the third row with the participants, UN SIAP and JICA officials.

NEWSFLASH

UNFPA-Pacific delegates briefed on 2019 census preparation

The National Statistics Office (NSO) on Tuesday 6 February 2018 met with officials from the United Nations Population Fund, formerly the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA)-Pacific Sub-Regional Office (PSRO). The session was held at the NSO conference room in Honiara.

During the meeting Government Statistician Douglas Kimi informed the UNFPA regional team of a number of significant national statistical surveys the NSO has conducted recently and the preparatory work the office (NSO) is undertaking leading up to the major Population and Housing Census next year (2019).

It was a very successful dialogue as officials talked about ideas and issues that could bolster and pave the way forward for lasting partnerships between both organisations.

“The main emphasis was on the 2019 national census project document and how funding can be accessed and also in mobilizing funding to support the NSO together with the technical support that will be required for the census come 2019,” Mr. Kimi said.

The UNFPA-regional reps were also told of the current work such as the Village Resource Survey 2017-2018 (VRS) and household listing that is currently being progressed towards the implementation of the 2019 Census project and the national government (SIG) commitment in supporting it.



Government Statistician Douglas Kimi, UNFPA Officials and Dr. Willie Lahari (right).

Discussions with UNFPA also centred around technical assistance support and related joint collaborative work.

Apart from the 2019 Census deliberations, the next planned Demographic Health Survey (DHS) (ongoing) and the Multi-Cluster Survey were also discussed.

The UNFPA-Pacific team from Suva, Fiji Office visited the country at that time to carry out Implementing Partner (IP) consultation dialogues on strategic investments given UNFPA 6th Country Cycle 2018-2022- (5 years plan) in view of addition resources and support from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) to UNFPA Support.

The team visited different countries in the Pacific region to carry out the IP consultation dialogue on strategies over the period of the cycle. The UNFPA team also met with different Government Stakeholders or IP within the framework of investment cycle.

Meanwhile, Government Statistician Douglas Kimi thanked the UNFPA team for the courtesy call and for the deliberations which will surely pave a way forward for the NSO in executing its national survey projects and at the same time strengthen a good working relation-

ship between UNFPA and the NSO. As part of the 2019 Census planning and preparatory work, the SINSO is currently undertaking the Village Resources Survey 2017-2018 and the Household listing exercise which commenced last year.

The VRS 2017-2018 survey will collect information on services to the village including mapping.

The household listing exercise will collect households' GPS and the number of people per household by gender.

This is the basis for Census enumeration areas (EA) demarcation.

The survey (VRS 2017-2018) now in its second phase.



Government Statistician Douglas Kimi briefed the UNFPA officials during the meeting.



Four of the UNFPA-regional representatives at the meeting held at the NSO conference room in Honiara on Tuesday 6 February, 2018.

Kimi lauds communities for support

The country's Government Statistician (GS) Douglas Kimi has commended people and villages in Renbel, Western-Shortland Islands, Temotu and Malaita Provinces for the support demonstrated to the Solomon Islands National Statistics Office (SINSO) during the passage of the national Village Resource Survey (VRS) and Household Listing 2017-2018 initial phase in 2017. The VRS 2017-2018 is a nationwide survey and it is the basis for the national census count in 2019. The first phase of the survey (VRS 2017-18) was effectively conducted in the last quarter of 2017 with 18 wards being enumerated. The 18 wards enumerated were;

- Ward 1 and 2 in the Shortland Islands, Western Province. (Whole of Shortland Islands).
- Ward 1 to 10 in Renbel Province.
- Ward 8, 9, 13 and 14 in Temotu Province and
- Ward 2 and 30 in Malaita Province.

