



## CONNECTING RURAL COMMUNITIES TO GOVERNMENT SERVICES

...through Road  
Infrastructure Program

On 3 January, 2022, Small Malaita Constituency (SMC) Launched Phase 2 of its major Road Infrastructure Program aimed at improving the social and economic wellbeing of its people by connecting and providing access to government services. ► [Full report, page 3](#)

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# RCDF

Rural Constituency Development Fund

**Improves  
social and economic  
livelihoods of all rural  
Solomon Islanders**



# FROM THE COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS DESK



## WELCOME TO THE MRD NEWSLETTER 2022.

The Communication and Public Relations Unit (CPRU) of the Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) is honoured and pleased to present to you the first issue of MRD’s newsletter for 2022. This is a quarterly publication. This newsletter is one of the various initiatives the ministry through its newly established Communications Unit is effecting to increase its community awareness and raise the visibility of the ministry regarding its core mandates and programmes being implemented in the 50 constituencies via the RCDF programme to improve social and economic livelihoods of all rural Solomon Islanders.

Despite, the challenges that this year has brought, especially with the impacts of Covid-19 on the economy and our livelihoods, MRD is remain committed to deliver to fulfill its vision and that is to ensure all rural Solomon Islanders become meaningfully participated in development activities to improve their social and economic livelihood.

In this publication we highlighted achievements of the ministry for the month of January-March 2022 including few stories of activities the ministry implemented in November 2021. This is a wonderful opportunity for MRD to embrace this communication medium and to fully maximize its capacity to disseminate accurate information and success stories about its programmes to policy-makers, its stakeholders and the general public. We are grateful that you’re taking your time to read this publication.

Please share this newsletter with your friends, work colleagues and disseminate it through your respective networks.

This publication is produced by the MRD Communications and Public Relations Unit (CPRU) team. Tagio Tumas!

ABOVE  
PHOTO  
CAPTION:

Pictured centre front row is Permanent Secretary (Acting) Hugo Hebala. Second from left front row is Deputy Secretary Corporate Constance Wane with staff of the MRD.

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# Small Malaita Constituency Launches Phase 2 of its Road Infrastructure Program

The Small Malaita Constituency (SMC) has successfully launched the Phase II of its Road Infrastructure Program on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022 at Rorongo, thanks to the active involvement of the local Member of Parliament for Small Malaita Constituency, Hon. Rick Nelson Houenipwela.

Constituency Development Officer (CDO) Terry Brown said the event was witnessed by the Member of Parliament for SMC Hon. Rick Hou, the Senior Administration Officer (SAO), Mr David Mane representing Malaita Province, chiefs, church leaders, heads of landowning groups and hundreds of constituents from the Asimae and Asimeuri Wards particularly from the nearby lola including Korutalaupeine, Korutalaumweimwei, Kalapea, Louatowa-Haitataimwane and Ueniusupeine.

Mr Brown said the launching ceremony began with the escorting of Hon. Rick Hou, MP and other invited guests by the Rorongo Women’s band, adding the first part of the program included a short church service followed by speeches and feasting.

He added that Hon. Rick Hou, MP was the Guest of Honour of the launching and dedication program.

In his keynote address Hon. Hou, MP stated that the primary goal of the SMC development plan is to improve the socio-economic wellbeing of the rural people by providing access to government service and to provide the enabling environment for more economic opportunities.

Hon. Hou said the primary objective of the road infrastructure program has been achieved.

“Today the communities of Tetele, Ou’oumatawa, Tapa’atewa, Ruru’uhe, Rorongo and Likimaea have direct road access to Matangasi Port. Now you can reach the Sea Port and Afio Government Station within 30 minutes”.

He further highlighted that once phase II is completed people from Asimeuri Ward in the eastern side of the island will also access government services.

“Today also marks another milestone – we are embarking on Phase II of the Road Program. When completed, all communities between Walande and Roone will be connected with Matangasi Port and Afio Admin Center.

“This will further enhance achieving our primary goal – to provide access to services. So we have every reason to celebrate this day”, Hon. Hou said.

CDO Brown said the second part of launching was the main highlight of the program that is, the dedication and blessing of machineries and the project team which took place at Rorongo Field where phase 1 ends.

Officiating the dedication service was the Chief Elder of Asimeuri Association, Pr Felix Holo.

The program ended with the cutting of ribbon by Hon Rick Hou, Chief Elder Asimeuri, Provincial representative and Land Owner representative to officially declare the launching of construction work for Phase II.

Meanwhile, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) Allan Daonga congratulated SMC for the achievement.

He said improving socio-economic wellbeing of our rural dwellers and making sure they meaningfully participated in such social and economic development is crucial as the vision of the ministry (MRD) states and that is to ensure, “All rural Solomon Islanders become meaningfully participated in development activities to improve their social and economic livelihood.”

PS Daonga acknowledged the continuous active commitment of SMC MP and his project team and officers in establishing such infrastructure development in the constituency that would certainly enable rural people to access government services as well as provide more economic opportunities.

SMC Road Infrastructure Project began with land consultations & mobilization, public awareness and promotion in 2012.

Technical work including road surveys, scoping, designs, costing,

and procurement of road machineries started from 2015 to 2016 with actual construction work started in mid-2017 with the Trans Cross Road from Matangasi to Tawaro.

To date the total cost of the road project from 2015 to 2021 is more than \$18 million.

The project was funded under the Constituency Development Fund (CDF).

The funding agencies include Solomon Islands Government (SIG), People’s Republic of China (PRC) and the former Solomon Islands donor partner/agency, the Republic of China (ROC).



Cutting of ribbon to officially launch phase 2 of SMC road project.



Hon Rick Hou delivers the keynote address.



Rorongo Women’s Band at the dedication service.



# CDF stimulates rural economy as Ngella constituents testify benefits

Ngella Constituency Office (NCO) remain committed to boosting rural economic activities in its constituency, by supporting constituents to engage in small business and income generating activities targeted at alleviating poverty and improving their livelihoods.

And beneficiaries of the CDF projects in Ngella Constituency has applauded the benefits of CDF and how it positively contributes to their livelihood enhancement.

These economic activities were part of the CDF program and delivered to recipients by the constituency's office as aligned with the MRD development priorities and the NCO yearly development plan.

Principal Rural Development Officer, Gabriel Manetiva who led a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) team to the constituency in November, 2021 said," apart from the housing scheme, the constituency also supported other sectors, and small business and income generating activities is one of the areas of support."

