



Voices

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development
stories that
touches rural
lives.

APRIL - JUNE, 2022

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 02



New MRD PS
announces top
Priority

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GOV'T INVESTED
\$6 MILLION IN CDF
INTO MAROVO
FISHERY PROJECT

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CDF facilitation
process

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PRC backs East Malaita mini hospital project



More inside....

H.E. Chinese Ambassador to Solomon Islands, Li Ming handed over the building materials to the Mini Hospital and Water and Sanitation Projects for the people of East Malaita Constituency through their Member of Parliament and Deputy Prime Minister Hon. Manasseh Maelanga. [▶ Story page 7](#)

CDF

Constituency Development Fund

IMPACTS

- Alleviate poverty across Solomon Islands.
- Addressed basic needs and improved food security.
- Benefits of development more equitably distributed to Solomon Islanders.

OUTCOMES

- Alleviate poverty and improve provision of basic needs.
- Increase food security.
- Increase employment and labour mobility opportunities in rural areas.
- Improve livelihoods of Solomon Islanders.

OUTPUTS

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

Sponsors



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 second 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 CDF programme to improve social and economic livelihoods of all rural Solomon Islanders.

Despite, the diverse challenges faced by MRD while implementing its programmes and with the impact of Covid-19 as has been experienced, especially 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 April-June 2022 including stories on MRD’s new and upcoming reforms. 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:

Seated from left to right is MRD Deputy Secretary Technical Hugo Hebala, Permanent Secretary Dr. Samson Viulu, MRD Minister Hon. Duddley Kopu, MP and Deputy Secretary Corporate Constance Wane flanked by staff of the Ministry of Rural Development.

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PS Viulu unveils key legitimate priorities to reform MRD

The newly appointed Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) Dr. Samson Viulu has unveiled a range of legislative reforms he plans to achieve with the support of his administration and Minister over the course of his tenure in office.

PS Dr. Viulu revealed these priority reforms in a meeting organised by MRD’s management on Tuesday 21st June 2022 in Honiara.

The legislative reforms are aimed at decentralizing government services to our rural people and establishing relevant institutes in the constituencies so that there is further positive impact on the disbursement and use of the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) to transform our rural sceneries and improves rural people livelihoods. The reforms will also see the expansion of functions of the ministry as well as guarantee better service delivery through projects to boost economic activities and development in our rural communities or areas.

“I want to see the CDF as an engine for the economic growth of this country and I believes this can be achieved through establishing a proper regulatory framework for the CDF,” PS Viulu said.

“Of course, it is a tough step to take, but it is a give and take situation. So that is the path we are taking here on,” PS Dr. Viulu said.

A number of priorities that the new PS and his administration want to achieve in the coming months and years include;

1. CDF Act Reform and Regulatory Framework

2. Policy framework for Rural Development

3. Policy Paper on Rural Development

4. CDF Act Amendment Bill to Parliament within a year timeframe from now that will capture the following;

• Institutionalization of constituencies as department of MRD rather than being political boundaries as they are currently.

• Establishment of constituency growth centers

• Decentralization of government services through the CGC.

• Establishment of Constituency Business Companies and Investment Arms

• Ownership of constituency properties, machines, equipment to remain with constituency companies and MRD

• Formalization of committees.

5. Collaboration with donors

6. Collaboration with government technical ministries

7. Create New development programs for 2023 with direct support from willing donors and friends.



“ I want to see the CDF as an engine for the economic growth of this country and I believes this can be achieved through establishing a proper regulatory framework for the CDF.

PS Dr. Samson Viulu

8. Seek external funding support to the ministry

9. MRD restructuring

10. Strengthen Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and establish a project management unit

11. Create opportunity tracking tool/list

12. Promote integrated approach to rural development

13. Discourage any affiliations with preferred suppliers by officials of MRD.

14. Capacity building for MRD staffs and constituency officials

PS Viulu looks forward to working closely with the MRD Minister and support the Minister in his role as the lead reformer in all of the outlined priorities.



MRD Financial Controller Timothy Paoka, Principal M&E officer, Agnes Bopi. Tanihorara and Director Governance Hickson George.



Some of the MRD staff that attended the meeting.

MRD new PS announces top priority

The newly appointed Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) Dr. Samson Viulu wasted no time announced his priority for the ministry to carry head-on when he resumed office.

Dr. Viulu made his oath and were sworn-in before the Acting Governor General of Solomon Islands, Patteson Oti at the Government House in Honiara on 17 June 2022.

The new PS took his appointment seriously when he stated that his immediate priority outlined is to push through regulations of the CDF Act which covers the proper management and administration of the CDF.

“The CDF Act Reform will also cover the establishment of relevant institutes in the constituencies and decentralization of government services to our rural people so that there is further positive impact on the disbursement and use of the CDF” (Constituency Development Fund),” PS Dr.Viulu added.

He further stated that the reform will also see the expansion of functions of MRD.

The new PS would like to see the CDF as an engine for the economic growth of this country and he believes this can be achieved through establishing a proper regulatory framework for the CDF.

Previously Dr. Viulu served as livestock officer in the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL) before going for further studies in Japan where he graduated with a MSc and PhD in Agricultural Science.



PS Dr. Samson Viulu.