Mr. Kimi said the support and co-operation of the people, villages/communities and organisations towards the SINSO and enumerators during the course of the first phase was overwhelming and that has been proved with the positive outcome of the project's (VRS 2017-18) initial phase. He said that as the second phase of the survey is now in progress such cooperation and support must be continued to ensure its success. Mr. Kimi calls on villages/commu-

nities to cooperate with enumerators and provide them with correct information. The Government Statistician also acknowledged the VRS Project Director Raphael Aipaina, VRS staff and enumerators for their dedication and hard work towards the end of 2017. He also thanked the National Government (SIG) through the Ministry of Finance and Treasury (MoFT) for the funding support provided in ensuring SINSO rolling out the initial phase last year. Mr Kimi reiterated that the VRS 2017-2018 and Listing operations are also key prerequisite operations critical for the preparation of the forthcoming 2019 Population and Housing Census. "The success and quality of the 2019 Census will also depend on the successful updating of all village records and households in the country," he said. Meanwhile, VRS 2017-18 Project Director Raphael Aipaina said the second phase will cover Choiseul, Honiara City, Makira/Ulawa, Malaita ward 2, and Temotu Provinces and will go on for two months. He said phase three which is earmarked for Western, whole of Malaita, Guadalcanal, Central Islands and Isabel Provinces will be followed after the completion of the second phase. Mr Aipaina added that the second phase was supposed to be conducted end of last year, but, due to the



Government Statistician Douglas Kimi.

revision of the initial plan it was delayed for this year-2018 to overlap with the last phase which is the 3rd segment. "The remaining wards in Temotu Province and Renbel Province from the first phase will be enumerated in the second phase." The Solomon Islands Government (SIG) through the Ministry of Finance & Treasury is funding the VRS 2017/18 project. The survey (VRS) has a long history in the Solomon Islands National Statistics Office. Initiated in the 1980's, it was then conducted in 1995-1996, then in 2007- 2008 but due to resource constraints the results were only used internally in preparation of the past censuses; the present VRS 2017-2018 is the

fourth one in the series. The VRS will collect information on services to the village and will include mapping. The household listing exercise will collect information on the location of households by GPS and the number of people per household by gender. This is the basis for Census enumeration areas (EA) demarcation. The survey will play the role of assisting the SIG in providing quality data at the village level, which is essential, to see the impact of development, and guide its development efforts and policy – makers in the future, to improve the livelihood and standard of living for all Solomon Islanders.

From page 10

This is the basis for Census enumeration areas (EA) demarcation. The VRS 2017-2018 will play the role of assisting the SIG in providing quality data at the village level, which is essential, to see the impact of development, and guide its development efforts and policy – makers in the future, to improve the livelihood and standard of living for all Solomon Islanders. 18 wards were enumerated during the survey (VRS) initial stage from October-December 2017. The Solomon Islands Government (SIG) through the Ministry of Finance & Treasury is funding the VRS 2017/18 project.



Members of the VRS committee in a recent meeting at the NSO Office.



Government Statistician Douglas Kimi and VRS Director Raphael Aipaina listen attentively to Coordinator Saomatangi as he raised a point.



VRS Coordinator Anthony Saomatangi and NSDS Assistant Accountant George McKenzie in discussion.

NSO represents at fishing revenue workshop



(L-R) Andrew Kakate Senior Principal Statistician, NSO-Economics Unit, Donald J. Kiriau, CBSI-Head of Economic and Research Unit, Primula Mua, MoFT- Economic Reform Unit, and Lily Wheatley for the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) with their certificates.

The National Statistics Office (NSO) within the Ministry of Finance & Treasury (MoFT) was represented at the Managing Fishing Revenue (MFR) workshop in Majuro, Marshall Islands. Andrew Kakate Senior Principal Statistician from the Economics Unit attended the MFR workshop on behalf of the NSO. The workshop ran from February 5-9, 2018. The core objectives of the workshop are as follows;

- Strengthen the collaboration between analysts from the national fisheries agencies and the ministries of finance to enhance