Mr. Manetiva said recipients have testified how the CDF program positively changed their lives.

The support towards this sector (Income generating activities) is one of NCO strive and determination to stimulate economic activities in the rural areas to guarantee people improve their livelihoods.

"We have managed to witness some of these projects and the constituents were happy to be part of the CDF programs. Others testified that the CDF programs changes the way they live compared to what they were experiencing in the previous years," Mr. Manetiva said.

Peter Manekaoni and family who owns a Homestay business in Tulagi thanked NCO for its continuous support towards small businesses and incoming generating activities in the constituency.

"NCO has supported my business with housing materials and that has enabled us to expand and made improvements to our homestay apartment," Manekaoni excitedly told the M&E team in an interview.

The constituency also funded constituents with Transportation and Fishing Projects. The projects included the Yamaha/Suzuki 40HP and fiberglass boats and nine (9) families from various communities were the happy recipients in 2020.

The projects touched many lives said Regan Nofo, one of the prior recipients.

"My family were grateful to have received project assistance of a Yamaha 40HP Engine and a fiberglass boat from NCO, and that has enabled us to ran a transportation business service between Ngella and Honiara. This has helped us a lot to pay for school fees, family needs, building materials and meet other community obligations."

Another beneficiary, Robert Kabe of Logapolo Community also thanked the constituency office for supporting his family with a Suzuki 40HP Engine and a fiberglass boat. Currently Mr. Kabe also rans a transportation business service and help communities around his community by transporting them to Honiara for market and the sick to seek medical services in town.

"My small business has enabled me to meet my family expenses such as school fees, household needs and solved transport difficulties."

Fr. John Talisi of Borohinaba village who was supported with a canteen project and funds to purchase copra similarly acknowledged NCO's support. Now we have expanded our business to buying of cocoa beans."

"The support we received through the small business project helped my family to meet our family needs as well as improved our livelihoods. Thank you, NCO."

Bartholomew Parapolo is the current Member of Parliament for Ngella Constituency.



Regan Nofo of Haleta Community in Ward 2- Central West Ngella pointing to his Transportation Project funded by CDF.



Principal Development Officer and the M&E team leader, Gabriel Manetiva and Jimmy (a tour guide) visiting supported Housing Scheme projects at Nagotano Community in Ward 1 – Sandfly & Buena Vista.



Principal Rural Development Officer (Research & Development) Brian Douglas leads the Focus Group Discussion with community leaders during the Monitoring and Evaluation visit in Ngella constituency in 2021.



Sanitation project at Lango village in Ward 6, South East Ngella, funded by CDF.





DPM and MP of East Malaita Manasseh Maelanga, CDO Gabriel Rockson, far right and the Permanent Secretary of MRD with Ungaiabu Trust Board representatives during the handing over ceremony at the MRD office in Honiara on 18th January 2022.

# Ungaiabu tribal land in East Malaita ready for development

East Malaita Constituency is preparing to get the foundation work on their modern style mini-hospital after the official goodwill payment was done to Ungaiabu tribal landowner in Honiara on Tuesday 18th January 2022.

The handover ceremony was facilitated by the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) Allan Daonga and witnessed by East Malaita MP and Deputy Prime Minister Manasseh Maelanga and his Constituency Development Officer Gabriel Rockson.

A total of SBD\$200,000 was handed over to Ungaiabu Trust Board as a token of appreciation from the National Government, MRD and East Malaita constituency office for allowing their land to be developed as the Constituency Development Center (CDC).

Deputy Prime Minister and MP for East Malaita Maelanga from his heart expressed his appreciation towards the landowners and Ungaiabu Trust Board.

“I would like to acknowledge the unwavering support rendered by the landowners and the Ungaiabu Trust Board.

“Their vision and development aspiration truly speak for itself, from the beginning they support our constituency office until the end of the process.

“The land has been registered and will host a mini-hospital, staff houses, a secondary school, a Rural Training Center (RTC), tourism and market zones, Fisheries and other economic activities to bring in other essential services,” Maelanga added.

East Malaita Constituency had already opened their modern style constituency office on that land prior to the landowner fully registering that land just recently.

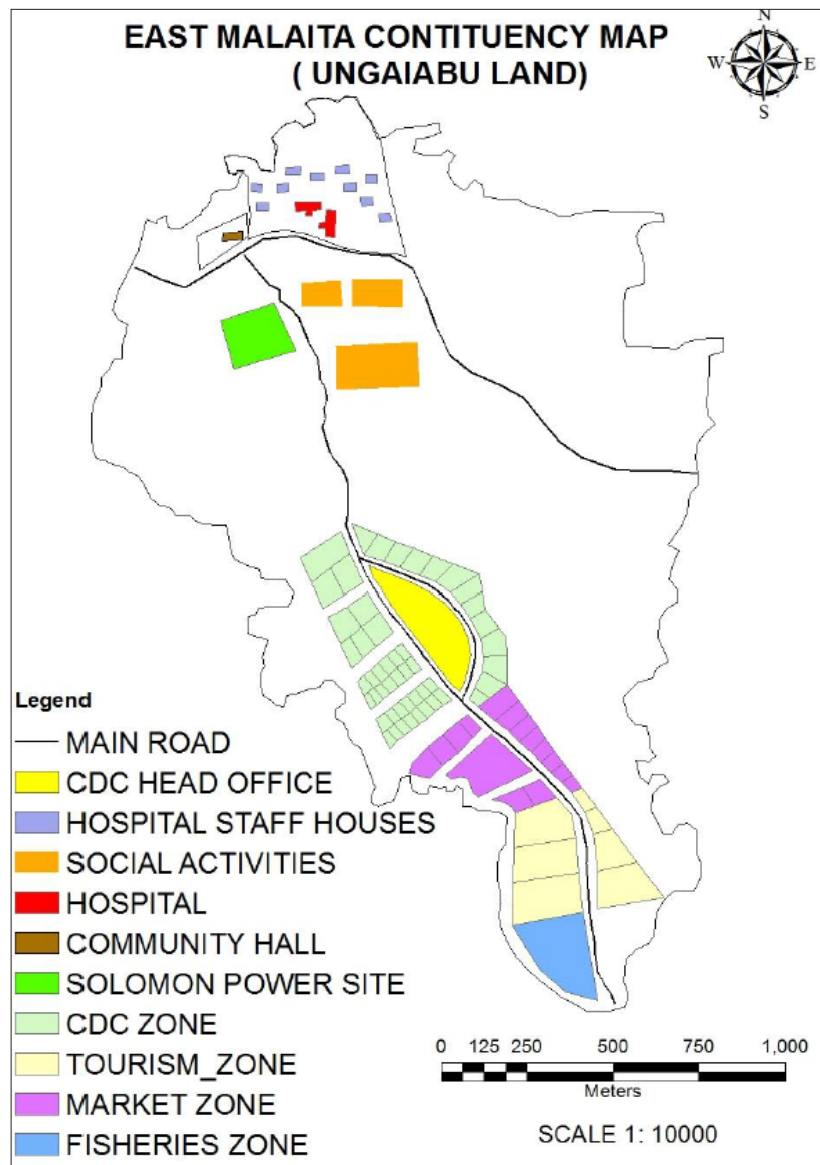
He further assured the landowning group that as the MP for East Malaita he will continue to support all their effort to see his people benefit from these developments.

