

# SINSO NEWS

Your monthly guide to the Solomon Islands National Statistics Office News, Information and Events

• Issue 2

• October 2017

Ontong Java  
Atoll

Choiseul

Isabel

Malaita

Western  
Province

Honiara

Guadalcanal

Province

Bellona &  
Rennell



VRS Director Raphael Aipaina

# “VRS is coming to your door step”

Read full report on page 2



## Welcome message from the Government Statistician Douglas Kimi

On behalf of the Solomon Islands National Statistics Office (SINSO), I take this opportunity to welcome you to our second issue of our new monthly E-newsletter. This is a wonderful opportunity

for the SINSO to embrace this new 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 2nd edition thus we are grateful that you are 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 have updates on the Solomon Islands (National) Vil-

lage Resource Survey 2017-2018 phase one implementation/workshops with accompanying photos carried out in Western, Honiara, and Malaita Provinces. This national survey project, the Village Resource Survey 2017-2018 (VRS) is a prerequisite of the conduct of the National Census count in 2019. And also in this issue we bring to you some general news updates. 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 eas-

ily informed on-line 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/](http://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.

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# Village Resource Survey rolls

The Solomon Islands National Statistics Office (SINSO) within the Ministry of Finance & Treasury is rolling out the first phase of the 2017-2018 Village Resource Survey (VRS). The first phase will cover the whole of Renbel and Temotu Provinces, ward one and two in the Shortland Islands in the Western Province and ward 31, 32 and 33 in the Malaita Outer Island (MOI) of Malaita Province. This will run for a period of two months. VRS Director Raphael Aipaina said this is a nationwide survey thus every single village will be enumerated and listed.

He said since the survey is the basis for the national census count in 2019, there's no exception for any village and household to escape it.

***“VRS is coming to your door step thus your village and household will be enumerated and registered.”***

Phase two which is set for Choiseul, Central Island and Makira Province (s) will kick-off in December 2017 while phase three is scheduled to commence on February next year (2018) for Western, Malaita, Guadalcanal and Honiara.

Meanwhile, Mr Aipaina said that while this is a nationwide survey including the Honiara city, it is not always an easy task as the diverse nature of the islands has to be taken into account, as well as the logistical support arrangements necessary for the survey such as transportation to outer islands. The Director then called on every single citizen of the Solomon Islands to cooperate and support the NSO and the officers (field enumerators) who are deployed into the field to provide them with the correct information. He said this is a very important survey given the national census is just over a year away thus collective sup-

port and cooperation is decisive in this regard. Government Statistician, Douglas Kimi said this VRS project will be a benchmark for the official/gazetted village names in the country. He said once the survey (VRS) is conducted and successfully accomplished it will provide avenues to look at pathways to gazette village names. The Solomon Islands Government (SIG) through the Ministry of Finance & Treasury funded the VRS 2017/18 project. The NSO is also calling on development partners and donors to support the 2019 Census in terms of funding and technical assistance.

## Facts about Solomon Islands

Solomon Islands is a wide island nation (consisting of six big double chains of islands stretching 1,500 kilometres between the westernmost and easternmost islands). It lies east of Papua New Guinea and has many islands: Choiseul, the Shortland Islands; the New Georgia Islands; Santa Isabel; the Russell Islands; Ngella (the Florida Islands); Malaita; Guadalcanal; Sikaiana; Maramasike; Ulawa; Uki; Makira (San Cristobal); Santa Ana; Rennell and Bellona; the Santa Cruz Islands and three remote, tiny outliers, Tikopia, Anuta and Fatutaka. The Santa Cruz Islands (of which Tikopia is part), are situated north of Vanuatu and are especially isolated at more than 200 kilometres from the other islands. Capital: Honiara. Solomons population: 599,419 (2016)-World Bank.



# More on the Village Resource Survey

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, and the present VRS 2017-2018 is the fourth one in the series. VRS 2017-2018 is part and parcel of the 2019 national census count preparation. 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 Solomon Islands Government (SIG) in its development efforts have used the village level (which is the community level) as the target unit for development. They have targeted rural areas, through its Constituency Development Fund program (CDF) – this is apart from “construction” and “administration”

programs. 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. One such subject of concern is the income level of the rural areas. The SIG recognizes the role that villages play in development, because the norm of doing things as a community is central to the Solomon Islands. More than 80 per cent of the county's population live in the rural areas, doing economic activities in the agriculture, forestry, fishing industry and in an own- account fashion, and current estimates of the number of villages/ localities in the country is put at 7000. The SIG recognizes the NSO as the executing body for providing quality data under the provisions of the statistics Act 1970, (Amendments 2007, the Census Act 1959), for development planning aspirations through its policy of a BOTTOM UP APPROCH, thus the

responsibility is on the NSO to fulfil this mandate. The VRS 2017-2018 is important because of the following factors.

