

Corruption Unit, Fraud Unit), Ministry of Finance & Treasury, Office of the Auditor General, Ombudsman and Leadership Code Commission.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU ARE THE VICTIM OF CORRUPTION AND FRAUD OFFENCES?

- If you or your office or company are a victim of corruption or fraud or know some potential victim, it is your duty to report it to the Police for Investigations.
- Because it involves documentary evidence, make sure that you gather all the relevant documents and store in safe custody or bring them with you to the nearest Police Station.
- The Police Officer will write down your story which is called a statement.
- The Police officer will inform the Investigators about your complaint and a Police Investigator will carry out an investigation.
- The Police officer will also look for anyone you told about what happened to you or who knows about the corrupt or fraudulent activities and take their statement.
- If there is enough evidence the Police will charge the person who did wrong to you or your company to court.
- Use your right as a citizen, report corruption and fraud offences that you know about.



Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions

P.O. Box 1216, HONIARA
Phone: (677) 28426/28427
Facsimile: (677) 28431

Office of Director of Public Prosecutions, Gizo

Western Province
Phone: (677) 60014
Facsimile: (677) 60015

Office Director Public Prosecutions, Auki

P.O. Box 223
Malaita Province
Phone: (677) 40004
Facsimile: (677) 40005

This small booklet is part of the 7 booklets that provide information to help you understand how the justice system works in Solomon Islands.

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Corruption, Money Laundering and Proceeds of Crime in the Solomon Islands

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

VISION

A SAFE AND JUST SOLOMON ISLANDS SUPPORTED BY A CONSTITUTIONALLY INDEPENDENT PUBLIC PROSECUTION SERVICE UNDER THE RULE OF LAW.

MISSION

DELIVERING AN INDEPENDENT, FAIR AND EFFECTIVE PROSECUTION SERVICE.

VALUES

The office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) values are:

- (a) Independence
- (b) Accountability
- (c) Respect
- (d) Ethical with Integrity
- (e) Efficiency

CORRUPTION AND FRAUD OFFENCES IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

Solomon Islands has seen a growing number of corruption and fraud cases in recent years. Corruption at all levels in the society has affected all citizens in one way or another. The office of the DPP is concerned about the ongoing increase in the number of Corruption and Fraud cases received in the office monthly and yearly. While the office is committed to prosecuting those matters effectively and efficiently, it cannot do so alone. It requires the cooperation of the

government and stakeholders to combat and prosecute offenders who are mostly highly placed government officials and parliamentarians.

Citizens are the direct victims of fraud and corruption offences. Money that should be used for development and provision of social services end up in the pockets of a few individuals being deprived of their access to basic services when service does not reach them due to mismanagement and misappropriation of funds by certain individuals. The ODPP ensures that those who commit these offences are brought to justice in the court of law.

The following are some of the Corruption and Fraud offences under our Law, the Penal Code:

- *CORRUPTION AND ABUSE OF OFFICE.*
- *LARCENY, EMBEZZLEMENT AND CONVERSION*
- *FRAUDS BY TRUSTEES AND PERSONS IN A POSITION OF TRUST AND FALSE ACCOUNTING*
- *FALSE PRETENCES*

The Parliament of Solomon Islands has made laws so those who commit these offences can be prosecuted and punished for the offences they commit.

However the law cannot help the nation and victims of crimes if members of the public do not report offences committed to the Police. When a report is made to the Police, the Police will investigate the report and if there is sufficient evidence, a file will be sent to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. When the file gets to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions it will

be handled by the Anti-Corruption, Money Laundering and Proceeds of Crime Unit (ACMLPC Unit).

THE ACMLPC UNIT

The Anti-Corruption, Money Laundering and Proceeds of Crime Unit is one of the 5 units in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP). It was established to look after corruption and fraud offences that are transferred to the DPP's office.

PROSECUTING CORRUPTION AND FRAUD OFFENCES

The ODPP prosecutes Corruption and Fraud Offences at the Magistrate's Court and the High Court. The less serious cases are heard at the Magistrate's Court, while the more serious offences are heard in the high court. Official Corruption, Abuse of Office, False Pretence, Larceny, Embezzlement, Conversion, Forgery & Uttering, Money Laundering and Proceeds of Crime and other crimes can be prosecuted in the Magistrates courts or high court depending on how complicated the matter is.

Punishment provided for in the law for fraud and corruption offences ranges from 12 to 14 years, sentences imposed for corruption cases are expected to become higher so as to prevent other people from committing the offence. Sentences imposed by the courts ranges from 6 months to 7 years. The more serious the offence, the more money that is involved, the more the sentence that will be imposed by the court.

"PROTECTING PUBLIC MONIES FROM MISUSE AND SELFISH CITIZENS"

The ODPP works with other stakeholders to help victims of these crimes to obtain justice in court. Stakeholders include the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (JANUS,