Maelanga said the constituency office is ready to deliver the material for the mini-hospital foundation as soon as possible.

On the same note, Ungaiabu Trust Board representative and landowner Barnabas Maelimani also thanked MRD and their MP Maelanga for this historical ceremony.

“The desire to develop our land did not start yesterday, the desire and dream to see development on our land go back to our grandfather’s days.

“Not only that but our grandfathers are very instrumental in trying to bring in development from the government into East Malaita.



“I am very proud today that our land is registered and is ready for development without any objection,” Maelimani affirmed.

He thanked MP, the constituency office, and MRD for this goodwill payment handover on behalf of the Trust Board and the landowners.

“We will continue to work together with our MP and MRD to implement future projects earmarked for our land,” he added.

Meanwhile, PS Daonga commended the landowners, tribal member, and their MP for working together to achieve this milestone in East Malaita.

“As the ministry responsible for the 50 constituencies, MRD is fully committed to see that all rural Solomon Islanders become meaningfully participated in development activities to improve their social and economic livelihoods,” he added.





# Ngella Constituency delivers, improve constituent's livelihood through CDF

Ngella Constituency Office (NCO) is continuing to deliver obligatory support to its constituents with a resolute commitment aiming at improving people's livelihood through its Constituency Development Fund (CDF) programs.

NCO development programs/projects were categorized into four priority sectors. These include Infrastructure, Small Business, Income Generating and Social Services support including education and health.

Principal Rural Development Officer, Gabriel Manetiva said it is encouraging to witness the strong commitment that the constituency office continues to demonstrate with regards to its CDF programs implementation targeted at alleviating poverty and improving livelihood in the constituency.

The constituency delivered its programs/projects through various sector. These includes infrastructure sector in the categories of the housing scheme, Church buildings, church rest house, community hall, water boreholes and sanitation. Other sectors that the constituency also engaged in include small business, income generating activities and social services including education and health.

"These constituency projects and programs were aligned with the MRD development priorities and the NCO development plan," Mr. Manetiva said.

"The housing scheme project in partnership with the beneficiaries was fruitful and was the constituency's flagship achievements in 2020.

"There were evidences of the housing projects in all villages, communities visited and Tulagi township. The constituency set a classic example in its implementation strategy by involving all constituents to participate and be part of the development process.

"NCO was very inclusive in their approach in the current housing scheme program by allowing the non-supporters to be part of the pro-

gram. The constituency office put aside politics and serve the intention of the CDF that is for all constituents and not only for voters as usually claimed," individuals within the constituency revealed this when the MRD Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Team led by Mr. Manetiva visited communities and villages of Ngella constituency in November 2021.

Relevant data/information collected from the M&E will support the ministry in its planning to assess status of projects and impact's the funding support (CDF) have on the lives of constituents. Not only the data collected is important but gathering evidences on the ground by M&E officers, to confirm that constituencies utilized the funds for its intended purpose is paramount.

Mr. Manetiva however said the constituency inclusive strategy in the implementation of the housing scheme motivated more constituents to engage in the housing project.

Bartholomew Parapolo is the current Member of Parliament for Ngella Constituency. **See related stories & photos on page 4, 8-9.**



Housing project in Ngella funded by RCDF.



# Enhancing MRD human resource capacity

Four officers of the Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) are among hundreds of Solomon Islands students’ who received their academic qualification as graduates of the University of the South Pacific (USP) in a graduation ceremony held on 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 in Honiara.

The accomplishment was made possible through the ministry’s support in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Service (MPS), with the aim to ensure all officers are trained and equipped with relevant skills and knowledge, to enable them carryout ministry’s key function and programs, more effectively and efficiently as aligned to the ministry’s strategic goal.

The graduated officers were; Agnes Bopi Tanihorara who graduated with Master of Business Administration (MBA), Gabriel Manetiva, Constance Wane and Joy Tealiklava with Postgraduate Diploma in Social Policy and Administration.

The other four officers who have been graduated last year were; Allan Lilia with Master of Business Administration (MBA) from USP, Timothy Paoka, Bachelor of Commerce, Accounting from the Solomon Islands National University (SINU), George Balairamo with International Masters in Environmental Sustainable Development from National Central University, Taiwan and George Hickson who graduated with Master of Governance and Public Policy from the University of Queensland, St. Lucia Campus, Brisbane, Australia.

“Enhancing staff capacity to remain competent, and achieving the ministry’s overarching goals is paramount,” Deputy Secretary Corporate (DSC) Constance Wane said.

Ms. Wane who is also amongst the graduated staff added that continuous capacity building is an integral part of an organisation, to augment employee’s performance. “As such, the ministry’s human resource



Deputy Secretary Corporate of MRD, Constance Wane.

es strategy resolves to being committed to staff trainings and upskilling. Ultimately a well-trained, dynamic and highly motivated workforce is crucial to any organisation. And the best way to raise employees to such standards is to invest in their ongoing development.”

“The newly graduate’s academic attainments are a bonus and boost for the ministry’s workforce. Therefore, we thank the government through MRD, MPS and relevant academic institutions to ensure successful completion of our trainings/study programs in this unprecedented times. This is a milestone achievement of our lifetime and it demonstrated individual resilience as well as government’s ongoing commitment towards human resource development in the Solomon Islands government public service.” ■

# MRD undergo fundamental reforms

The Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) is undertaking fundamental reforms to keep up with change amidst increasing demands for better service delivery to all Solomon Islanders.