- budget and cash management;
- Strengthen the collaboration between analysts from the national fisheries agencies, ministries of finance, central banks, and statistics offices to improve data sharing and forecasting;
- Increase capacity to undertake medium-term fiscal budgeting and planning;
- Support peer learning and the formation of professional networks in the region;
- Identify countries' priority areas for follow-up bilateral technical assistance; and
- Assist professional finance staff in getting greater acceptance by political decision-makers for disciplined

medium-term budgeting. For Mr. Kakate the workshop has given him the chance and the opportunity to learn and excel in his area of work as statistician. He said the workshop is significant given the wealth of knowledge and experience acquired is a boost to his career. "I learned a lot from the workshop," Mr. Kakate said. On the production of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) estimates, Mr. Kakate said he realized that there are avenues one can obtain fishing industry data (production, employment etc.) not only from fishing companies but the ministries

responsible. "This also includes regional bodies like the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), Pacific Nauru Agreement (PNA), Federated State of Micronesia Agreement (FSMA), and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)," he added. Mr. Kakate said data sharing is another positive outcome. He said majority of the fishing industry stakeholders in the region do agree and acknowledge that a way forward for the industry is to share information. "Sharing of information is essential given that it will certainly help GDP compilers producing sound estimates for the sector

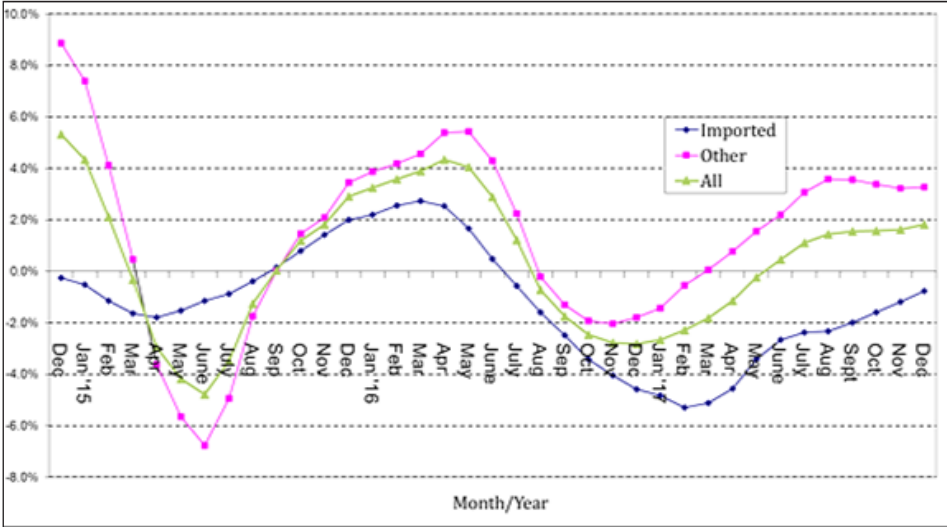
where users/planners will have accurate information when making decisions," Mr. Kakate said. Participants representing other ministries and agencies in Solomon Islands were; Primula Mua Economic Reform Unit-Ministry of Finance & Treasury (MoFT), Donald J. Kiriau, Central Bank of Solomon Islands-Head of Economic & Research Unit, and Lily Wheatley for the Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources (MFMR). The MFR workshop was attended by officials from fishery agencies, ministries of finance, statistics offices, central banks and representatives from other

agencies throughout the Pacific region like the Secretariat of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA), the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) where fishing revenues present a significant source of funds for national budgets. The weeklong event was organized and facilitated by the International Monetary Fund's Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre (PFTAC) and co-hosted by the Marshall Islands Ministry of Finance with financial support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