- It is an opportune time to collect a complete coverage of data ( census-like fashion), covering all villages/ localities in the county, which is expensive but essential at this point in time,
- Small areas statistics will be collected which is not possible in sample surveys,
- Rural development plans can be enhanced effectively, with provision of good data at the village level,
- The policy of the SIG can be assessed and re-directed,
- Data can be used for legal “village planning”, such as setting up of legal boundaries for villages with proper development targets,
- Proper infrastructure/facility blocks, business/industry setups and administration centres can be developed to align with population pressure from settlements,
- Effective planning for the National Population Census of Solomon Islands envisaged to be held in 2019,

will only be possible with successful completion of the VRS 2017-2018,

- The 2019 Population Census will need one enumerator to canvass an area in 2 weeks, hence census planning needs the VRS 2017-2018 data for proper mapping of enumeration areas, and the numbers of areas in the country/province for equal work-load.

Other major national projects that are also facilitated by SINSO via its National Statistics Development Strategy 2015/16 to 2035 under the leadership of the Government Statistician include:

- The National Agriculture Survey (ongoing).
- The Solomon Islands Demographic & Health Survey – Dissemination phase (ongoing activities).
- The Household Income and Expenditure Survey – Extended for National CPI Project and GDP (ongoing activities).
- The National Statistics Development Strategy NSDS 2015/16 to 2035 (ongoing).
- Proposed quarterly Labour Force Survey (LFS) (new/ongoing).
- 2019 Population & Housing Census Preparation.



# Enumerators told to do their best in survey



Field Enumerators from Makira, Central Islands, Renbel, Guadalcanal, and Isabel Province and NSO staff trainers at the opening of the VRS workshop training at the Red Manson Comfort Inn in Honiara on Tuesday 24th October, 2017.

The Government Statistician Douglas Kimi has urged enumerators that have been deployed out into the field for the first phase of the Village Resource Survey 2017-2018 (VRS) to do their best and ensure all the villages in the country are registered on the map. Mr Kimi was speaking at the official closing ceremony of the one week training held for enumerators at the Red Mansion Comfort Inn on Friday 27th October 2017, in Honiara. The weeklong training commenced on Monday 23rd and concluded on Friday 27th October. The training sessions were held at three main different venues with more than 50 participants attending. The venues were Auki, Honiara and Gizo. The training is part of the VRS 2017/18 phase one implementation to prepare enumerators for the nationwide survey that is currently under way as part parcel of the 2019 national census count headed by the National Statistics Office (NSO).

Mr Kimi said the onus is now on the enumerators making sure all the villages in Solomon Islands are registered on the map by end of the survey. “This is paramount. “The NSO is counting on you to do the work we have entrusted you to do for the country leading up to the 2019 population Census,” he said. Mr Kimi said the challenges faced by the NSO in the previous VRS and the population census is with missing villages or incomplete registrations/listings and thus during the census people are not counted. He told the well trained enumerators to visit all the villages in and around the country during this VRS and record its particulars. He said the known challenges to NSO are that the villages that do not allow anyone to go into their village because of culture/religion and traditional practices. “These are the villages that the NSO are working on to ensure they participate and are counted during the Population Census.

“The NSO works under the Statistics Act 1970 and Amendment 2007, and the NSO could resort to using the law if there are any refusals on collection,” Mr Kimi emphasised. Meanwhile, Mr Kimi said the report of the VRS 2017/18 will be treated as benchmark information for the Solomon Islands for the next ten years before the next update. He said that the gazetted (legal), Village names is with the Ministry of Lands and Housing. The original list will be extracted from the Lands Department to actually update the village list. “NSO management is working on the phased budget implementation approach in executing 2017 NSO development projects including the National Statistics Development Strategy 2015/16-2035 (NSDS), Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) (ongoing), Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) extended activities (ongoing), National Agriculture Survey

(ongoing), Village Resource Survey (ongoing) and Labour Force survey (new/ongoing).” He said by this approach, the National Statistics Office (NSO) will be conducting the household listings and GPS recordings on Households – the pre-census count-during the progress of the VRS. “Generally the information to be collected in the VRS will also help to assess the kind of resources that exist in the village. It is a good cross check to see the kind of development projects the villages have implemented from the government and those who still experience challenges. “The information will be powerful to confirm the development that is happening in the villages and communities. The Solomon Islands National Statistics Office (SINSO) also includes questions on climate change and the level of challenge climate change have had on villages and communities,” Mr Kimi said.