- These reforms include;
- Development of the MRD new information/database management system to track, capture and store information on the progress of projects under Constituency Development Fund (CDF) program in order to promote accountability and transparency.
  - Constituency Planning Strengthening Project (CPSP) which aimed at improving the CDF accountability for sustainable development results.
  - MRD functional review which is currently proceeding to assess practical efficiencies and effectiveness of the ministry in fulfilling its mandate.

“Government through the ministry is determined to improve the effectiveness of the CDF and to deliver sustainable development results through these reform initiatives,” Permanent Secretary Daonga said.

MRD is one of the government’s line ministry mandated for the management and administration of CDF and supporting socio-economic rural development within the 50 constituencies throughout Solomon Islands.

“The CDF program constitute nearly a quarter of the government overall development budget allocations annually. However, there is no proper tracking mechanism to be able to track the progress of the projects under this program in order to promote accountability and transparency. Also, there is no reporting mechanism to guide government policies regarding the program. Therefore, MRD through its management has listed the development of this Information Management System that would help address the aforementioned shortfalls in its capabilities,” Mr Daonga emphasized.

On the reforms of Constituency Planning Strengthening Project (CPSP) the Permanent Secretary said that MRD is taking a leading role in reforming the constituency planning process to ensure its priorities are consistent with the National Development Strategy (NDS) Objectives and other related international and regional strategies including the Sustainable Development Goals that Solomon Islands has subscribed

to by 2030.

“Strengthening the planning and institutional arrangements are fundamental to address the current situation and must be championed at both the constituency and national levels.

“Provisioned under the Legal Notice 164 and the CDF Act 2013, MRD is responsible for the coordination of the RCDF in close collaboration with 50 constituencies towards delivering tangible development results in the rural areas. The CDF Act Section 6, emphasize the need to have Constituency Development Plans developed to guide the distribution of the CDF. However, the enforcement of the CDF Act is limited as regulations accompanying the CDF Act is yet to be gazetted. Despite of the level of funding provided, there is very little information on how RCDF funds are used and in what manner it is allocated for development purposes at the constituency level. So, CPSP once implemented sequentially would realise the overall goal of the program which is, “to improve the CDF accountability for sustainable development results.”

The third fundamental reform which currently undertaken by MRD is the functional review. A fulfilment of the reforms is the establishment of the Communication and Public Relations Unit of the ministry.

“The Functional Review will assess functional efficiencies and effectiveness of MRD in fulfilling its mandate, specifically how the different Units within Rural Development Division function to deliver the overall mandate of the Ministry,” Mr Daonga said.

The review also asses the other departments within the ministry on the same.

The Permanent Secretary is adamant that the revised structure will position the Ministry to best deliver its key mandates, the Corporate Plan performance indicators, NDS implementation and DCGA Reprioritisation Policy priorities that will enhance delivery of services to the people of Solomon Islands. ■



# MRD successfully concludes Gao-Bugotu



New clinic staff house funded under PRC assistance in Vulavu village.



Canoes funded under CDF funds in Sigana village.

The Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) through its Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Unit had successfully completed its monitoring of Constituency Development Fund (CDF) 2020 funded projects in Gao/ Bugotu Constituency, Isabel Province.

The M&E survey which received an overwhelming support from the Gao-Bugotu Constituency Office in Honiara and the people in the Constituency commenced from 19<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2021.

The objectives of the M&E were:

- To verify the implementation status of projects funded by CDF program in the constituency in 2020.
- To establish community participation in the CDF funded projects in the constituency.
- To investigate the level of awareness of CDF among community members.
- To determine the level of satisfaction of community members in CDF funded projects.

MRD team did the monitoring of CDF projects and at the same time administered questionnaires to several social classes of people within the villages and communities with the determination to establish the M&E objectives.

Constituency monitoring of CDF projects is part of the ministry’s ongoing activity on CDF funded programmes being implemented with-in the 50 constituencies.

With financial support from government in 2021 for Monitoring of CDF projects, it enabled officers to carry out the activity which focussed mainly on projects funded by the Solomon Islands Government (SIG) including Peoples Republic of China (PRC) CDF supported projects for 2020.

The M&E also help to assess the progress or status of CDF implemented projects and to ascertain whether the programme is on track or not so that changes can be made during the project execution.

The Ministry thanked the people of Gao-Bugotu constituency for participating in the M&E survey which will help the ministry in its current CDF planning reform on Constituency Planning Strengthening Project (CPSP) which aim to improve the CDF accountability for sustainable development results.

Given the challenges the Gao-Bugotu constituency office had faced in relation to its growing population and budget constraints to fully assist the development initiatives within the constituency, the team



Gao-Bugotu Constituency Office complex at Tataba.



# Constituency Monitoring and Evaluation tour

however, witnessed important infrastructure developments emerging within the rural villages and specifically at the Tatamba station.

Some of the development initiatives/highlights witnessed by the team include;

- Permanent road development that connects almost 20 villages of Gao-Bugotu Constituency.
- Kolotevo Market House for surrounding villages such as Midoru, Lepi, Vulavu, and other nearby smaller settlements.
- The Lepi Fisheries centre that provides income generating services for surrounding fishermen and nearby villages.
- Tatamba station that accommodates major building infrastructures including a fully operational courthouse with associated cell for convicts, and the constituency office complex that is anticipated to be completed and opened in mid 2022.

The office complex will accommodate separate office spaces for Gao-Bugotu constituency consultation, field extension offices for agriculture and forestry divisions for Isabel provincial government, a women resource centre and other important administration setups for both Gao-Bugotu Constituency and the Isabel Provincial Government.

The team visited communities and villages which include; Lelegia, Talise, Midoru, Lepi, Vulavu, Binaboli, Sepi, Suva, Sigana, Nagholau, Horara, Huali, Tataba and Poro.

The Ministry of Rural Development acknowledged the village chiefs, elders, mothers, fathers, youths and children of the villages within the Gao Bugotu Constituency for their support and warmth welcome rendered to the team during the M&E visit to communities within the Constituency.

Honourable Samuel Manetoali is the current Member of Parliament (MP) for Gao-Bugotu Constituency.

Government through MRD supported the M&E activity.

SIG and the lone donor Peoples Republic of China (PRC) supports the RCDF programme.

Similar activity/survey was conducted in Central Honiara Constituency and Ngella Consiteuncy in November, 2022. **See related story on page 10.**

MRD is fully committed to see that all rural Solomon Islanders become meaningfully participated in development activities to improve their social and economic livelihoods.



Gao-Bugotu Constituency Court House at Tataba funded by SIG.