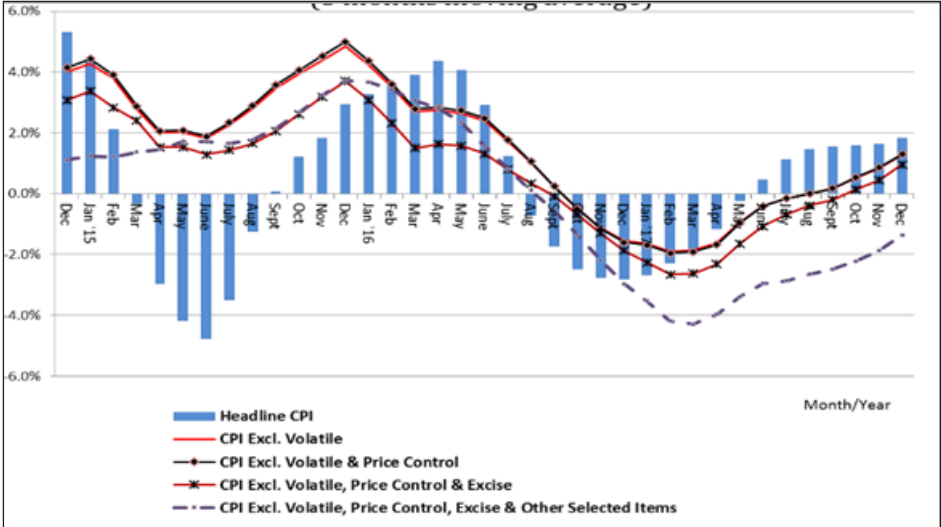


Officials and participants that attended the weeklong Managing Fishing Revenue workshop in Majuro, Marshall Islands.

NEWSFLASH



Graph shows Honiara annual inflation rates from Dec 2014-Dec 2017.



Graph depicts Honiara annual headline and underlying inflation rates from December 2014 to December 2017.

Honiara CPI rises 0.8% in Dec, 2017

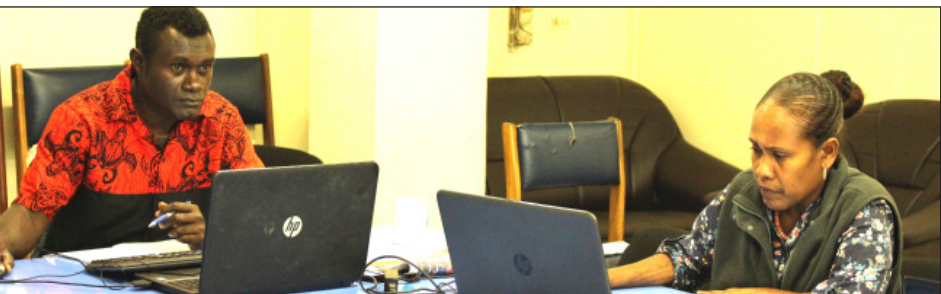
The latest Honiara Consumer Price Index (CPI) has shown an upsurge of 0.8 per cent in the month of December, 2017. CPI is a monthly indicator of the variation in prices for retail goods and other items. The basket of goods chosen represents the spending behaviour of the population of Honiara and the resulting CPI is used to calculate inflation. “The Honiara Consumers Price Index (CPI) for the month of December 2017 rose by 0.8 per cent from 186.4 the previous month to 187.8,” said the Government Statistician Douglas Kimi while releasing the statistical bulletin on Wednesday 14 February, 2018. Mr. Kimi said the minimal increase was largely driven by price increases in food, drinks and tobacco, and transport and communication sub-

sections of the index. “The food sub-index rose by 0.6% to 170.2. This was mainly driven by price rises in selected fresh fruits and vegetables sold at the Honiara market; most notable are kumara heaps an increase of (4.1%), Chinese cabbage (24.4%), cucumber (31.6%), bush cabbage (24.4%), tomatoes (6.2%) and green beans (15.0%). These outweighed price decreases mainly in certain goods including fruits and vegetables. “The price of rice dropped by 0.7% noting an adjustment in volume from 20kg bag to 40lbs (18.14kg). Other price declines include fern cabbage (12.1%), green pepper (11.3%), and bush line (17.7%) to result in the rise of the overall Food sub-index,” Mr. Kimi said. Other major changes in other sub-indexes include; • Drinks and Tobacco rose by 2.6%