Field Enumerators from Choiseul and Western Province and NSO staff trainers that attended a similar VRS workshop training held in Gizo Western Province from Tuesday 24 to Friday 27 October 2017. Similar training was also held in Auki for Malaita Province enumerators.



# SI records \$57.5 million trade surplus in March

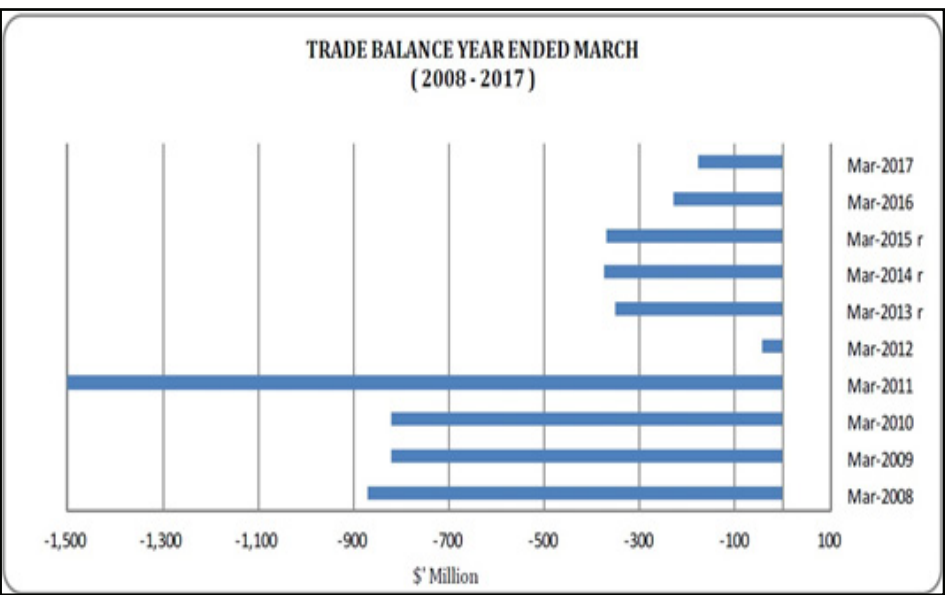
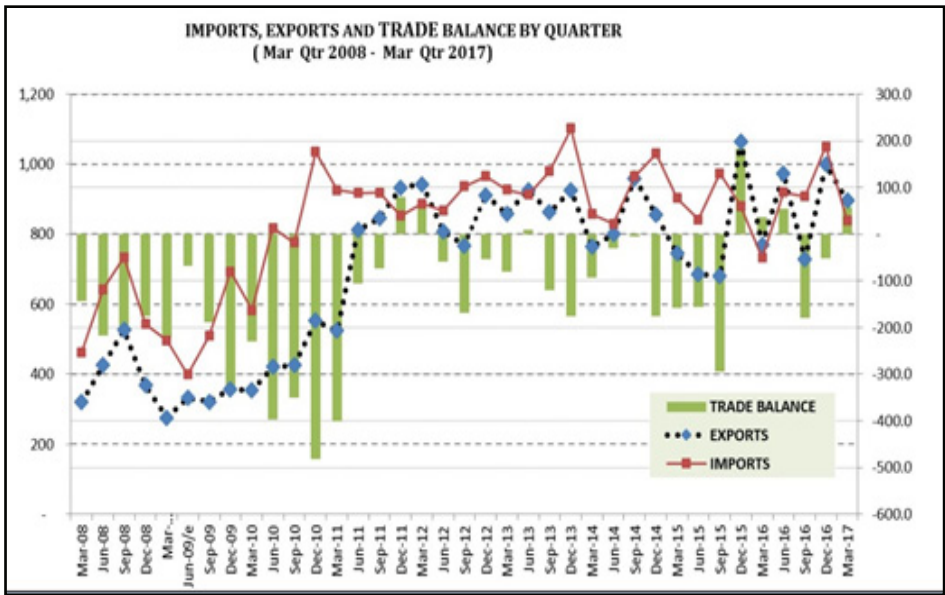
Solomon Islands has recorded a trade surplus of \$57.5 million in the first quarter (March) of 2017. This is according to the Solomon Islands National Statistics Office (SINSO) latest figures on the International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) released on Wednesday 18th October 2017. The data (IMTS) shows the movement of different types of goods between the Solomon Islands and a range of countries in Oceania, Asia, Europe, Africa, America and other regions. Releasing the statistical bulletin, Government Statistician Douglas Kimi said the surplus is an increase of \$109.4m (211%) over the deficit of \$51.9m recorded in the preceding quarter. He said that in terms of the corresponding quarter a year ago, this represented an increase of \$21.1m (58%) over the surplus of \$36.4m in

