

Solomon Islands Government

## Ministry of Public Service



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## **CIRCULAR MEMORANDUM NO: 13/20**

14 September 2022

Our Ref: 01/5/2

Permanent Secretaries and equivalent
Clerk to National Parliament
Provincial Secretaries
Heads of divisions
Human Resource Managers
All Public Officers

## SUBJECT: PSHA AND PUBLIC SERVANTS INTEREST IN THE MAMARA SPRING VILLAS.

- 1. The government's initiatives to improve the welfare of its employees in terms of providing housing rentals and promoting home ownership is evident in its policies and development projects. Recent examples of such policies and projects are the Public Service Housing Assistance (PSHA) Policy and the Mamara Spring Villas project. The PSHA was designed to give direct financial benefits and responsibility of management of the housing rental to SIG employees. The Mamara project, on the other hand, encourages Public Servants home ownership through a rent to own scheme. These government initiatives are already established. In December 2021, Cabinet endorsed PSHA policy for implementation in 2022 but deferred pending the need for more data needed to identify and address challenges associated with rental eligibility and affordability concerns, tax as well as housing market related issues. The Mamara spring villas project was also completed in 2021 but occupation of the houses was delayed due to the need for more data to gauge public servants interest in the Mamara Spring Villa project.
- 2. This letter serves to inform SIG employees of a research (study) being conducted by the Housing Committee established in General Orders H 401 and mandated to carry out its Terms of Reference specified in GO H 402. The study aims to collect more data on PSHA policy implementation and public servants interest in the Mamara spring villas. The study would involve SIG employees from various government Ministries and agencies based in Honiara. The specific objectives of the study are:



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- a. To identify challenges affecting the PSHA implementation
- b. To gauge Public Servants interest in the Mamara Housing project and the rent to own scheme
- **c**. To write a Cabinet paper informing the Cabinet of policy impacts on PSHA and Mamara rent to own scheme allowing Cabinet to make inform decision on housing rental issues and home ownership challenges.
- **3.** While participation in this study is voluntary, it is imperative that public servants provide the necessary data and information needed to inform Cabinet on way forward to address rentals, housing and home ownership issues.
- **4.** The attached is a set of questionnaire designed to capture the required information. The Housing Committee Secretariat will work with HRMs from Ministries and agencies and collect the completed questionnaire by week commencing 26-30th September. Do render the Secretariat the needed support in order to collect the necessary data and information for decision making, improve and resolve of housing and rental issues.