Team leader and Gao Bugotu CPO interviewing some of the CDF recipients in Sigana.



Bishop Epale new classroom partly funded under CDF Fund in Midoru.



# CDF touches lives, improves livelihood

The Constituency Development Fund (CDF) has touched many lives and better constituent’s livelihood despite negativities steamrolled against it by certain members of the public and constituents.

Constituency offices of the Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) has facilitated soul moving assistance to citizen’s over years, but that has gone on gradually without much publicity, thus, exacerbating public opinion and criticisms that the fund brings no finer impact on the livelihood of people in the country.

Despite these condemnations, there are success stories and positive impacts that CDF has brought to many with little made known to the public.

MRD Monitoring and Evaluation officers (M&E) interviewed a number of beneficiaries of the fund in Central Honiara Constituency (CHC) in November 2021 and obliged to get encouraging testimonies about the CDF.

“I received an assistance of \$5000 from CHC for my family’s small piggery farm venture. To me, this is a great help. It may seem small, but growing and making the most of the funds is important. The financial support is a boost for us and we have utilised it for the expansion of our family piggery farm business,” CDF beneficiary, Job Lanisi from Namoliki community said.

Lanisi said his small piggery farm has served him well to support his family obligations.

“The CDF assistance is an advantage for my family. Therefore, I must thank the government through CDF Program for the funding assistance.”

He suggested if possible, responsible authorities should consider maintaining the CDF funding assistance in the future to guarantee people are increasingly engaged in socio-economic development activities that would improve their standard of living.

Babra Maomaeasi from Kaibia community while sharing the same sentiments said she was overwhelmed by the value CDF aid bring to her family.

“CHC office assisted my family with \$5000. We invested it into a family canteen. The funding assistance may be small but we have seen it grow over time.”

“While I understand every individual have different challenges and commitments with pressures from Urban living, I still have trust that once you put good use of the money received under CDF, whether small or big it would no doubt sustain your livelihood in the long run.”

She thanked government for the initiative and calls on the government to continue with the CDF funding assistance to ensure people participate in socio-economic development activities to improve their livelihoods.

Chief Kokem Noga from Yellow Bamboo Community at New Zealand Camp said his community was one of the happiest beneficiaries of CDF through Central Honiara Constituency (CHC) support for their Water Supply project worth \$12,000.

“I have been residing here for more than 20 years now, and the main problem for the community is access to proper water supply. But, thanks to CHC for addressing our primary need by funding a water borehole that we are now using for cooking, drinking, bathing and washing,” excited Noga said.

“For the last 20 plus years, we have to walk to the Lunga river to fetch water for domestic use. And seeing that such assistance through CDF benefiting us is remarkable. Therefore, we would like to thank government for the CDF funding that ensure we have a proper water supply in our community.”

Mr Noga said CDF has touched his community hearts adding he wants the government to continue to render services to constituencies through the fund and to make sure constituents meaningfully participated in important socio-economic development for better life.

Stephen Aofia who was the latest recipient of the CHC housing assistance project, could not hold back his tears of joy, when a delivery of timbers for a full skeleton two-bedroom house was delivered to him on 23rd November 2021 at Jericho 2 community.



Central Honiara Constituency funded water supply (borehole) project at Yellow Bamboo Community at New Zealand Camp.



CHC housing assistance project delivery in full swing. Pictured is the delivery of timbers, full skeleton for a two-bedroom house for Stephen Aofia at Jericho 2 community as witnessed by M&E officers.



(L-R) CHC project officer, Andrew, MRD officer Kerly Arthur Kemaiki and Babra Maomaeasi from Kaibia community in front of her family canteen funded from CDF assistance. On the right is Principal Rural Development officer and M&E team leader for Honiara, Kejoa Para.

“I am a permanent resident of this community and a constituent of CHC but never ever received such support like this all through my life. This is the first of its kind. No words to express how I feel now. To receive timbers for a full skeleton house without even spending a penny is indescribable,” Mr Aofia tenderly attested as tears of joy rolled down his chin. He then thanked CHC office for the boundless help.

However, a constituent who want to be named as Mike while acknowledging CHC for assisting its constituent’s towards improving their standard of living, wants to see fair distribution of assistance transpire in the constituency. “What I mean here is, such support should include all constituent’s, regardless of whether you are a voter or a non-voter of the Honourable Member (MP). This is not only for CHC, but I wish to see it transpired in all the 50 constituencies too.”

CHC commitment is to make sure all constituent is assisted and meaningfully participated in socio-economic development activities to improve their livelihoods, despite budget constraints.





Fleet Solomons Company Managing Director Kensley Manu formally handover the \$300,000 worth of Outboard Motor Engines to MP for Temotu Vatud Constituency Freda Rotutafi Rangirei and CDO Justine Tanema.

# Temotu Vatud constituents to benefit from 300k fishing and transportation project

Member of Parliament for Temotu Vatud Constituency (TVC) Honourable Freda Rotutafi Rangirei has received eleven 15-horse and two 40-horse power outboard motor engines (OBM) from the Government Preferred Supplier, Fleet Solomons a locally owned company.

The engines will go towards the constituency's fishing and transportation project, which costs more than \$300,000.

Communications and Public Relations Unit (CPRU) officers under the Ministry of Rural Development witnessed the official handover in Honiara, January 2022.

Honourable Rangirei upon receiving the outboard motor engines acknowledged the local supplier for their timely response in supplying the much-needed engines for her constituency.

She also acknowledged the Ministry for Rural Development for its role in administering the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) program so that it reaches its intended purposes as we witnessed today.

"As I have said the funds used for this fishing and transportation project comes from the Constituency Development Fund program.

"CDF has helped a lot especially when we try to improve the livelihoods of our rural people in the respective constituencies," MP Rangirei expressed.

She further added that under CDF she was able to support individuals, families, communities, and churches in her constituency for the past years as an MP for Temotu Vatud.

"My priority for the past years and I will continue with it this year 2022 is putting more resources into my constituency human resources funded by CDF program and other related funds," she added.

"I believe CDF program has played a vital role in improving the lives of our people but the onus is on individual MP leaders to do the right thing by improving the livelihoods of our rural people," she added.

MP Rangirei also commended MRD for administering the CDF program.

Meanwhile, MP Rangirei confirmed that many in her constituency had already benefited from similar projects in the past and some more will get support under the current batch with others in the years ahead.

"Fishing and transport is paramount and I will continue to support them through such projects to help them improve their livelihoods," she said.