After graduating with PhD from Gifu University in Japan, he worked in various institutes in Japan before joining USP, Suva, Fiji in 2016 where he worked as a research fellow for three years.

In 2019 he resigned from USP and joined the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (OPMC) as the Policy Secretary for Productive Sector looking after seven ministries namely, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL), Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MCT), Ministry of Commerce, Industry, Labour and Immigration (MCILI), Ministry of Lands, Housing & Survey (MLHS), Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR), Ministry of Communication and Aviation (MCA) and Ministry of Infrastructure Development (MID).

Dr. Viulu first graduated with a Bachelor’s Degree in Agriculture from USP, Samoa and has Masters of Science and a Doctorate in Agriculture Science from Gifu University in Japan.

Dr. Viulu is married to a lady from Malaita and has three children.

He said he is happy to be part of the team at MRD and looks forward to working closely with the Minister of MRD Hon. MP Duddley Kopu and his new colleagues.

He also thanks the former PS Allan Daonga for his leadership over the past years.

Dr. Viulu’s appointment is valid for a duration of 4 years. ■

Minister Kopu assures newly appointed MRD PS and Administration of support

The Minister for the Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) Honourable Duddley Kopu has assured his newly appointed Permanent Secretary Dr. Samson Viulu and his Administration of his full and continuous support towards advancing the ministry’s key priorities.

Hon. Minister Kopu and Member of Parliament for Temotu Pele Constituency was speaking during an induction and refresher program organised by MRD in Honiara on 21 June 2022 to formally welcome their new PS.

He said despite the challenges that the ministry has gone through over the past years, he is ready to provide support in whatever way possible to progress his ministry’s priorities under the management of his new PS and Administration.

“I am ready and will give the support you need for us to advance the ministry’s priorities here on.”

At the same time, Minister Kopu encourages staff of the ministry to work together and support each other towards the development of the planned reforms and priorities to ensure improved government services touched the rural lives.

He said, “the changes and reforms that we are working towards and want to see need the support of everyone (staff), so let us support each other.”

Meanwhile, Permanent Secretary Dr. Samson Viulu said he is pleased to be part of the MRD team and he is looking forward to work closely with Minister Kopu and MRD staff through the plans and priorities of the ministry for this year and on ward.

The organised program provided an opportunity for MRD Head of Divisions and Units to present their achievements, roles and functions and challenges faced and recommendations for improvements. Also,



Minister Duddley Kopu delivers his remarks. On his right is the MRD Permanent Secretary Dr. Samson Viulu.

the program provided an opportunity for MRD officers to listen to a presentation by the Policy Secretary Resource Sector, Jimson Tanangada from the Prime Ministers Office (PMO) on the government’s plans towards the Resource Sector where the ministry (MRD) falls under.

It was a successful program as staff convened together to converse and share in open discussion on a way forward for the ministry.

Deputy Secretary Cooperate (DSC) Constance Wane while thanking staff for their participation in the one-day session, said she looks forward to working closely with the new PS and support the Minister to progress all of the outlined priorities. ■

South Guadalcanal Constituency shares milestone achievements

South Guadalcanal Constituency is remain committed towards improving livelihood and supporting rural development initiatives that will benefit every constituent in its constituency as it divulged its landmark achievements since 2020.

Hon. John Stewart, Member of Guadalcanal Provincial Assembly (MPA) for Duidui Ward said the achievements succeeded because the constituency office has utilized the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) in accordance to its priority development programmes as specified in its approved 2019-2023 Development plan.

MPA Hon. Stewart is a key figure in assisting Hon. Rollen Seleso, Member of Parliament for South Guadalcanal Constituency (SGC) towards its development initiatives. He was interviewed by the Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) Media in a recent radio program.

Hon. Stewart said SGC is inclusive in its development approach and its desire is to make sure everybody benefit from CDF, since the fund is meant for all and not just few or supporters of the current Member of Parliament.

At the same time, he said there are numerous significant and mill-stone achievements SGC has made over the short span of three years from 2019-2022 under the leadership of Hon. Rollen Seleso, MP.

- These milestone achievements include;
- Successful launch of the SGC development Plan 2019-2023 in July 2020.
 - Funding and construction of 45 church buildings and community halls.
 - Funding of 50 dwelling homes with two bed rooms each, which are still progressing.
 - Acquisition of the first ever vessel/ship for South Guadalcanal (MV Southern Coast 1) under the National Transport Fund.
 - The constituency ship is now operating the weather coast route of Guadalcanal serving four different constituencies at minimum.
 - Establishment of the constituency’s investment arm last year, called the South Guadalcanal Corporate Services Company Limited, a hardware shop.

Meanwhile, he said the SGC plan 2019-2023 was developed and successfully launched in July 2022 after series of village and community consultations in the last quarter of 2019.

“The plan set a roadmap for the constituency and that actually comes from the people themselves (constituents).

“Basically the development plan is hinged on three main thematic areas which are infrastructure, social and the productive sectors.

“So, SGC utilizes CDF government funding in accordance to its development programmes and priorities stated inside our development plan and approved by MRD.

“In terms of infrastructure we target transportation, communication, buildings including churches, community halls and housing scheme. In terms of social sector, we focus on health, water supply and sanitation, education, empowering existing community governance structures and peacebuilding.

