



CORRECTIONAL SERVICE OF SOLOMON ISLANDS

Nius Blo CSSI MONTH OF July 2021



Independence Message from Commissioner of Correctional Service Solomon Islands Gabriel MANELUSI, CSSI Executive Members, Commandants, Directors, Ranks and Files

To the Governor General Sir David Vunagi and Lady Vunagi, Hon. Prime Minister Honourable Manasseh Damukana Sogavare and Madam Sogavare, Honourable Speaker of National Parliament Patteson Oti and Madam Oti, Cabinet Ministers and their wife's, Honourable Chief Justice Sir Palmer and Madam Palmer, Opposition Leader Hon. Mathew Wale and Madam Wale, Independent Leader Hon. Dean Kuku and Madam Kuku, Members of National Parliament, Heads and Members of the Diplomatic Missions, Development Partners, Business Houses, Honourable Premiers, Provincial Assembly Members, City Mayor, Honiara City Council Members, Churches – SICA/SIFGA and our Community Traditional Leaders, Media, Women, Youth, Children's, Farmers, Fisherman, Sick Patients in our Hospitals, disability, Correctional Brother and Sister Inmates in our Correctional Centres and our Good Christian People of Solomon Islands.

HAPPY 43 INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY.....

Independence Day is the greatest, most momentous day of history for any nation in the world. It is celebrated once in a year with much passion to observe the ransom of those who fought bravely to bring freedom for the nation. An Independence Day is a great event to celebrate the freedom fighters and their supreme contributions.

Always stand for what you believe, stand for what is right and stand for what you desire. True freedom lies where the mind is without fear. ***Happy 43 Independence anniversary 2021!***

God bless Solomon Islands and God bless CSSI

From shore to shore

RSIPF complete police support unit and instructors training to CSSI officers in Honiara

Instructors from the Police Response Team (PRT) Training Wing under the National Response Department (NRD) of the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) and the Emergency Response Group (ERG) of the Correctional Services Solomon Islands (CSII) have successfully completed the police support unit and instructors training today 25 June 2021.

Supervising Director NRD, Inspector Elvis Manakako says, “The police support unit and instructors training in the public order management is designed to produce high level of operational knowledge, discipline, professionalism and integrity.”



RSIPF and CSSI officers during the closing program

Inspector Manakako says, “The training program for the CSSI officers is important as part of increasing man power capability and strength for the RSIPF in the short and long term operations. The training also enhance the capability of the correctional services emergency response group to tactically manage situations at Rove Correctional Centre.”

“The Training package has been updated reflects not only on the laws of the Solomon Islands but also how operational officers can carry out duties effectively, professionally to build confidence in the RSIPF and CSSI for a safe, peaceful and prosperous Solomon Islands.”

The training was conducted for two weeks with 42 Correctional officers including a female.

The training package involve;

- Physical competency assessments coincides with 12 hours team building exercise and scenarios
- Basic first aid course
- Public order management level one and two
- Operation safety tactics



Sergeant Isaac Kiriau receiving certificate as POM instructor

CSSI Deputy Commissioner (DC) Administration Cathy Kere says, “This is a great achievement to the ERG officers and the CSSI. I like to thank the RSIPF Commissioner and the Commissioner of Correctional Service Solomon Islands to make this program a successful one. This will allow our officers to effectively carry out their daily duties.”

Ten ERG officers were presented with certificates as qualified instructors while other CSII officers received their certificates on public order management.

CSSI Launches New CSSI Training Curriculum

The Correctional Service Solomon Islands (CSSI) yesterday launched a new training curriculum that will assist its Corrective Services Training Centre (CSTC) to effectively deliver foundation training for CSSI staff. The document was jointly launched by the CSSI Commissioner Gabriel Manelusi, Minister for Police, National Security and Correctional Services the Hon Anthony Veke and the Australian High Commissioner, Dr. Lachlan Strahan, at the CSSI headquarters in Honiara.



Hon. Minister of Police National Security and Correctional Service Anthony Veke handing over the CSSI Capability Training Framework Document to CSSI Commissioner Gabriel Manelusi

The new training curriculum will enhance learning and development opportunities in modern corrective practices for CSSI staff and new recruits. It contains a variety of training programs, and focuses on various topics including security, case management, mental health, juveniles, and anti-racism. The training manual was made possible through a collaboration between the Australian and Solomon Islands Governments and the CSSI.