She also stated that transportation between their remote Islands is very difficult and challenging therefore she also wants to address this need under the CDF programs SIG Support to Constituency Development (SSCD) project.

Constituency Development Officer Justin Faka Tanema on that matter further added that the recipients have been identified with schools amongst those to benefit.

"Our office will also receive fiberglass boats from one of the governments preferred supplier, JQY soon for each outboard motor engine," he confirmed.

He urged the recipients to look after their outboard motor engines and boats and use them for their intended purposes.

Mr Tanema assured the people that the engines will be delivered with the rest of other projects to the constituency this month.

MRD the administrator of CDF program also continues to work very closely with the approved preferred suppliers making sure they deliver materials what is expected of them.

Fleet Solomons Company Managing Director Kensley Manu who handed over the OBMs thanked MRD for engaging his local company. Fleet Solomons Company had won the right to supply the engines under the MRD's preferred supplier arrangement in 2021.

Manu said this is not the first time as he had already supplied OBMs to Temotu Vatud constituency in the past.

Fleet Solomon's also delivered development projects materials to Malaita Outer Island and Temotu Pele constituencies last year.

"Therefore, I would like to register my sincere appreciation to the government through MRD for their trust and confidence not only to work with our constituencies but seeing it fit to support our local companies," he added.

Meanwhile, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Rural Development thanked Honourable MP for Temotu Vatud Constituency for her continuous commitment towards supporting and improving livelihoods of people in her constituency.

He said making sure rural people participate in such socio-economic activity to improve their livelihoods is important.

PS Daonga again acknowledged the continuous active commitment of TVC MP and her project team and constituency officers in delivering such socio-economic improvement project in the constituency that would surely ease transport in and out of the constituency as well as engage in more economic opportunities or activities.

MRD is responsible for the coordination of the rural constituency development fund program in close collaboration with 50 constituencies towards delivering tangible development results in rural areas.

MRD is fully committed to seeing that all rural Solomon Islanders become meaningfully participate in development activities to improve their social and economic livelihoods.



# MRD spells out core responsibility

The core mandate of the Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) is to oversee the management of the Constituency Development Funds towards rural development.

These mandates are provided under Legal Notice 164 and the Constituency Development Funds- (CDF) Act 2013.

According to the CDF Act 2013, MRD is mandated to carry out the management and disbursement of the Constituency Development Funds with integrity and in a prudent manner with a view to safeguarding the interest of potential recipients of the funds.

Furthermore, Section 6(2) of the Act gives responsibility for MRD to coordinate the formulation of Constituency Development Plans and to ensure plans satisfy the planning guide. Unfortunately, the enforcement of the CDF Act is limited as regulations accompanying the CDF Act is yet to be gazetted. However, there is ongoing work on the CDF Act review as part of the ministry’s current reforms.

With that management and administration of the CDF, MRD also continues supporting socio-economic rural development within the 50 constituencies throughout the Solomon Islands.

Ministry of Rural Development annually through its development budget has been allocated funds under the Constituency Development Funding (CDF) programme to implement the SIG Support to Constituency Development Fund (SSCD), and People Republic of China Constituency Development Fund (PRCSCD).

The CDF program consists of four main sub-projects:

- Cash Grant
- Income Generating projects
- Water and Sanitation, Hygiene projects (WASH)
- Social Infrastructures Projects.

MRD would also like to state clearly here that the ministry does not directly involve or fund any community projects or individuals as some

might think.

All the projects are funded under the 50 Constituency Office respectively. Thus, constituents are advised to consult their respective constituency office’s for more information on project submission processes.

MRD only coordinates formulation of Constituency Development Plan and ensures plans satisfy the planning guidelines as stipulated under Section 6(2) of CDF Act 2013.


Currently the ministry is undertaking fundamental reforms to keep up with change amidst increasing demands for better service delivery to all Solomon Islanders.

These reforms include;

- Development of the MRD new information/database management system to track, capture and store information on the progress of projects under Constituency Development Fund (CDF) program in order to promote accountability and transparency.
- Constituency Planning Strengthening Project (CPSP) which aimed at improving the CDF accountability for sustainable development results.
- MRD functional review which is currently proceeding to assess practical efficiencies and effectiveness of the ministry in fulfilling its mandate.

One of the fulfilments of the ongoing reforms is the establishment of the Communication and Public Relations Unit of the ministry.

The ministry determined that the important reforms will position the Ministry to best deliver its key mandates, the Corporate Plan performance indicators, NDS implementation and DCGA Reprioritisation Policy priorities that will enhance delivery of services to the people of Solomon Islands.

MRD is fully committed to see that all rural Solomon Islanders become meaningfully participated in development activities to improve their social and economic livelihoods. 

## Marovo constituents soon to take ownership of new Market House project

Constituents at Ngasini and surrounding communities within the Marovo constituency, Western Province will soon take ownership of a new and proper market house facility an investment worth more than \$300,000 that would provide clean and spacious area for them to sell their produces.

For decades, Ngasini communities were without a proper market house, forcing vendors to suffer from sun and rain when selling their products.

Constituency Development Officer (CDO), Tyson Stanley Ghera said ensuring vendors have a proper and accommodative market facility is important and that is one of the constituency’s office priorities, because this is where people (vendors) of Ngasini communities get their income through sales of agriculture and fishery products to support their livelihoods.

“For past decades’ people suffer the sun and rain, yet this is where they get income, therefore the constituency office is pleased to render the support by investing in this very important project.”

The major infrastructure (market facility) which is located at the Ngasini wharf will serve 40 villages both in Wards 23 and 24 of the constituency.

Mr. Ghera said the market infrastructure will be installed with a solar system and proper market tables adding the project construction also include improvement work on the deteriorated market seafront/ seawall to ensure canoes have a safe and sufficient area for loading and offloading of eskies.




Side view Ngasini new market house nears completion.

“Work is almost complete and official handing over is planned for June, 2022,” CDO, Ghera confirmed.

Marovo constituency office of the Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) implement the project under its Rural Constituency Development Fund (RCDF) programme initiatives for 2022.

Current Member of Parliament for Mavoro Constituency is Chachabule Amoi. He entered parliament in 2019.

RCDF programme is funded by SIG and the PR as donor. 



# Strengthening local fisheries in Marovo Constituency

A major investment initiative aimed at strengthening local fisheries within the Marovo Constituency in Western province is set to launch in June, 2022.