“Regarding productive sector we are trying to create avenues for income generation, finding market links for products, and the revitalization of the coconut and cocoa industries as well as other cash crops. Ultimately the CDF is utilised according to the priority target areas as in the (our) development plan,” Hon. Stewart emphasized.

“Within the first and second year, our constituency put importance on infrastructure projects which will benefit the whole communities. Priority is on the construction of churches, community halls and housing projects. The rationale here is to engage everyone in community projects/work to promote and teach people to cooperate and work together on projects so that the mentality can instil in them when they try to work on their individual projects,” he explained.



Hon. John Stewart, MPA in red shirt and CPO Alista Teava and during a recent radio program hosted by MRD Media.

Hon. Stewart added that in the third and fourth year the constituency focuses on social sector as well as micro projects and income generating projects.

“We are happy to say that with the acquisition of our constituency ship (MV Southern Coast 1) we can now meaningfully engage in those small income generating projects.”

However, Hon. Stewart said that despite those achievements the constituency also has its own challenges.

“Hand-out mentality is one of the challenges. People turn to go more on individual needs. People see community projects as something that do not directly benefit them. So, we try to change that mindset by focusing more on communal projects to benefit everyone thereby create unity and cohesiveness”, he said.

“Transportation and logistics especially in terms of delivery is another challenge faced by SGC. But now that we have a ship available, I think we are about to overcome this challenge.

“Naturally, the weather pattern of South Guadalcanal is also one of the challenges and I think proper planning is an important aspect to overcome this challenge. Another challenge is delay of funds but it is something to do with the procurement processes of the government, so, we will have to just do with it.”

He said the reason why SCG is focusing more on supporting community projects is because they want everyone to directly benefit from those projects regardless of whether you vote for the current MP or not.

“Our MP is always inclusive in his approach regarding development initiatives in our constituency and he wants everyone to meaningfully participate in social and economic activities to improve their livelihoods because CDF is meant for everybody. The constituency is taking these approaches to avoid the voters-only syndrome employed by past leaders”.

Constituency Project Officer (CPO), Alista Teava said this year the constituency office is planning to increase the housing projects to 100 dwelling homes.

He then acknowledged SGC people for their patience, support and usual cooperation with Hon. MP Seleso and staff of the constituency office since 2019 to-date.

Hon. Rollen Seleso who is the Minister for the Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening (MPGIS) is the current Member of Parliament for South Guadalcanal Constituency. He entered Parliament in 2019.

Government invested \$6 million in CDF into Marovo Fishery Project

Member of Parliament for Marovo Constituency Chachabule Amoi has injected a total of \$6 million into his constituency fishery project which was launched on 28th June at Gasini Port in the Western Province.

The funding comes from the Solomon Islands Government (SIG) facilitated by the Ministry of Rural Development (MRD).

The fishery project did not just pop up out of the blue but was born out of sheer hard work and commitment of his Constituency Office and the pool of expert analysts they set up to advise their Honourable MP.

Hon. Chachabule on the night of Monday 27 June, a day before the actual launching on 28 June spoke to the 160-project recipient and warned them to look after these livelihood assets.

“160 boats, 160 OMB engines, and 160 eskies are worth around \$6 million dollars and I expect you to look after them and use them for their intended purposes.

“I know our past leaders also supported you with boats and OBM engines but some of you sold it, I don’t want to see it happen again under my leadership.

“You cried for these fishery assets and now that your government gave you this equipment through the Constituency Development Funds (CDF) you must take care of it,” Hon Chachabule told the recipients.

In terms of cost, it is estimated that a set that includes a boat, OBM engine, and 200 liter esky costs around \$40,000.

The Ministry of Rural Development Officials under the Rural Development Division also accompanied Hon. Chachabule to facilitate the signing of the Project Beneficiary Agreement for the Constituency Development Fund Program.

The agreement was signed between the Marovo Constituency and the Beneficiary(s) for the implementation of the Fishery Project funded under the Rural Development Program.

The agreement has four (4) articles which are:



Hon. Chachabule on Monday night spoke to the 160-project recipient and warned them to look after these livelihood assets.

1. Scope and Objection
2. Main roles and responsibilities of the parties
3. Obligation of the Ministry of Rural Development
4. Obligations of the Project Beneficiary(s)

Hon. Chachabule stated that with this agreement the project beneficiary(s) will be held accountable and dealt with accordingly.

“Marovo Constituency Office will closely monitor this project as well as MRD for accountability and transparency purposes,” he added.

MRD will also do its monitoring and evaluation after one year of project implementation.

Meanwhile, RDD Director Milfred Delemani told the recipients that MRD is fully committed to see that all rural Solomon Islanders become meaningfully participated in development activities to improve their social and economic livelihoods.



Project recipients receiving thier projects at the project site at Dokudola.



Chinese Ambassador to Solomon Islands Li Ming and Minister of the Ministry of Provincial Government Hon. Rollen Seleso inspect an OBM engine.



Mounting of OBM engines to the boats.



Distribution of fishery projects to recipients at Dokudola in Marovo.



Photo of H.E. Chinese Ambassador Li Ming and Deputy Prime Minister Hon. Maelanga MP, officials from the Ministry of Rural Development and officers from East Malaita Constituency Office at the handing over ceremony.