Speaking at the launch, Commissioner Gabriel Manelusi thanked the Ministry of Police, National Security and Correctional Services

and the Australian High Commission for their continued support to CSSI and described the launch as a historical beginning for CSSI

“This is a historical beginning for CSSI in terms of capacity and capability development of CSSI staff. This is also in line with the DCGA Policy statement, which is to improve the standard of training delivered within CSSI



Australian High Commissioner His Excellency, Dr. Lachlan Strahan handed over the CSSI Capability Training Framework Document to Hon. Minister of Police National Security and Correctional Service Anthony Veke

“The targets were established by my Executive, with a focus on Corrections and rehabilitation. This is a boost to ongoing need for professional development of the training team at CSSI and will assist officers in dealing with sensitive and complex situations in their work. We look forward to continued support from our partners in implementing the training and the possibility of rolling out this new training in the next recruitment round,” said Commissioner Manelusi. Delivering the keynote address, the Minister of Police National Security & Correctional Services (MPNSCS) Anthony Veke said his Ministry is mandated to improve resources and capacity within CSSI.

“Under the policy redirection of the DCGA Government, the Ministry, is mandated to work on capacity development and resourcing of CSSI. The envisage out of this policy is to upgrade the curriculums of all agencies to enable them to be accredited to national education authorities and renown regional institutions as well as international institutions.

“I am confident that the revised and new curriculum is fully compatible with existing protocols of the CSSI academy and also meets the requirements of the Solomon Islands Tertiary Education and Skills Authority,” said Minister Veke.

Australian High Commissioner His Excellency, Dr. Lachlan Strahan, reiterated the important role of the wider justice system.

“The wider justice system plays such an important role, not just in maintaining law and order, but in fact in underpinning society and the economy. Without a strong justice system, an economy cannot function, and a society cannot live in harmony.

“We are very proud that Australia has played a role over a long period of time in supporting training and reinforcing the different arms of the justice sector, including ongoing support to CSSI, through technical, infrastructures and learning and development programs in partnership with the Queensland Corrective Services (QCS),” said Dr. Strahan.



Australian High Commissioner His Excellency Dr. Lachlan Strahan Delivering his speeches

“Learning never stands still. We can always learn from the past and come up with better ways of doing things”, said Dr. Strahan. “I’m glad an Australian adviser, Angelique Deep, was able to play such an important role in developing the new curriculum even though she was working remotely. She proved that it’s still possible to get good work done in these challenging COVID-19 times.”

Aust delivers new generator for Rove Corrections

The Rove Central Correctional Centre (RCCC) has received a new PLG-CPM275R generator set funded by the Australian Government. The generator set was jointly handed over by the General Manager of Island Enterprise Ltd Kevin Kennedy, the Australian High Commissioner Dr. Lachlan Strahan, and the Minister for Police, National Security and Correctional Services Anthony Veke to the Centre Commandant Supt Chris Bwekulyi in a brief ceremony at the Centre.



General Manager Island Enterprise Ltd – Mr. Kevin Kennedy handed over Genset key to Australia High Commissioner - His Excellency, Dr. Lachlan Strahan



OLD GENSET- FUNDED BY DFAT



**NEW GENSET- FUNDED BY DFAT AND
HANDLED OVER ON 21ST JULY 2021 AT RCCC**

Correctional Services Solomon Islands (CSSI) Commissioner Gabriel Manelusi said the lack of generator power had been a long-standing issue for RCCC and they were very grateful for the assistance by the Australian Government.

“The hand-over marks another milestone achievement for CSSI rehabilitation activities and my staff highly value the new generator and Australia’s continuous support to CSSI. I would like to acknowledge ongoing donor support of the Australian Government to CSSI’s infrastructure development and maintenance program. I would also like to acknowledge it’s the National Government for financing arrangements assistance, staff professional development programs, strategic development practices and technical advisory support, that had paved a way forward for the organisation,” said Commissioner Manelusi.



Minister PNSCS - Hon. Anthony Veke handed over Genset key to Commissioner Gabriel Manelusi

Handing over the generator set at RCCC, Dr. Strahan highlighted the Australian High Commission’s long and close partnership with CSSI.

“Correctional services staff do an important and challenging job. Prisons are necessary to uphold the rule of law but need to be managed in a humane way with opportunities for prisoners to obtain assistance to rehabilitate,” said Dr. Strahan.

“This new generator will enhance security lighting and provide reliable power to Rove Central Correctional Centre and CSSI Headquarter”.

“Australia has continued to provide infrastructure support to Correctional Services, helping to refurbish the sewerage system, kitchen and Gate Lodge at RCCC.”

Dr. Strahan said he had been able to see the good work of CSSI in other parts of the country, visiting the correctional Centre at Kira Kira earlier in the year.

The Rove Central Correctional Centre Commandant Supt Chris Bwekulyi said he highly appreciated and acknowledged the ongoing support from the Australian Government to the Rove Central Correctional Centre, infrastructure, security and staff capacity development training.