2016. “The movement of goods into and out of the Solomon Islands is an important aspect of our nation’s economic development,” the Government Statistician, Mr Kimi said. On major exports in the first quarter of 2017 compared to the corresponding quarter of 2016 Mr Kimi stated that round log and sawn timber exports declined by \$7.4m (1%) to \$604.7m while total of fresh/frozen and canned fish rose by \$33.8m (62%) to \$88.7m. “This increase is mainly attributed to \$52.1m of fish loin exports to Italy which accounted for 59% of total fish exports.” He added that the total for copra, cocoa, palm oil and other agricultural products has increased by \$40.8m (56%) to \$113.9m affirming this (increase) is mainly driven by a surge in palm oil and copra exports during the quarter and gold increased by \$3.0m (63%) to \$7.8m.

Meanwhile, on major imports Mr Kimi said that food imports, which are comprised mostly of rice and canned meat, increased by \$0.7m (0.6%) to \$111.9m. “Mineral fuel and lubricant imports rose by \$58.2m (55%) to \$164.9m. Machinery and transport equipment increased by \$33.6m (15%) to \$260.3m,” he said. The merchandise trade balance with major trading partners in the March quarter of 2017 compared to the previous corresponding quarter records the following:

- The trade deficit with Singapore, the main source of fuel imports, increased by \$63.0m (57%) to \$174.5m.
- The trade deficit with Australia decreased by \$16.8m (11%) to \$132.2m.
- The trade deficit with Papua New Guinea was down by \$14.3m (58%) to \$10.4m.

- The trade surplus with South Korea declined by \$9.7m (86%) to \$1.5m.
  - The trade surplus with China, the main destination of exported logs, rose by \$63.1m (15%) to \$491.6m.
  - The trade surplus with Italy, the main destination of fish-loin exports, increased by \$13.2m (35%) to \$51.0m.
- The data are collected from the Solomon Islands Customs and Excise Division, the Central Bank of the Solomon Islands, the Commodity Export Market Authority and through additional records provided by major importers/exporters. You can get more information from the National Statistics Office or download the full report on the National Statistics Office website (<http://www.statistics.gov.sb/> under “Recent Releases” or “SINSO Documents”).



A container Boat (Bali Hai) ready to berth at the Solomon Islands Ports, Honiara terminal for offloading.



## NEWSFLASH

# NSO provincial staff skill's boosted

**T**he National Statistics Office (NSO) provincial staff have had their skill's boosted with the completion of a week-long training session on the National Consumer Price Index (NCPI).

The training, held from 9-13 October 2017, was organised by the NSO.

It aimed at imparting the knowledge of data entry using a processing system and also to ensure officers have essential knowledge on using an Excel database.

The Provincial Officers include Hicks Kennie Ma'ara from the NSO Auki branch in Malaita Province, Joseph Jio from Noro and John M. Tuke from Gizo in the Western Province, and Betsy Uruhiaro for the Honiara National Statistics Office.

Held at the NSO conference room, it was facilitated by Joachim Gaiafuna Chief Economist and Anna Luvu Senior Economist from the National Statistics Office in Honiara.

Welcoming the four participants at the first day of the training on Monday 9 October 2017, Government Statistician (GS) Douglas Kimi said the training is significant given the fact that it will support the activities that the provincial NSO staff need to do to ensure they perform their work well and to a required standard.

Mr Kimi said the training is part of the other training organised by the NSO that was supported by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) on the techniques of official price collection from the market and selected retail shops.

The training concentrated on how the data is entered into the com-



*Government Statistician Douglas Kimi far left in the front row, Anna Luvu NSO Senior Economics Officer third from left, Hwang Dae Kim from South Korea a data analyst within the NSO and Joachim Gaiafuna NSO Chief Economics Officer far right in the back row together with the four NSO provincial staff.*

puter and later sent to the central office in Honiara for analysis and reporting.

He told the participants to work together and progress together as a team while performing their duties to accomplish the NSO goals.

"...you are part of the central NSO office in Honiara and your office has become very important because it will be used as an outlet to release information back to the people of Solomon Islands who provide the information."

Mr Kimi also thanked the officers in Auki and Gizo especially in supporting the 2015 Demographic and Health Survey (2015 DHS) dissemination program held in the two provincial capitals in September 2017.

"In the very near future the NSO

office in Honiara will equip its provincial offices with releases and information to ensure the people in the provinces can access the official statistics being released by NSO."

Mr Kimi added that the need to progress the work on the renovation of the NSO Bureau in Noro, and to support the working environment in the offices in Auki and Gizo is a priority of the NSO. Meanwhile, the GS has called for the provincial office support to be rendered to the nationwide Village Resources Survey (VRS) project that is currently underway.