PRC backs East Malaita Constituency mini hospital

East Malaita Constituency on Monday 13th June 2022 received with overwhelming heart a timely support of building materials for the construction of its modern style mini-hospital and 69 water tanks of varied capacity (1000-3000litres) for its Water and Sanitation Project from the Peoples Republic of China (PRC).

H.E. Chinese Ambassador Li Ming handed over the building materials to the Mini Hospital Project and Water and Sanitation Project for the people of East Malaita through their Member of Parliament and Deputy Prime Minister Hon. Manasseh Maelanga in a small but significant ceremony held at the Alligator Creek, Sea Front in Honiara.

In his remarks, Hon. Manasseh Maelanga thanked China for responding to the request of East Malaita people and kindly providing livelihood assistance.

“Due to its remote location, residents in East Malaita are confronted with challenges on shortages of medical treatment and tap water. The construction materials donated by China will be used in the community clinic and water facilities, which will be a great boost to locals’ living condition. China is widely regarded as a good friend and development partner by people in Malaita.”

He said East Malaita people look forward to receiving more assistance and training support from China and hosting Chinese medical team in the new Mini Hospital in the future. “It is also their shared belief that the friendship between Solomon Islands and China will make greater progress in the future.”

He further stated that his constituency will continue to work in partnership with PRC and other donor partners to help develop his constituency now and into the future.

“I further call on other constituencies in the Solomon Islands to embrace this development partnership with PRC and other donor partners as we strive to improve the lives of our people,” Hon. Maelanga said.

Meanwhile, H.E. Chinese Ambassador Li Ming briefed the fruitful outcomes achieved by both sides during Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi’s first official visit to Solomon Islands.

He said China is committed to the friendship with SI on the basis of

respect, mutual benefit, openness and transparency.

“China aid has contributed substantially to infrastructure, agriculture, health and livelihood in Malaita and other provinces. The cement, steel rods, water tanks and other building materials donated by Chinese Embassy to East Malaita people today are the testament to profound friendship between our two peoples. It will help resolve livelihood challenges that have plagued local people for quite a long time. As the Chinese old saying goes “Give one a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach him how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.”

“China stands ready to share its experience of economic growth with Malaita friends and all other Solomon Islands people to achieve common and sustainable development,” H.E Ambassador Ming said.

Ungaibu tribe in East Malaita hosted the mini-hospital.

The land has been registered and will also host 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.

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

Hon. Maelanga 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.

Ungaibu Trust Board representative and landowner Barnabas Maelimani also acknowledged PRC and their MP Hon. Maelanga for the milestone achievement.

“I am very proud today that our land is registered and is ready for development,” Maelimani affirmed.

Mr. Maelimane said such health infrastructure is important therefore his people supports the project to ensure it is accomplished for the benefit of the people of East Malaita and the country as a whole.

The water tanks will be distributed to identified schools, clinics and communities.

Marovo constituency major liveli-

Marovo Constituency in the Western Province has successfully launched two of its major livelihood investment projects on 28th June, 2022. These include its Fishery investment project and the Gasini market house project. The projects are funded by SIG and Peoples Republic of China (PRC) through the CDF programme administered by the Ministry of Rural Development (MRD). See photo highlights of the program on this page 8 and 9.



hood projects launching in pictures



MRD congratulates South Guadalcanal for successful launch of ‘Business Arm’

Permanent Secretary (PS) Acting for the Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) has congratulated the Member of Parliament for South Guadalcanal Constituency Hon. Rolland Seleso and its people for the successful launch of the South Guadalcanal Corporate Services Company Limited (SGCSCL) on Thursday 5th May, 2022 in Honiara.

Speaking at the launching Acting PS Hugo Hebala said that the launching of the new business marks a new milestone for the people of South Guadalcanal Constituency.

“Congratulations to the Board of Directors, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), and South Guadalcanal Corporate Services Company Limited staff,” he reiterated.

He said that establishing and running a business in the Solomon Islands as we are all aware is not easy.

“Challenges linked to the regulatory environment, high costs of utilities, lack of access to capital, lack of access to free business training remained,” he added.

While acknowledging these challenges Hebala stated that SGCSCL demonstrated a strong commitment to responding to this challenging business environment.

“Equally important COVID-19 pandemic and the November unrest further affected most small-medium enterprise. South Guadalcanal Corporate Services Company is no exception to these challenges,” he said.

Hebala further stated that the Company will also create employment for their young people and business taxes to Solomon Islands Government.

He encouraged SGCSCL to manage the business with honesty, promote good governance, build good customer relations, and remain adapted to this challenging period.

“MP Seleso as a visionary leader for his constituency had set a benchmark for other constituencies to follow.

“He set up a Shipping Service for his constituency and now the South Guadalcanal Corporate Services Company Limited which demonstrates a leader with a vision to develop his constituency,” Hebala said.

SGCSCL is located at Tanadai, opposite of the Solomon Motors refilling station. The company now selling merchandise goods including hardware and building materials, agricultural tools/materials and many more.

The launching was attended by the Permanent Secretary (PS) for the Ministry of Commerce, PS for the Ministry of Provincial Government, Guadalcanal Provincial Acting Premier and other Government Officials.



MRD then PS Acting Hugo Hebala.