driven by a rise of 0.3% in the price of tobacco and 11.9% in betel nut. Tobacco prices have been revised as a result of an adjustment in volume (25 rolls a pack to a 20 rolls pack) of the pallmall cigarette. • Clothing and Footwear declines by 0.2% on account of a drop of 2.3% in the price of linen especially blankets and spread sheets. • Housing and Utilities rose by 0.1% driven by a 0.1% rise in electricity charges and a 2.4% rise in the price of kerosene. • Household Operations increased by 0.4% resulting from a rise of 0.2% in the price of household appliances and similarly, a 0.7% rise in the price of household supplies, especially washing powder and steel wool. • Transport and Communications rose by 2.3% on account of price rises in petrol (4.1%), diesel (3.8%)

and transport operations (3.1%). Mr. Kimi said apart from the above, price movements elsewhere in the consumption basket were negligible. “The overall annual headline inflation rate for the month of December 2017 calculated on a 3 months moving average basis was 1.8%, up 0.2 percentage points from the previous month. “The corresponding inflation rates for imported and other items were -0.8% and 3.3%, respectively,” he added. Meanwhile, he said the main underlying rates of inflation based on a 3 months moving average for the month of December 2017 were observed between -1.4% and 1.3% while the headline inflation rate was at 1.8%.

Social section staff refresher training



Josephat Tako and Florance Walekwate.



Head of Section Anterlyn Tuzakana in discussion with her staff.

Refresher training to familiarise social section staff in the National Statistics Office (NSO) with the newly introduced ‘visitors data entry system’ was held on Monday 5 February, 2018. The new system will be used for data entry purposes particularly international visitors/arrivals. Head of Section and Chief Statistician (Acting) Anterlyn Tuzakana said the refresher is impor-

tant to ensure staff are familiarise with the system and how it works. Besides that, on Wednesday 7 February the social section held their first meeting for 2018. Mrs. Tuzakana said the meeting was to update staff on the 2017 work progress and present to them the work programme and set tasks for 2018. “As we begin another year to perform na-

tional duties it’s important that staff come together and discuss our work plans for 2018. This also coincides with the Performance Management Process (PMP) stage 1 for supervisors to discuss work plans with officers, aligning their job descriptions to the work plan which will be due on 31 March 2018,” Mrs. Tuzakana said.



National Statistics Office social section/unit staff during the refresher training.



Josephat Tako and Anna Pitaboe.

Statistical Bulletins get a makeover

Over the next few months the National Statistics Office (NSO) will begin presenting its statistics in a new format. That’s according to the NSO Data Dissemination Policy and Communication Officer Erica Tolcvay. Ms. Erica said the ‘new look’ statistical bulletins will have two parts- an Excel spreadsheet and a PDF document. She said regular users of our statistics will notice the main difference is that our statistical tables are now in an Excel spreadsheet rather than a PDF. “This change comes following feedback received from key users on the presentation of our statistics and conversations to understand their statistical needs. “Some users said they would like the NSO to present statistics in Excel or CSV, so they do not need to enter data manually to make calculations.

Others asked for more quick facts to provide to ministers and infographics that they can easily use in a presentation. “The PDF component of the statistical bulletin will still contain analysis (commentary), graphs and information about the bulletin. “However it now also includes more detailed definitions, a statement about data quality and infographics for social statistics bulletins. The Excel component contains statistical tables,” Ms. Erica said. “SINSO staff are excited to start publishing information using the new format.” Anterlyn Tuzakana, Chief Statistician, Social and Demography Section and producer of Visitors Statistics, stated that; “The Excel template better meets user needs. It makes it easier for them to use the statistics than the previous template.” Anna Pitaboe, Senior Statistician, Social and Demography Section and producer of Crime Statistics,

New Statistical Bulletins- PDF and Excel Spreadsheet

The PDF contains:

- Infographics (for social statistics bulletins)
- Commentary
- About the bulletin (definitions, limitations and data quality statement)

The Excel spreadsheet contains:

- Statistical tables

tics, commented that, “It is easy to find what you are looking for. I like the infographics at the front of the bulletin as they are colourful and they give the reader an idea of the content of the bulletin.” Ms. Erica said the first bulletins to take this new format are the Honiara CPI Bulletin and the Visitor Arrivals Bulletin. “They will be followed by the International Merchandise Trade Bulletin and the Crime Statistics Bulletin. “The Social and Demography Section have also started using the template for their monthly data requests,” she added. The NSO thanks you for your patience while we learn how to publish using our ‘new look’ bulletin. We hope that the new format will better suit your statistical needs. If you have feedback or suggestions about this new format, please contact the relevant statistical officer.

