

Building Professional Capacity In Solomon Islands

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1. Organization

- MOLHS headed by Hon. Minister, Mr. Samuel Manetoali and assisted by Permanent Secretary, Ms Ruth Liloqula.
- MOLHS is divided in to six (6) Divisions.
- Each division is under a Divisional Head who reports to the Permanent Secretary.

2. Staff Composition

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Lands Officers | 29 (9 Graduates) |
| • Survey and Mapping | 21 (6 Graduates) |
| • Administration | 12 (3 Graduates) |
| • Physical Planning | 15 (3 Graduates) |
| • Housing | 4 (2 Graduates) |
| • Land Reform | 5 (1 Graduate) |

3. Functions and Responsibilities

3.1 Division of Lands Administration.

- is responsible for the allocation of FTE.
- consent to dealings.
- identifies areas for survey subdivisions and
- the valuation of land.

3.2 Division of Survey and Mapping

- preparation of maps (topographic, cadastral and registry maps).
- printing and sale of standard and digital map and map related products.
- carrying out of limited cadastral and geodetic surveys and
- contracting out of majority of survey services to private survey firms.

3.3 Physical Planning Division

- prepare and coordinate national government land use policies.
- advice on declaration of local planning and control areas
- assist Town and Country Planning Boards with local planning schemes.
- provide technical advice on individual planning applications considered by Town and Country Planning Boards.
- ensure continuity and consistency in individual Town and Country Planning Boards and
- advice on appeals made against Town and Country Planning Board decisions.

3.4 Land Reform Division

- devise a comprehensive and cost-effective system of defining customary land holding groups and mobilizing land for development and
- extend lessons learnt from East Malaita Land Recordings to other areas of Solomon Islands under a practical legal framework.

3.5 Private Practitioners

- practices in Survey, Land Acquisitions and Land Valuations and helping relieve workloads from MOLHS.
- sub-contracting arrangements with MOLHS and utilize services on projects required.
- private firms (surveyors) not able to meet requirements of some aid donors.

4. Constraints

- Training Moratorium of late 1980's.
- Impact of Public Sector Reform Program.
- Professional isolation and stagnation.
- Staff's Discipline and Resignation.
- Freeze on 2010 Staff Recruitment.

5. Capacity Building Needs

- Communication and Networking.
- Interdisciplinary Exchanges.
- Engagement of Foreign Experts.
- In-Service Trainings.

6. Conclusion

- role and capacity of the Land Professionals in Solomon Islands is continually being challenged.
- past governments, including the present, have denied land professional's participation in senior management position.