South Guadalcanal Constituency MP Rollen Seleso





CDF funded projects in South Guadalcanal monitored, evaluated

The Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) through its Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Unit has successfully conducted Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) 2019-2021 funded projects in South Guadalcanal Constituency (SGC) in June 2022.

The objectives of the M&E were:

- To verify the implementation status of projects funded by CDF program in the constituency from 2019- 2021.
- 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.

Principal Monitoring and Evaluation officer, Timoly Carter said the monitoring exercise was a success.

“Establishing a neutral account of how SGC Office administer their Solomon Islands Government (SIG) Support to Constituency Development Fund (SSCD) project grants on their infrastructure projects is an integral part of the M&E activity. Our team conducted the M&E from 30th May-3rd June 2022. Projects monitored and assessed included those funded by SIG and Peoples Republic of China (PRC) since 2019”.

She said the monitoring exercise will enable MRD and the SGC office to take appropriate measures to identify shortfalls that might hinder the implementation progress of the 2019, 2020 and 2021 projects, from achieving its utmost desired outcome namely establishing permanent church buildings and community hall infrastructures for SGC communities.

SGC consist of three wards namely, Duidui ward, Talise and Vatulau Wards. For Duidui Ward church construction work started last year and early this year with a total of 16 church buildings and two community halls. The constituency’s target now is to get additional materials to complete those church project buildings by end of this year or mid next year, 2023 while for Talise and Vatulau wards, construction work on their church projects now in final touch-up stages whereas some already completed.

Ms. Carter said it is obvious that SGC is very inclusive in its constituency development initiatives and approach as more importance and support is pitched towards community infrastructure projects such as church buildings, community halls, schools and clinics which benefits everybody. The M&E exercise was jointly implemented by MRD, the SGC office and MPA for Duidui ward Hon. John Stewart.

Constituency monitoring of CDF projects is part of the MRD’s on-going activity on CDF funded programmes being implemented within the 50 constituencies.

“Relevant data/information collected will support the ministry in its undertaking to assess status of projects and impact’s the fund (CDF) have on the lives of constituents. Not only the data collected is important but gathering evidences on the ground by officers that constituencies utilized the funds as intended is paramount. There ar



Inakona Church Building in South Guadalcanal Constituency funded by CDF.



Above, pictures of some church projects funded by CDF in SGC.

positive and negative responses we have received and that is the main purpose of the activity, to get comments/feedbacks, so that we can draw up recommendations for improvement and consider a way forward to guarantee every Solomon islander participated meaningfully in socio-economic development activities.”

MRD also understands that South Guadalcanal Constituency under their current member of parliament, has established a shipping company and a hardware shop as business arms of the constituency to assist with developing his constituency.

Ms. Carter on behalf of MRD thanked the SGC administration of-fice, beneficiaries of the fund and communities in the constituency for the support rendered that resulted in the success of the monitoring exercise.

Hon. Rollen Seleso is the current Member of Parliament (MP) for SGC. He entered Parliament in 2019.

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

East Malaita delivers medical drugs, facemasks to Nafinua Health Centre



Constituency Project Officer (CPO) for EMC William Kwalemanu handed over the medical drugs and facemask cartons to Community Health Nurse Consultant (CHNC) at Nafinua Area Health Centre Ms. Betty Firigeni.

East Malaita Constituency (EMC) has delivered three cartons of medical drugs and 13 cartons of medical facemask to Eastern Region Area Health Centre, Nafinua last month.

Delivering the medical drugs and facemask to Community Health Nurse Consultant (CHNC) at Nafinua Ms. Betty Firigeni was the Constituency Project Officer (CPO) for EMC William Kwalemanu.

CPO Kwalemanu said the delivery was done through Nafinua Area Health Centre and from there Nafinua medical team will distribute the items to various clinics within the Constituency.

According to Kwalemanu Ms. Firigeni thanked the national government for the donation and EMC for facilitating the smooth delivery.

She assured the government and the constituency office that her team will make sure the donated medicines and facemasks are distributed to all the clinics within the constituency to guarantee sick people access medication at their nearest health centres.

The delivery of the medical items also coincided with delivery of solar light panels/sets and poles to schools in the constituency.

Schools donated with these solar light panels or sets and poles include;

- Nafinua Community High School (CHS) in ward 15
- Faumamanu CHS, ward 16
- Namoia CHS, ward 16

- Kwaiafa CHS in ward 15
- Atori school, ward 15
- Gwaunafau school, ward 15
- Taba’akwaru school in ward 16

Meanwhile, CPO Kwalemanu said Kwai CHS in ward 16 and Anofiu school in ward 15 will receive their stuffs in the next round of distribution in due time.

He added that the second round of distribution will include churches, Bible schools, Rest Houses and community halls.

Head teacher of Taba’akwaru school, Casper Geobauta while acknowledging the national government through EMC for the support said he is grateful for the support.

“This is an extremely low cost-effective lighting solution. We will make sure this is installed to provide light for the school during night times for security purposes.”

Mr. William said the stuffs were purchased by EMC with the Solomon Islands Government (SIG) funding support through the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) programme, adding this is part of the ongoing support of the constituency under the leadership of MP Manasseh Maelanga towards improving livelihood of its people.