Initiated by the Marovo Constituency Office (MCO) administration under the leadership of Honourable Chachabule Amoi, MP, the fisheries investment project is funded by the Rural Constituency Development Fund (RCDF) programme.

Constituency Development Officer (CDO), Tyson Stanley Ghera said the launching of the initiative will see an investment of 160 boats/canoes along with 160 horsepower engines to 160 beneficiaries, to boost local fisheries within the constituency where fish are abundant with potential benefits to people within the constituency.

“Recipients of boats and the horsepower engines will also receive one (1) each 200 litres esky for storage of fish and other perishable goods.

“It is going to be a huge event for the constituency because it will also coincide with the official opening of the Nganisi Market House project also funded by the constituency through RCDF,” Mr. Ghera said.

He said the exciting part of the fisheries project is that the boats/canoes were built by locals of Marovo which is an additional benefit to the constituents adding MCO under the leadership of MP Amoi is also looking at investing in other productive areas to boost economic activities that would bring touchable benefits to his people.

On market transportation, Mr. Ghera said, currently the constituency is working on repairing LC Swift to be used by the constituency as a specified transport for transporting of all fisheries (Marovo eskies) and agricultural products to Honiara.

“Initial work on bringing in parts from overseas already done by our MP. Our aim is to have this (ship) fixed this year so that we could be able to supply fresh fish and other products to the Pacific Games 2023 next year. This ship has a multi-purpose, not only for fishery initiative but also for other businesses within the Marovo lagoon. It will be scheduled to suit the timing for our fishermen/women unlike other ships,” Mr. Ghera explained.

Mr. Ghera further said that as part of the fisheries initiative, the constituency office is also looking at investing in the installation of an ice making machine which can produce 70 blocks per day at Seghe to supply blocks for fishermen and livestock farmers.

He added, the constituency is also planning to develop a location in Honiara as an alternative market place for Marovo fish. “This initiative will greatly assist our people because it is one of the major sources of income for our rural people.”

Meanwhile, Mr. Ghera re-emphasized that Marovo constituency



Boats built by locals of Marovo for the fisheries project.



Some of the horsepower engines for the fisheries project.

does not discriminate members based on voters-only approach, especially on big projects that will help everybody.

“The constituency assist families and individuals regardless of who they vote for. We leave out or get rid of the voters only system because all we want is to make sure everyone participates together in socio-economic activities to improve their livelihoods.”



Ngasini market house project nears completion. The project is funded by the Solomon Islands Government through Marovo Constituency with the RCDF money.





# MRD reaffirms commitment to deliver development in 50 constituencies

The government through the Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) has reaffirmed its commitment towards rural development with resolute determination to boost rural economic activities within the 50 constituencies targeted at alleviating poverty and improving constituent's livelihoods.

Permanent Secretary (Acting) Hugo Hebala made the assurance when MRD executive and management team appeared before the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) for the 2022 Appropriation Bill 2022 on Tuesday 5th April, 2022. The meeting was held virtually by zoom.

“Making sure rural Solomon Islanders participate in economic activities to sustain and improve their livelihoods is important, and thus, the government through the ministry will continue to facilitate financial support to constituency offices in implementing their development programs in their respective constituencies this year and onward.

“Constituents participation in socio-economic activities is necessary, and the ministry is fully committed to see all rural Solomon Islanders become meaningfully participated in development activities to improve their social and economic livelihoods.”

Meanwhile, on ministerial priorities, Mr. Hebala told PAC that the ministry has embarked on a number of key priority activities for this year, 2022 including new and ongoing projects. These priorities include the review of the CDF Act 2013 in compliance with Public Financial Management Act (PFMA), supporting the Establishment of Constituency Development Centres (CDCs), developing essential constituency infrastructures and supporting the development of a Constituency Development Plan for the 50 constituencies.

Apart from the existing activities, Mr. Hebala told PAC that MRD will also undertake New Projects for Development this year. These include documenting of Constituency development profiles, develop and design CDF Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, Conversion of CDF Paper-based application to Online application form and Introduce e-procurement of Preferred Suppliers Arrangement (Tender).

One of the priorities which highlighted by PAC was the CDF Act 2013 review.

In response to that particular CDF Act Review, Mr. Hebala told PAC that last year the Ministry of Finance and Treasury (MoFT) took the leading role in the review process while MRD and Prime Minister's Office supported the process adding the review now awaiting presentation to Cabinet. “The presentation on the review will be looked at the CDF Act in compliance with the Public Financial Management Act (PFMA).”

Mr. Hebala assured PAC that MRD will prioritise this CDF Act review as it has been long outstanding which was also highlighted by PAC member and Member of Parliament for Aoke-Langalanga and Opposition Leader Hon. Mathew Wale.

“The CDF Act will be our key policy and key ministerial priority for this year and it requires commitment from the other two ministries be-



MRD executive/management team during the virtual meeting with PAC on Tuesday 5th April 2022.



fore it can be presented to the Cabinet,” he added.

MRD is one of the 24 ministries within the Solomon Islands Government (SIG) machinery. It is established on the 28th September, 2007. Its core mandates as contained under Legal Notice 164 in accordance with the Constitution of Solomon Islands is to oversee the effective planning and implementation of Government's Rural Development Policies.

## Ministry of Rural Development

Vision

All rural Solomon Islanders become meaningfully participated in development activities to improve their social and economic livelihood.



Ministry of Rural Development,  
P.O. Box 1983, Honiara,  
Solomon Islands.

Phone: 25238/25239/25254



# Gov’t lauds PRC for continuous support to Rural Development

The government through the Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) has recognised the government of Peoples Republic of China (PRC) and its tax payers for their ongoing and unwavering support towards government’s (SIG) rural development programs after both country’s established diplomatic relations in 2019.

Permanent Secretary Acting and Deputy Secretary Technical (DST), Hugo Hebala said, following the approval of Solomon Islands Government (SIG) to normalise diplomatic ties with PRC on 16th September, 2019, PRC continue to demonstrate robust commitment to the government by providing necessary funding assistance to SIG CDF programs in the 50 constituencies.

PRC’s Support for Constituency Development under the CDF Program came into effect in the 4th quarter of 2019 and focuses mainly on three components which include; community social infrastructures, Water Supply & Sanitation and income generating initiatives to improve rural livelihoods.

The funding support normally factored into the national government development budget and channelled through MRD for facilitation to constituencies towards their development programs to boost rural economic activities targeted at alleviating poverty and improving rural Solomon Islanders livelihood.