"There is a need to take ownership of national activities conducted by the NSO in your provinces and take a team work approach," he said. "This Village Resources Survey (VRS) work is part of the

2019 Census planning and we need to get things right and in order.

Village GPS coordinates and information will be collected and the pre-census or household listing will also be conducted, a good check for the proper Census count in 2019," Mr Kimi added.

Facilitator Joachim Gaiafuna Chief Economist in the NSO said the training was important for the NSO provincial staff to guarantee they are well versed and familiar with the Excel software for data entry purposes.

The hands-on training included theory and practical exercises. The participants said that they were happy to be part of the training and pledged to apply the knowledge and skills learned in their line of duties.



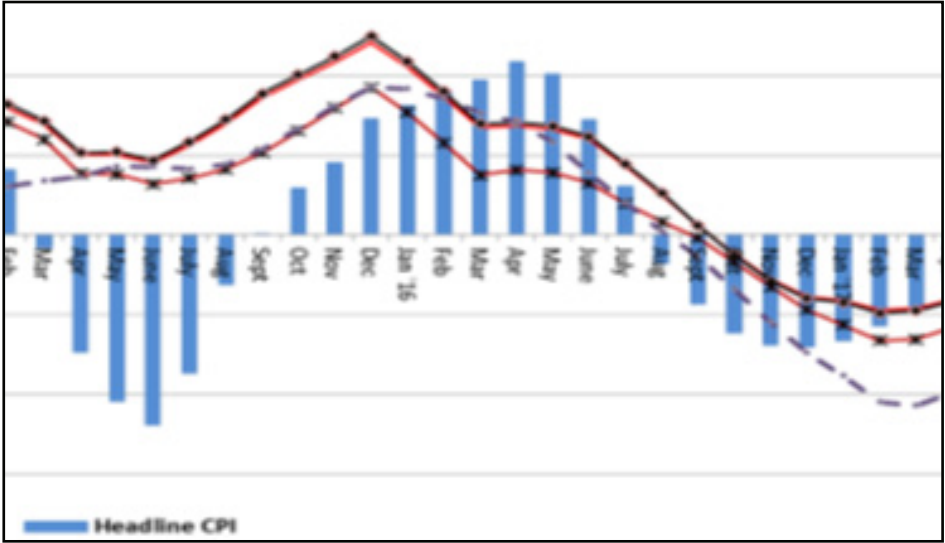
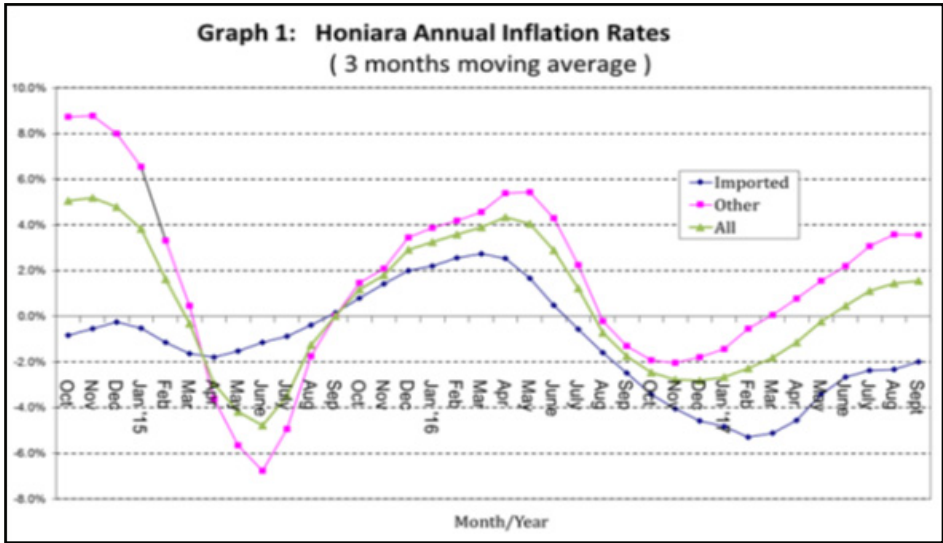
*The four National Statistics Office provincial staff that attended the one week training*