Deputy Prime Minister Honourable Manasseh Maelanga is the current MP for East Malaita Constituency.





Women play important roles in the rural economy as farmers, wage earners, and entrepreneurs. They also take responsibility for the well-being of the members of their families, including food provision and care for children and the elderly.

Yet, women in rural areas face constraints in engaging in economic activities because of gender-based discrimination and social norms, disproportionate involvement in unpaid work, and unequal access to education, healthcare, property, and financial and other services.

Hazylyn Philip of Ward 24, Rukutu village in Marovo constituency made these sentiments when she expressed her joy on behalf of the women of Marovo constituency as one of the Fishery Project recipients.

She was speaking to MRD Media during the Marovo fishery and Gasini market house projects launching event which was held on 28th June, 2022 at Gasini Port, Western Province.

“Firstly, I want to acknowledge our Honourable Member of Parliament (MP) Chachabule Amoi for this fishery project – the boats, engines and eskies.

“I am talking here on behalf of our Marovo constituency women, I am a woman, a mother and a leader in my community.”

In relation to this Fishery Project, “I must tell you the women in Marovo are also good at fishing, some are even better than our men folks.

“This gave me a joyful heart to see our Member of Parliament also support us, women, with regard to this important project.

“Some of our mothers in our communities do a lot of fishing to support their small families. They earn hard cash by selling their catches.

“Thank you government and our MP Hon Chachabule, for seeing it fit to allow women to be part of this great initiative, and also some are recipients of this project,” she expressed.

She added that compared to past leadership in Marovo this is the first and one-of-a-kind project that includes everyone, meaning women and men, youths, voters, and non-voters.

But Ms Philip as a woman community leader has a very important message to the 49 MPs of the current parliament.

“To all the MPs in the current Parliament, women in this country especially in the rural areas most of the time left out in terms of development.

“Our cry is to see that our children and women access quality education, and a good health system to be part of any development activities in the rural areas.

“I just wish our MPs have the same heart as our MP for Marovo has towards the women in our constituency to see the needs of our women folks and address it.

“Women are the backbone of our homes and communities, as leaders, we need to address their needs, and involve them in whatever livelihood projects you have in your constituency or community,” she added.

“So please good MPs our rural women need your support today for better homes, communities, and a peaceful country,” she said.



Justina Metu and Erica Hendry. Insert is Hazylyn Philip from Rukutu village speaks highly of the government (DCGA) through their MP Hon. Chachabule for the fishery project and also for his continuous support to constituents.

But Ms Philip was not the only woman expressing her happiness, speaking to the Ministry of Rural Development Media Team, Justina Metu from Gasini also shared her excitement.

“This is the first of its kind to happen in our constituency, especially in terms of projects that would benefit the whole community or people of Marovo.

“I would like to thank the government through our constituency office and our Member of Parliament (MP) Chachabule Amoi for his honest leadership in ensuring such projects that would directly benefit us women in the rural areas is established or recognised.”

She expressed that this will boost the morale of their hardworking mothers and women to improve their livelihood.

While sharing the same sentiments, Erica Henry also acknowledged the government and PRC for the first ever market house.

“We are grateful for this support from our government. This market house will really benefit us women and children because this is where we women spend most of our time selling our market produces to earn income to support our families,” Ms. Hendry expressed.

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

Constituency Development Fund (CDF) programme is funded by the Solomon Islands Government (SIG) and the Peoples Republic of China (PRC) as donor.

Both projects consisting of 160 OBMs, canoes, eskies and the Gasini Market House plus 400 sets of flush toilets for sanitation were co-funded by SIG and the Peoples Republic of China.

MRD is thankful to the Government of the Peoples Republic of China for seeing fit to partner with SIG and deliver these projects directly to the rural people of Solomon Islands.

MRD explains CDF facilitation process

The Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) says unless key implementation requirements are met and submitted by constituencies before, the constituency Development Fund (CDF) will be released to them.

Director of Rural Development Division (RDD) Milfred Delemani made the clarification to make sure our good people are informed and understand the processes with regards to facilitation of CDF to consistencies.

“The ministry cannot facilitate CDF payment to constituencies unless they submitted key implementation requirements. It is a binding requirement and every constituency must observe. No submission means no facilitation of payment,” Mr. Delemani said.

He said actual facilitation can be only made once a constituency or constituencies met those key processes.

The key requirements that the 50 constituencies are required to submit are as follows:

- 2021 Annual report;
- 2021 Acquittal reports (SIG Support to Constituency Development Fund (SSCD), and Peoples Republic of China (PRC) CDF cash grants);
- 2022 Annual work plans & Budget.

He said upon submission of these important program requirements then constituencies will be cleared and can now make project proposal submissions to the ministry.

“The CDF program is delivered through two modes; one is the Cash Grant and the second is the Preferred Supplier Arrangement (PSA). As such, the implementation of the CDF program also hinges on the completion of the PSA through which the PSA is advertised through a public and open tender, then MRD did the evaluation and then the Central



Director Milfred Delemani.

Tender Board (CTB) issues the awards to successful bidders,” Director Delemani explained.

However, he said the situation now is that to date, not all constituencies have submitted the above key requirements as yet. “MRD has received the awards for 58 successful Suppliers and facilitated contract signing with approved Suppliers towards end of July.”