NSO meets with stakeholders

A dialogue to strengthen the National Statistics Office (NSO), Social Unit’s collaboration with its stakeholders was held on Tuesday 27 February at the NSO conference room in Honiara. Attending the meeting were; Solomon Islands Visitors Bureau Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Josefa Tuamotu, Solomon Islands Immigration Supervisor John Still Dorah, Laurie Leketo from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Brenden Mautoa from SIVB and the NSO Social Section staff. The dialogue was the first for this year-2018 as attendee’s discussed way forward to cement their working

relationship and improve data collection particularly on visitor arrivals. Discussions were grounded on tourism concepts and definitions. It was an informative session as everyone discussed ideas and ways to further bolster their working relationship for data enhancement, improvements and strengthening collaboration. The meeting gave organization representatives the opportunity to discuss challenges faced with data collection, in particular, the international arrivals statistics, which is the key source for tourism arrivals data used in the design and monitoring

of SIG’s policies such as the National Tourism Development Strategy, and key economic and monetary policies of the country. Anterlyn Tuzakana, Principal Statistician from NSO, said the purpose of hosting such meeting with its stakeholders is to guarantee they work together to produce and have quality data. However, she said to accomplish that, it needs the collaborative effort of all statistics producers and users. Mrs Tuzakana said producing quality data can not only benefit its users but can also help policy makers frame good strategies for future planning.

Stakeholders noted their willingness to collaborate with the NSO and vowed to support the NSO, social section in its mission to improve data collection particularly on visitor arrivals. Mrs. Tuzaka also used the opportunity to brief everyone on the new visitors statistical bulletin format that is soon to be utilise by the office (NSO). She then thanked everyone who turned up for the meeting and for the continuous support rendered by stakeholders towards the NSO.



Participates at the meeting.



SIVB staff Brenden Mautoa and SIVB CEO Josefa Tuamotu.



Immigration Supervisor John Still Dorah and NSO Data Communication Officer Erica Tolcvay.



National Statistics Office, Social Section staff at the meeting.

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National Statistics Office in pictures



Florance Walekwate and Anterlyn Tuzakana during the social section refresher training.



Loyce Pabulu and Josephat Tako going through the new visitors data entry system that will be used by the NSO, Social Section.



Government Statistician Douglas Kimi chairing the Village Resource Survey meeting held on January 11, 2018.



Pictured here and above were NSO and NSDS staff during the Village Resource Survey first meeting for 2018.



Joachim Gaiafuna Chief Statistician in discussion with the National Consumer Price Index project staff in a recent meeting held on February 13.



NSO and NSDS staff that attended the first National Consumer Price Index meeting for 2018 held on February 13 2018.



NSO and NSDS project staff listen attentively to Erica's presentation.



Data Communication Officer Erica Tolcvay doing a presentation.

Village and household listing survey progresses

The National Village Resource Survey 2017-2018 (VRS) that the National Statistics Office (NSO) is currently carrying out is continuing well. That's according to the VRS National Project Director Raphael Aipaina. "Everything is progressing well with only slight changes to the original work plan," Mr. Aipaina said. He said Honiara City, earlier earmarked for phase 3 has now been shifted back to phase 2. Mr. Aipaina said Malaita, Isabel, Central Islands, Western and Guadalcanal provinces, formerly assigned for the second phase, delayed for phase 3. Despite the slight changes, Mr. Aipaina said the survey is progressing well with the second phase now in progress and phase 3 scheduled to commence soon. Phase two includes;

- Choiseul province, ward 1-14
- Honiara City, ward 1-12
- Makira/Ulawa province, ward 1-20
- Renbel province, ward 7 -10
- Malaita province, ward 2 and
- Temotu province, ward 1-7, 10 -13 and 16- 17