*GS Douglas Kimi encouraging the four staff.*



# September CPI falls but annual inflation picks up



The latest Honiara Consumer Price Index (CPI) has shown a fall of 0.6 per cent in the month of September, 2017. This was according to the Solomon Islands National Statistics Office latest statistical bulletin released by the Government Statistician Douglas Kimi on Friday 27th October 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. Releasing the Statistical Bulletin (CPI), Mr Kimi said the Honiara CPI for the month of September 2017 dropped by 0.6% from 187.4

the previous month to 186.3. He said this was largely driven by price drops in food, and housing and utilities outweighing price rises in drinks and tobacco, and transport and communication sub-sections of the index. “The food sub-index fell 1.7% during the month to 172.1 Price declines were recorded in rice (1.1%), meat (0.1%) and fresh fruit and vegetables sold at the Honiara market; most notable include tomatoes (21.4%), bush cabbage (20.5%), pawpaw (17.6%), kumara (5.8%), melon (6.5%), Chinese cabbage (1.4%), cooking bananas (6.1%), and dry coconuts (1.6%). These outweighed rises in the price of cassava (0.5%), ripe banana (13.7%), fern cabbage (3.2%),

spring onions (8.9%), green beans (0.8%), cucumber (1.7%), and powdered milk (1.1%) to result in the fall of the overall food sub-index,” Mr Kimi added. Other major changes in other sub-indexes include:

- Drinks and tobacco went up 0.5% driven by a 2.5% rise in the price of betel nut.
- Housing and utilities slightly fell 0.1% on account of a 0.8% fall in electricity charges outweighing a 3.2% rise in the price of kerosene.
- Household operations went up 0.1% due to a 0.2% rise in the price of household appliances and equipment.
- Transport and communications rose 0.5% on account of a 3.7% and 2.5% rise in the price of petrol and

diesel, respectively. 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 September 2017, calculated on a 3 months moving average basis was 1.5%, up 0.1 of a percentage point from 1.4% the previous month. The corresponding inflation rates for imported and other items were -2.0% and 3.6%, respectively.” Meanwhile, Mr Kimi said the main underlying rates of inflation based on a 3 months moving average for the month of September 2017 were observed between -2.5% and 0.2% while the headline inflation rate was 1.5%.



NSO Adviser Willie Lahari far right and Government Statistician Douglas Kimi together with the NCPI officers in a recently held meeting.

## We want to hear from you!



Erica Tolcvay Data Communication Officer

The National Statistics Office is looking for feedback on the presentation of our statistical bulletins and reports.

We are looking to change the way we present data to make sure we meet your needs.

The NSO would like to know:

- How do you use NSO statistics (make calculations, write reports) ?

- Would you like to receive our statistics for use in a specific computer program?

- Is there enough supporting information to help you to understand the report or bulletin?

- Are there any parts of the reports or bulletins that you really like?

- Do you have any other feedback on the current presenta-

tion of our statistics or any other suggestions?

If you would like to give feedback on any of the questions above, please email your comments to our Data Communication Officer at ETolcvay@mof.gov.sb or call Erica on the NSDS phone line (23422) to arrange a meeting.



## NEWSFLASH



*Statistics Office, Solomon Islands Immigration, Central Bank of Solomon Islands and Solomon Islands Visitors Bureau officers at the meeting.*

# Dialogue to improve visitors' arrivals data held

A roundtable discussion to pave a way forward for data collection and entry improvement in the country was held between the Solomon Islands National Statistics Office (SINSO), Central Bank of Solomon Islands (CBSI), Solomon Islands Visitors Bureau (SIVB), Customs and the Solomon Islands Immigration officials in October 2017.

Held at the SIVB conference room at Point Cruz on Tuesday 31st October 2017, 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. The meeting also discussed logistical arrangements for data collection,

and data entry issues, and possible ways forward for data enhancement, improvements and strengthening collaboration.

In the meeting all members agreed and vowed to work together and patch the missing links that continue to evolve within their cycle of work thus denying them from collecting updated and accurate data needed for the country policy makers and users.

Speaking on visitors' arrival, Anterlyn Tuzakana, Principal Statistician from the NSO said producing good quality data is paramount.

However, she said to accomplish that, it needs a 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.

Sandy Iro, CBSI Analyst while commending NSO for producing such

needed statistics for the country said a joint effort is significant to produce quality data.

She said CBSI relies on NSO statistical figures for its monetary value adding that producing timely information/data is important for everyone (users).

Government Statistician, Douglas Kimi, said teamwork is the only way forward in order to produce accurate data.

He said the discussion has created a platform where NSO and its users/partners can work on opportunities that can improve their work as statisticians.

Mr Kimi said collaborative work is needed to ensure data collected are complete and accurate.

Meanwhile, he added that one of the challenges faced is administration recording which he said the NSO is working on to improve it.

SIVB Marketing Manager Freda Unusi said SIVB depends entirely

on NSO produced data for planning purposes.

"NSO data is very important to us. Without data we are nothing, because only this data can help us to plan our future programme," she said.

"The NSO is a trusted agency and we use its data/statistics and send it to the region and the world," she added.

John Still Dorah Immigration Supervisor assured the NSO of close collaboration now and into the future to enable good and accurate data to be produced.