He further said that in situation that constituencies requested facilitation of cash grant, the ministry can action but that will only apply to constituencies that met the said key requirements.

“So, for public awareness, to date, no payment for 2022 CDF programme has been yet facilitated or released to consistencies.”

Marovo Constituency promotes Unity

The ‘voters-only system’ has caused much inconvenience throughout the 50 constituencies in the Solomon Islands which has hindered development possibly in some rural areas since the inception of the Rural Constituency Development Fund (RCDF).

But Marovo Constituency Development Officer (CDO), Tyson Ghera said we need to break away from that mentality and unite our people in our respective constituencies to work together.

“There’s no use when we want to talk about unity and yet we continue to practice the ‘voters-only system,’” he said.

Ghera said his office is working very closely with their Member of Parliament to do away with this system.

“We have struggled at the first year because of the pressure from our voters, but we managed to get over it,” he added.

The Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) as the ministry responsible for administering of the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) commended such a positive undertaking by Marovo Constituency Development Office and their MP.

CDF comes from the Solomon Islands Government (SIG) budget through its tax payers and the Peoples Republic of China (PRC) as donor to support social and economic development activities in the rural communities.

The fund aims to generate income, encourage and bring about development in constituencies and generally to improve the livelihoods of all citizens of Solomon Islands and alleviate poverty.

CDO Ghera affirmed that his office will continue to try and assist all the Marovo constituents regardless of whether they vote or not.

“It will be a huge challenge for us because of the limited resources and a growing population.

“But we will try and do it because we want to unite our people to work together to develop Marovo constituency moving forward,” Ghera said.

He added with regards to their housing projects, student fees subsidy,



Andrew Fanasia from MRD Media Unit and the Marovo Constituency Development Officer (CDO), Tyson Ghera during a Radio Awareness Program at SIBC.

medical assistance, etc, they try as much as possible to assist all. “Even during our livelihood assistance in April distributing bags of rice, we shared to everyone both voters and non-voters. Also, our sanitation projects will be for everyone.”

Mr. Ghera further thanked his people in Marovo constituency for their continuous support and patience towards his office and their MP.

“Whatever development project or support our office gets from SIG and other donors belongs to all Marovo people,” he added.

Mr. Ghera also commended Solomon Islands Government through MRD for managing and facilitating CDF for its intended purposes in the rural areas. He also thanked all tax payers of Solomon Islands and assured that Marovo Constituency is committed and will make sure CDF is utilized and invested into projects that will benefit all people of the constituency and citizens of our beloved country.

Meanwhile, Member of Parliament for Mavoro Constituency, Honourable Chachabule Amoi said Marovo lagoon has already been a very big one (constituency) more than almost all others, in terms of its geography and Population wise.

“Now that we also have our cross borders, it worsens the situation because we have to accommodate everyone in our development plans.

“CDF amount is the same across all constituencies, so those like ours with larger population faces bigger challenges compared to most other constituencies. If only the allocations are calculated based on populations within the constituency it should be fair. Yet, despite all these we are very committed,” MP Amoi expressed.

Marovo women praises gov't and PRC for projects

Marovo women has expressed gratitude to the national government and the Peoples Republic of China (PRC) for funding support towards the two major livelihood projects that that was officially launched on Tuesday 28th June, 2022 at Gasini wharf.

The projects include the Gasini market house and a Fishery project. These projects are funded by SIG and PRC through the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) programme administered by the Ministry of Rural Development (MRD).

Speaking to the MRD Media Team, Justina Metu from Gasini could not hide her excitement as she expressed her appreciation to the government and PRC for the tremendous gifts.

“This is the first of its kind to happen in our constituency, especially in terms of projects that would benefit the whole community or people of Marovo.

“I am really happy for that and must thank the government for the support. Also, I would like to thank our Member of Parliament (MP) Chachabule Amoi for his honest leadership in ensuring such projects that would directly benefit us women in the rural areas is recognised.”

She also thanked PRC for its continuous support to the government by supporting the Constituency Development Programme that is administered by MRD.

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

But Metu said standing under the sun and rain while selling their produces would be now thing of the past as has been experienced. “Now that we have a proper market, we can now have proper seats to sit on and a clean and spacious area to sell our agriculture and fishery products. This is a tremendous gift so thank you government and PRC.”

While sharing the same sentiments, Erica Henry also acknowledged the government and PRC for the first ever market house.

“I am so excited. This is the first of its kind to happen in our constituency, to witness such launching of a new market house and also to see such big buildings like this is built in our rural areas.

“We are grateful for this support from our government. This market house will really benefit us women and children because this this where



Justina Metu and Erica Hendry.

we women spend most of our time selling our market produces to earn income to support our families,” Ms. Hendry expressed.

She also thanked their MP Hon. Chachabule Amoi for his leadership and for addressing one of their needs.

“We are pleased with this support and we ask the government to continue supporting development in our rural areas to improve livelihood of our rural people,” she added.

Meanwhile, one of the recipients of the fishery project Daniel Lokopio from Patutiva village in Ward 21 shared similar sentiments.

“Our ward will receive 50 boats, 50 OBM engines (15 HP) and 50 eskies under this fishery project. This is a massive support, so we thanked the government, PRC and the leadership of our MP for this tremendous assistance that will surely improve our livelihood.”