The official handing over ceremony at RCCC was attended by the Minister of Police National Security & Correctional Service Anthony Veke, MPNSCS Permanent Secretary Karen Galokale, the



*Australian High Commissioner, Dr. Lachlan Strahan handed over two sets of Generators (250KVA and 175 KVA) to CSSI.
The new Generators will help provide continual security lighting for the RCCC facility and CSSI headquarters*

Australian High Commissioner, the justice team from the High Commission, Counsellor Andrew Elborn and Program Manager Justice Frank Fono, the CSSI Commissioner, the CSSI Deputy Commissioner Operations, and the rank and files of Rove Central Correctional Centre.

34 officers deploys to quarantine station

A more than thirty-four (34) CSSI officers have been deployed to provide static duty at the approved quarantine stations. The current request was made OSC through NDMO approved by Commissioner for CSSI officer's deployment to provide static duty in the approved quarantine sites. The deployment duration is only for one month while the next rotation for deployment will be on 15 July 2021. On rotation second group, we are targeting Western Province deployment

Gitoa reconcile with relatives



Reconciliation (chupu or Rasi) prepared by inmate Gitoa's family

One of the main goals of the Correctional Service of Solomon Islands is to help offenders gain skills they need to live normal lives as law-abiding citizens after their prison sentence. There is a widely held opinion that my organisation CSSI can help people out of their offending behavior, however the reality is quite different. The Correctional Service aims to help them get their lives back on track by better understanding their offending behavior and learning new ways to avoid any reoffending. "Our priority is God, family and partnership. Our goal is to be a place where prisoners (our most valuable asset) have the opportunity to grow spiritually, personally and intellectually," says Gabriel Manelusi. He led a team comprising of officers from Rove Central Correctional Centre, Director of Prison Fellowship Solomon Island, welfare office, and Counselor officer as well as the media to witness the reconciliation ceremony between inmate Stanley Gitoa and a victim's Uncle Mex and his relatives.

The reconciliation ceremony was held at Tetere Correctional Centre in East Guadalcanal on Thursday, July 22.



Commissioner Gabriel Manelusi signed the Reconciliation Certificate



Commissioner Gabriel Manelusi pose for a group photo with inmate Stanley Gitoa's family and a brother of the deceased

Commissioner Gabriel Manelusi said through putting God first and people second, our success as individuals in contributing to the economy of the country would be guaranteed. During the reconciliation ceremony at Tetere CC, Commissioner Manelusi told the people who were there to witness the event that, "reconciliation has no meaning if it is not aimed at achieving equality in life expectancy, education, employment and all the important measurable areas of disadvantages.

Manelusi further stated that "reconciliation is about creating equity and equality, closing the gap and building relationships and also the final step in the forgiveness process done from a heart of love to the sinner, and love for others

The reconciliation ceremony was planned by Prison Fellowship Solomon Island known as Sycamore tree and witnessed by the CSSI Rehabilitation, Reintegration and Regeneration Unit. It turned out to be quite well-planned in terms of ground preparations and identifying middleman to get the families of the deceased and the inmate together as requested by the Executive administration and office of Commissioner.

"With the confidence and support of the stakeholders we managed to complete every paper and certificate for signing," says Manelusi.

It was a very emotional moment when these people spoke out their hearts' burdens and accepted apologies, traditional shell money, SDB\$35,000.00 and garden foods presented by inmate Stanley Gitoa's families to the families of the deceased.

Inmate Gitoa was convicted and sentenced life imprisonment by the High Court. He has already served 9 years since 2012. The reconciliation began with the welcome and followed by the CSSI Commissioner Gabriel Manelusi explaining the process and procedures of why this reconciliation ceremony was very important to the Department of Correctional Service under inmates discharge planning.



Reuniting the relationship and family of the deceased and inmate Stanley Gitoa together with the traditional shell money

Mr. Manelusi explained to the people that the reconciliation was very important for peace to prevail. Obviously, the climax of the event was the confession from an emotional prisoner Stanley Gitoa who publicly announced his sorrow and paid customary items and cash to the victim's families.

CSSI Commissioner Gabriel Manelusi, chaplain and Gabriel Soni (victim family) helped the prisoner and relatives of the victim to sign the certificates. The ceremony and signing was also witnessed by chiefs, church leaders and representatives from the CSSI administration.

Mr. Simon Mani explained that CSSI and PFSI was the only institution in the country to conduct reconciliation programs between prisoners and victims or their family members.

He also explained that after the reconciliation that inmate Gitoa could be eligible for parole.