He reiterated that only through partnership, quality data can be produced.

Isaac Mani of Immigration, while sharing the same sentiments, thanked the NSO and other members for the initiative to ensure data entry/collection improvements in the country.



*SI Customs officer, left, and John Still Dorah Immigration Supervisor, right, at the meeting.*



*SIVB Marketing Manager Freda Unusi raising a point during the discussion.*



# Kimi explains NSO central role



Government Statistician Douglas Kimi explaining the NSO's role.

The Solomon Islands National Statistics Office (SINSO) within the Ministry of Finance and Treasury (MoFT) is the government's central statistics agency and has the mandate to release and report on key official statistics and indicators in the country. That's according to the Government Statistician Douglas Kimi. Mr Kimi was responding to questions and concern raised by members of the public over the role of SINSO in releasing official statistics such as the recent release of the International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) for the first quarter of 2017. (see story on page 4). The Government Statistician, Mr Kimi explained: "On the issue of

whether SINSO has the mandate to release and report on key official economic statistics/indicators such as the recent International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS), inflation (CPI) and even gross domestic product (GDP), then those concerned are informed that it is the role of the SINSO (as mandated by law: Statistics Act 1970, Amendments 2007, the Census Act 1959) to collect, process, compile, analyze and disseminate such key official statistics for evidence based policy, planning and every day decision-making," he said. He said the production and reporting of key statistics is done "independently" from any influence of other Solomon Islands Government (SIG) ministries even from key users

of statistics such as the Central Bank of Solomon Islands (CBSI) and the Ministry of Finance and Treasury (MoFT). "However, not only is the CBSI a key user of SINSO statistics but it is also a producer of financial and monetary statistics in their own right." He added that since the recent SIG's Cabinet endorsement of the country's first-ever National Statistics Development Strategy 2015-16 to 2035, (NSDS 2015-16 to 2035) the SINSO is now stepping up to report on key statistics on a timely and regular basis. "That is why you will see more headlines of timely statistical releases in the media now and going-forward, than previously in the past. "Since the SINSO is the SIG's central statistics agency, it is the official producer of official statistics. "Its mandate does not cross with the mandate of key users of statistics such as the CBSI where a key part of CBSI's (or MoFT's) role is to take the statistics produced by the SINSO and to further analyze its implications and the impacts on monetary and fiscal policies of the country and to inform the country. "The SINSO does not provide these kind of in-depth analysis and links to policies, but it is within SINSO's role to report on the key indicators separately. "Such practice is common in many developing and developed countries. "We hope this clarifies the role of the SINSO to collect, process, compile and disseminate official popula-

tion, social and economic statistics for evidence based planning, policy and every day decision making," Mr Kimi said. **About SINSO** The Solomon Islands National Statistics Office (SINSO) is a government division within the Ministry of Finance and Treasury. Guided under the Statistics Act 1970 (amendments 2007) and the Census Act 1959, the SINSO is mandated to compile and disseminate official statistics for the Solomon Islands. The SINSO serves as the leading source of quality data about the populous 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 was our goal to provide the best mix of timeliness, relevancy, quality and cost for the data we collect and services. The Government Statistician (GS) and his statistics management lead the SINSO. The office is made up of four sections; the Economic Statistics Unit, the Social and Demography Statistics Unit, the Census and Survey Statistics Unit and the Executive Management and Support Services Unit. Altogether there are 26 staff (including the GS) in the division that carry out duties ranging from collecting, compiling, analysing and dissemination of information in the various subjects in the different sections.

Want to know more about the NSO? Come and visit us today. Our friendly staff are ready and available to help you. We are located at the Old Solomon Island's Government Printers building opposite the Tongs Building at Point Cruz. For more detail about our role and statistics reports you can visit our website on: [www.statistics.gov.sb](http://www.statistics.gov.sb)

**The National Statistics Office is comprised of four sections/subdivisions.**

**These include:**

- **The Economic Statistics Unit.**
- **Social and Demography Statistics Unit.**
- **Census and Survey Statistics Unit and**
- **Executive Management and Support Services Unit.**