Mr. Aipaina said the Household listing for Renbel Province already completed during the initial phase in the last quarter of last year (2017) with less than 10 villages are yet to be enumerated. "The remaining

ones (villages) will now be included in the 2nd phase. "The same applies to remaining wards from phase 1 for Malaita and Temotu provinces." He said while some wards in Malaita (mainland) will be enumerated through the 2nd phase, others will be left for phase 3 listing. Meanwhile, Mr. Aipaina said to ensure the truthfulness of data collected, Provincial coordinators have been sent to the provinces to monitor and validate the information collected. "The exercise will be costly for us but we want to verify information gathered by our field enumerators. "Also, since this survey is the basis for the 2019 census count it is critical that whatever data we get from the survey (VRS) is accurate and of quality. "So to authenticate information collected by our field enumerators, provincial coordinators will go to the provinces to cross check the information with village chiefs/leaders, church leaders/elders and responsible provincial officers," he said. "At the moment a total of 21 field enumerators are on the ground carrying out the VRS phase 2," Mr. Aipaina said. He said for Makira/Ulawa province the two teams is now on the ground. "The Honiara and the Choiseul



VRS 2017-18 National project Director Raphael Aipaina.

teams already on the ground. The Temotu team on the ground now with one team now in the Reef Islands and the other in Santa Cruz. The Malaita team has started since the 27 February, 2018," Mr. Aipaina said. The Village Resource Survey (VRS) has a long history in the Solomon Islands National Statistics Office (SINSO). Initiated in the 1980's, it was then conducted in 1995-1996, then in 2007- 2008 but due to resource con-

straints the results were only used internally in preparation of the past censuses; the present VRS 2017-2018 is the fourth one in the series. The VRS will collect information on services to the village and will include mapping. The household listing exercise will collect information on the location of households by GPS and the number of people per household by gender.

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About Us

The Solomon Islands National Statistics Office (SINSO) is a division within the Ministry of Finance and Treasury. Guided under the Statistics Act 1970 (Amendments 2007), the Census Act 1959, the SINSO is mandated to compile and disseminate official statistics of the Solomon Islands. The SINSO serves as the leading source of quality data about the population and the economy. We honor privacy, protect confidentiality and conduct our work openly. We are guided on this mission by our strong and capable workforce our readiness to innovate and abiding commitment to our customers. It is our goal to provide the best mix of timeliness, relevance, quality, and services cost for the data we collect. The Government Statistician (GS) and his Statistics Management team lead the SINSO. The office is made up of four sections; the Economic Statistics Unit, Social and Demography Statistics Unit, Census and Survey Statistics Unit and Executive Management and Support Services Unit. Altogether there are 26 staff (including the GS) in the department carrying out duties ranging from collecting, compiling, analysing and disseminating information in the various subjects in the different sections.

Our core functions

As a Central Statistical Agency of the Government guided under the Statistics Act 1970, (Amendments 2007, the Census Act 1959), our role is to:

- Design standardized statistical instruments for producing Solomon Islands' statistics: harmonized classifications, organizational methods and structures, technical standards.
- Harmonise statistical information: drawing up a set common concepts, languages and tools for producing statistics.
- Produce Solomon Islands' statistics: consolidate the statistics of the Provinces and ensuring that they are comparable.
- Supply statistical information: identify, analyze and interpret Solomon Islands' statistical data.
- Disseminate statistical information.
- Coordinate the Solomon Islands Statistical System.
- Advise statistical systems: help to improve the national statistical systems and promote good practice within the Solomon Islands Statistical System.
- Promote research and development: encourage research into techniques and tools for collecting, processing and analyzing data.

Coming up in our next issue

- Labour Force Survey (LFS) roll out.
- International Merchandise Trade Statistics for September, 2017.
- Honiara CPI rose 1.7% in Jan, 2018.
- And more stories on the NSDS projects that the National Statistics Office is implementing.



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