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

RCDF programme is funded by the Solomon Islands Government (SIG) and the Peoples Republic of China (PRC) as donor.



Daniel Lokopio from Patutiva village in Ward 21, Marovo Constituency.



Member of Parliament (MP) for Marovo Constituency Chachabule Amoi and MRD Deputy Secretary Technical Hugo Hebala having a chat.



Handing over of boats, OBM engines and eskies to fishery project recipients at Dokudola in Marovo.

INFORMATION ABOUT CONSTITUENCY DEVELOPMENT FUND (CDF)



Marovo constituency fishery & market house projects funded by CDF.



Housing project in Temotu Pele Constituency funded by CDF.

What is Constituency Development Fund's (CDF)?

CDF's are allocations of public development funds provided to Constituencies to support rural development initiatives as per constituency development priorities. According to the Solomon Islands Constituency Development Fund Act 2013 (s.5) 'funds may be allocated for development purposes to individuals, group income-generating projects, or community projects.'

Where does CDF Funds comes from?

The money comes from the Solomon Islands Government (SIG) budget and donors to help communities.

CDF Goals and Objectives?

The CDF aims to help communities in these areas:

- Generate income;
- Encourage and bring about development in constituencies;
- Generally to improve the livelihoods of ALL citizens of Solomon Islands.

Who is entitled to access CDF?

The funding assistance is targeted at alleviating poverty and improving livelihoods of rural Solomon Islanders. This means every Solomon Islanders are entitle to access this fund for its intended purposes. Your consitiuecy offices will draw up a Constituency Plan to help you access your priority projects to be implemented in your communities. This plan would outline the priority projects identified by the rural communities under different sectors, such as education, health, water supply and sanitation, infrastructure, telecommunications, energy, women and youth, and village development.

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

The CDF program consist of four main sub-projects:

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

Sanitation project in Ngella Constituency funded by CDF.



East Malaita commended for recognizing importance of health infrastructure



Acting PS Hugo Hebala.



DPM and East Malaita MP Manasseh Maelanga.

The Permanent Secretary (Acting) for the Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) Hugo Hebala has commended East Malaita Constituency (EMC) and their Member of Parliament and Deputy Prime Minister Manasseh Maelanga for recognizing the importance of health infrastructure in their constituency.

He made this sentiment in his speech during the ‘project materials handover ceremony’ for two projects held at the Alligator Creek, Sea Front in Honiara on Monday 13 June 2022 for East Malaita Constituency.

The materials will go towards the construction of the East Malaita Constituency Mini-Hospital which was funded by the People’s Republic of China (PRC) through the Chinese Embassy Office in Honiara.

According to East Malaita Constituency Development Officer Gabriel Rockson, the building materials are for the mini-hospital phase 1 – foundation works.

The second project comes under the WASH Program which was also funded by the PRC through the Ministry of Rural Development (MRD).

Hebala stated that the handover ceremony demonstrated the partnership between PRC, East Malaita Constituency, Landowners, and other relevant authorities such as the Ministry of Health.

“This is in line with MRD Strategic Goal 3: An integrated development process that facilitates a sector-wide approach and promotes genuine partnership for Rural Development.

“Secondly, this project is aligned to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3: Good Health, National Development Strategy objective 3: Access to quality health and education for all Solomon Islanders, Solomon Islands National Health Strategic Plan 2016-2020 Result Area 3: Improve the quality and support of health services,” he outlined.

He further added that the construction of this Mini-hospital will complement existing health infrastructures supported by other development partners across the Solomon Islands.

Hebala also added that the handover ceremony demonstrates PRC’s on-

going support to constituencies and this country, particularly in the health sector.

He thanked Hon Maelanga for his vision and leadership to recognize the importance of health infrastructure such as the Mini-hospital to be constructed in East Malaita.

“To the landowners’ representative, thank you as well to your tribe for availing the land where this Mini-hospital will be constructed,” he added.

Hebala on behalf of the Minister for Rural Development also acknowledged PRC Ambassador to the Solomon Islands H.E Li Ming and their government for their continuous support for rural development.

“Thank you PRC for this generous support towards the rural development in the Solomon Islands,” he said.

Hon Maelanga also shared this same sentiment when he expressed his thanks to PRC for its support.”

“As a leader representing my good people of East Malaita Constituency, I would also like to express our thanks to PRC people and your government for supporting our people through such important projects,” Hon Maelanga expressed.

He further stated that his constituency will continue to work in partnership with PRC and other donor partners to help develop his constituency now and into the future.

“I further call on other constituencies in the Solomon Islands to embrace this development partnership with PRC and other donor partners as we strive to improve the lives of our people,” Hon Maelanga stated.

The handover ceremony was graced by PRC Ambassador H.E. Li Ming, Deputy Prime Minister, Landowners’ representative Barnabas Maelimani and East Malaita Constituency Officials.

Hebala appeals to the good people of East Malaita Constituency to support these two projects.  [See related story on page 7.](#)



PS Acting Hugo Hebala meets PRC Ambassador upon arrival at the handover venue.



Deputy Director RDD Danny Lehe, MRD Logistic Officer Allan with cap, Director Milfred Delemani and two East Malaita constituency officers witnesses the official handover program.

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.