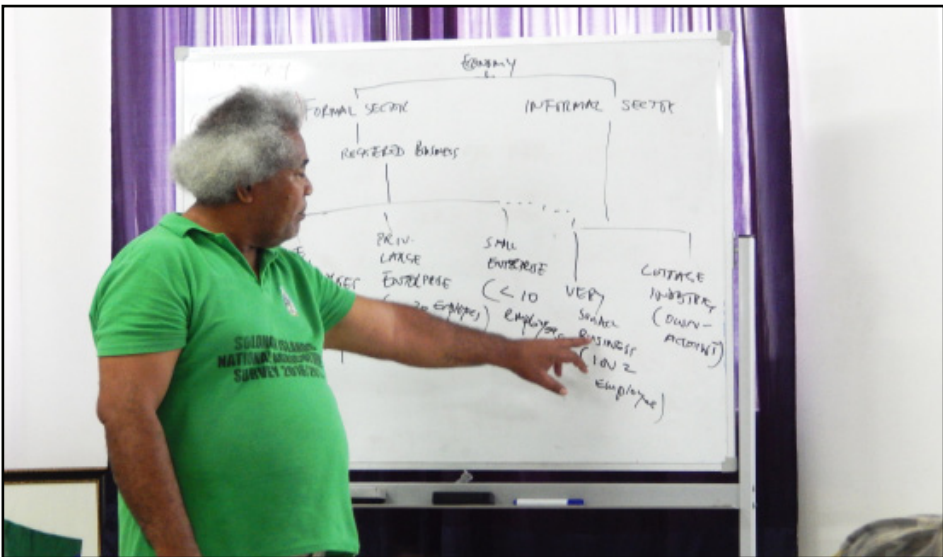
**The NSO has a total of 26 staff including the Government Statistician Douglas Kimi. They carry out duties ranging from collecting, compiling, analysing and disseminating information on the various subjects in the different sections.**



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# National Statistics Office in pictures



Former Government Statistician Joseph Naesol while doing a presentation during the VRS training held in Honiara in October 24-27.



Some of the enumerators for Guadalcanal and Renbel province that attended the field enumerators training held from 24-27 October, Honiara.



Malaita province enumerators together with NSO staff trainers and Adviser Willie Lahari.



Edward Sasapitu from Isabel interviewing John Maeli of Guadalcanal Province during a mock interview at the close of the VRS training.



VRS director Raphael Aipaina reviewing the VRS questionnaire.



NSO staff revising the VRS questionnaire.



Senior Statistician Anna Pitaboe and Principal Statistician Loyce Pabulu at a meeting on the yet to be launched reports on “Crime” & “Education”.



Principal Statistician Anterlyn Tuzakana and Data Communication Officer/Advisor Erica Tolcvay at the meeting on “Crime” and “Education” reports that are yet to be released.



# Temotu enumerators end training



(L-R) Government Statistician Douglas Kimi, Patrick Bonnie, William Woods (back row) from Isabel Province, George Bula, Jones Salopuka, Desmond Papage Statistician and trainer, Jeffery Fakafu, Alfred Palo Statistician and trainer and VRS Director Raphael Aipaina.

Temotu province field enumerators have successfully completed their training for the upcoming Village Resource Survey 2017-2018 (VRS). Held at the National Statistics Office (NSO) conference room from 30 October to 3 November, 2017, the special training was for the four Temotu enumerators who were unable to join their other provincial-colleagues in a similar training held earlier due to flight issues. Amongst the Temotu team was one of the enumerators from Isabel province who was also unable to attend the first training. The training was part of the VRS 2017/18 phase one implementation to prepare enumerators for the nationwide survey that is currently

underway as part and parcel of the 2019 national census count preparation headed by the National Statistics Office (NSO). These enumerators were selected base on their outstanding performance in the recent National Agriculture Survey 2017 (NAS 2017) project facilitated by NSO and again trained to participate in the VRS 2017-2018. Speaking at a small but significant closing ceremony on Friday 3rd November, Government Statistician Douglas Kimi encouraged the enumerators to do their best in the survey. “The onus is now on you to thus do your best in the survey to collect the needed data. “You are the best and NSO is count-

ing on you to do the work we have entrusted you to do for the country leading up to the 2019 population Census. “You are the bigger part of the NSO process in collecting statistics. Your work is very important to us,” he added. He assured the enumerators that the NSO will work closely with them as they (NSO) prepare for the national census in 2019. He told the Temotu enumerators to visit all the villages in Temotu province during the survey and record their particulars. Meanwhile, Mr Kimi said the report of the VRS 2017/18 will be treated as benchmark information for the Solomon Islands for the next ten years before the next update.

“The NSO will be collecting information on household listings and GPS coordinates on Households – to create a pre-census count during the progress of the VRS. “Generally the information to be collected in the VRS will also help to ensure the kind of resources that exist in the village. It is a good cross check to assess development projects the villages have implemented from the government and those who still experience challenges. “The information will be powerful to confirm the developments that are happening in the villages and communities. The NSO also included questions on climate change and the challenge climate change has had on villages and communities,” Mr Kimi said.

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

- GS participates in Regional meeting.
- Kimi attends HOPS summit.
- And many more updates and interesting articles on the current VRS projects that the National Statistics Office is conducting.

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