“In 2019, PRC has signed an MOU with SIG after the switch. In the MOU, it was agreed that PRC will support CDF with 270 million over three years, 2020, 2021 and 2022. That is 90 million each year. However, in 2019, 70 million of PRC 2022 budget was advanced. As a result of this, only 20 million remained in 2022 budget for PRC. For this 20 million, the focus area will remain as of last year-2021,” Mr. Hebala explained.

With the 20m budget for 2022, constituencies are expected to receive SBD\$400,000.00 each.

“PRC is currently in transition, meaning they will soon stop giving cash support to CDF and only support development through projects in the constituencies.

“According to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between PRC and SIG, China has made it clear that there will be only development support through projects, not cash support for the CDF fund. The MOU also made it clear that with projects, they want to work directly with the provinces,” Mr Hebala said.

He said MRD through its Rural Development Division (RDD) will administer the funding assistance of SBD\$20 million this year, provided by PRC under its funding agreement towards the Constituency Development Program in the Solomon Islands.

“All due processes are in place to ensure the money is released to the constituencies so that they can be able to implement their programs. All submission requirements by constituencies for the funding support remain the same as in 2021,” Mr. Hebala affirmed.

“MRD estimate 2022 Total Expenditure SIG Recurrent is \$101,699,709.00 while its Development budget is \$241 million.”



MRD Permanent Secretary (Acting), Hugo Hebala.

The ministry’s budget as allocated under the CDF program will be implemented across the 50 constituencies and is envisioned to deliver four (4) key program outputs which are;

- Establish small businesses
- Develop local economies
- Create employment opportunities
- Construct basic infrastructures

Also, the budget will support respective constituencies in their program implementation aimed at enhancing livelihoods in our rural communities.

Mr. Hebala acknowledged PAC for scrutinising the SIG 2022 Budget and reaffirmed MRD’s commitment to deliver.

...CDF program will be implemented across the 50 constituencies and is envisioned to deliver four (4) key program outputs which are;

- Establish small businesses
- Develop local economies
- Create employment opportunities
- Construct basic infrastructures

“CDF program also aimed at enhancing livelihoods in our rural communities.”

MRD Permanent Secretary (Acting),  
Hugo Hebala.



# ABOUT MRD

The Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) is one of the 24 ministries within the Solomon Islands Government (SIG) machinery. MRD is established on the 28th September, 2007. Its core mandates as contained under Legal Notice 164 in accordance with the Constitution of Solomon Islands is to oversee the effective planning and implementation of Government's Rural Development Policies.

## OUR VISION

All rural Solomon Islanders become meaningfully participated in development activities to improve their social and economic livelihood.

## OUR CORE MANDATES AND FUNCTIONS

The Ministry's core mandates as provided under the relevant legislations include;

- i. Legal Notice 164 as in accordance with the Solomon Islands Constitution. The legal notice/gazette provides five (5) key functions for the Ministry which include;
  - Rural Development
  - Constituency Development Office
  - Constituency Development Funds
  - Indigenous Affairs\*
  - People First Network\*
- ii. Constituency Development Funds Act (CDF) 2013 (3) (CDF Act gazetted but not yet operationalized).

The CDF Act 2013, mandates the ministry (MRD) to carry out the management and disbursement of the Constituency Development Funds (CDF) with integrity and in a prudent manner with a view to safeguarding the interest of potential recipients of the funds. Section 6 (2) gives responsibility for MRD to coordinate formulation of Constituency Development Plans and to ensure plans satisfies the planning guidelines.

The Ministry's core functions focus more on coordinating the work of fifty (50) Constituencies in terms of Constituency development programmes for rural development and growth to improve rural people livelihoods.

## DIVISIONS AND UNITS

### 1. Corporate Services Division

#### Human Resources and Administration

The Administration and Human Resources Unit forms part of the Corporate Services in the Ministry's Headquarter. Headed by the Deputy Secretary Corporate Services (DSCS), Administration and Corporate Services Division key responsibilities include;

- Provide Support Services – Administrative and logistic support to the operations of the ministry.
- Strengthen Institutional structures and process.
- Manpower resources management and coordination of ministry annual work Programmes.
- General Staff welfare – Remuneration/Retention.
- Human Resources Management Information Systems.
- Staff Development Plan-Long and Short-term training (Local and Overseas).
- Coordinate roll-out of New Public Service Policy as may be required.

#### Finance and Accounts Unit

The Finance and Accounts Unit is also part of the Corporate Support Services and functions within the Headquarter and Administration of the Ministry.

It is responsible for providing financial support services, effective accounting management system and asset management system as required under the Public Finance Management Act 2014, Financial Instructions, Public Finance and Audit Act (as amended) and Public Service General Orders.

To ensure compliance with financial disciplines and associated regulations, the Unit liaise closely with the Ministry of Finance and Treasury and the Office of the Auditor General in performing its functions.

### Communication and Public Relations Unit

The Communication and Public Relations Unit (CPRU) is a newly established Unit within the ministry under the Corporate Service Division. Its establishment was a fulfilment of the reforms that MRD is undertaking. CPRU links the ministry with its key stakeholders and the general public. It provides information that will promote positive relations and interaction with MRD and all stakeholders on issues relating to constituency development.

Key stakeholders include;

- Policy makers
- Constituents & Communities
- International organizations and stakeholders
- Government Ministries and Agencies
- The Public

Key responsibilities include;

- Coordinate the formulation of the Communication Strategy and its implementation with other divisions and key stakeholders.
- Promote and publicise the key mandates, functions, Visions and Strategic goals of the ministry and all development programmes to its key stakeholders and the public thereby raising the feasibility and profile of the ministry through radio, newspapers, TV and other informational print materials.
- Provide advice and update information on development programmes that will enable sound decision making and win stakeholders support.

### 2. Rural Development Division

The Rural Development Division (RDD) hosts the technical functions of the Ministry.

Its key functions include;

1. Support preparation of the Constituency Development Profiles and Plans in close consultations with Constituencies.
2. Oversee project planning, design, appraisal and implementation with respect to the Project Planning Guidelines and provide technical support to constituencies when needed.
3. Facilitate the implementation of Constituency Development programmes and related funding with respect to SIG and PRC financing and procurement guidelines.
4. Provide capacity building and technical support to constituency officers and constituency development committees where and when needed.
5. Monitoring and evaluation of projects and programs implemented through Constituency Development Funds.
6. Carryout research and development assessment as part of rural development planning process at constituency level.
7. Coordinate development of Constituency Development Centres.