



SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT



GUADALCANAL PROVINCE

GUADALCANAL PROVINCIAL YOUTH POLICY



GUADALCANAL PROVINCE

April 2010

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	<i>iii</i>
<i>Acknowledgement</i>	<i>iv</i>
A. INTRODUCTION	1
<i>Youth definition</i>	2
<i>Youth Profile</i>	2
<i>Development of Youth Services and Programs</i>	4
<i>Principles and values underlying the Provincial Youth Policy</i>	5
B. GOALS AND VISION STATEMENTS	5
C. POLICY OBJECTIVES	5
D. RIGHTS RESPONSIBILITY AND OBLIGATIONS	6
E. KEY STRATEGY AREA	6
F. PRIORITY TARGET GROUPS	8
G. IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM	9
H. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE	10
I. CONCLUSION	10
<i>Bibliography</i>	11

Preface

The Guadalcanal Province Youth Policy has come through histories of events, that it has taken some years to be finalized in a form that is acceptable and compatible to Government Policy.

As the Minister responsible for young men and women of Guadalcanal Province, I am therefore, honoured to humbly present on behalf of the current Government, the Guadalcanal Provincial Youth Policy.

This Youth Policy and its relevance to Solomon Islands context was critically scrutinized and evaluated by different stakeholders and facilitators', resulting to what is now evident.

Worthy of mention is the fact that this Youth Policy document is "Home Grown." Thus it portrays the views, concern and aspiration of rural young people (youths), collated during the Guadalcanal province youth forum held at Visale Catholic Station on September 2008. Translating the raw data collected into Policy statements which forms this Guadalcanal Provincial Youth Policy, was done by various stakeholders and technical personnel who have been very instrumental in the whole process over the years.

For this reason, the focus of this Policy is on improving the situation and development of youths within the Guadalcanal Province.

The Policy sets out the rationale and provides background information on the current situation of young people within Guadalcanal Province, and intends to inform and raise awareness on the specific situation of Youth Development within the Province. It recognizes the potentials of our young men and women and highlights the basis and priority issue of concerns and the need to enhance their productivities, participation and contribution in the socio-economic development of Guadalcanal Province and the nation at large.

Its goals visualize the way forward by which the positive development of young people will be realized. It details information on the various issues affecting young people and outlines general strategies to address such issues.

In recognizing our young people as potential Human Resources and key players in the future development and success of our province, leaders of this province are committed to provide adequate resources and necessary mechanisms in the advocacy, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this Policy. We urge the whole community in the province to encourage young people to accept and take responsibility in the overall development of Guadalcanal Province beginning in their respective communities, villages and churches.



Hon. Elijah Uro

**Minister for Women, Youth & Sports
Guadalcanal Provincial Government**

Acknowledgement

The Honorable Premier and the Executive of Guadalcanal Provincial Government would like to sincerely acknowledge the support, guidance and leadership provided by the write up team, the Ministry of Women, Youth and Children's Affairs, my Provincial Executive and staff and the Guadalcanal Province Youth Taskforce during the consultancy stages of this youth policy formulation. It is only appropriate and proper to make mention the invaluable assistance both technical and financial received from our development partners and youth stakeholders without which this policy document may not go this far. Not forgetting our community and church Leaders and other non-state actors and individuals who have contributed in one way or another to the successful completion of this youth policy document.

Special thanks and acknowledgement goes to the Ministry of Women, Youth and Children Affairs, and the National Youth Congress for taking the leading role in ensuring that the Guadalcanal Provincial Government is equipped with a policy document that will chart the direction of youth development within Guadalcanal Province from now to the next generation.

We also would like to register our sincere acknowledgement and appreciation to Oxfam International for its continuous financial and technical input and assistance from the inception through to the final stages of this youth policy development process. Without your kind and generous support this policy document may not come this far.

Finally but not the least, to all our young men and women of Guadalcanal Province who participated in the Provincial youth forum, and have braved hardship and challenges to ensure that the document that capture and portray their views, opinions and aspiration is successfully completed. Without your meaningful contributions the Guadalcanal Provincial Youth policy and its plan of action would lack ownership.

The Honorable Premier and his Executive appreciate and value your contributions so much thus sincerely endorse this document as certainly for the youth of Guadalcanal Province with the hope that we will continue to work in collaboration and partnership to implement the action plan in order to achieve tangible result.

A. INTRODUCTION

Background Information

Geography

Guadalcanal Province consists of the main island of Guadalcanal (Geana-alu) and a few smaller islands that are located mainly on the eastern and south-eastern sides of the main Island. Guadalcanal is located between latitudes 9° and 10°S and between longitudes 159° and 160°E. It is 160km long and 45km wide in the centre. Its total land area is 5,336 square km (Report on the 1999 population and housing census). Honiara, the current capital city of the Solomon Islands, and Henderson Airfield, the only international airport in the Solomon Islands, are both located on Guadalcanal.

Population

The total population of Guadalcanal at the time of the 1999 census was 60,275 and was largely concentrated on the northern side of the island along the Guadalcanal Plains.

The concentration of population along the north coast is explained by the presence of Honiara and the associated residential and industrial development there as well as the higher population of local people on the Guadalcanal Plains.

Youth constitutes a large population of Guadalcanal, of which 12,604 are young men and women within the 15-29 age brackets. This is the age group that is very active and need proper direction to be able to actively participate in the positive development of the province. Because of regular and easy access to Honiara, the young people are easy targets to foreign influences, which are clearly evident in the changing behaviors and attitudes of rural youths.

The current state of youth affairs in the communities has prompted the Provincial Government to put in-place mechanisms to effectively and efficiently address social issues that challenge the development and wellbeing of the young people of the province and the nation Solomon Islands.

The importance of formulating and developing the Guadalcanal province youth policy cannot be over-emphasized however, it is the only way forward in terms of youth development program within the Guadalcanal province.

Furthermore, the Guadalcanal province youth policy will definitely form the basis and the platform upon which other youth development programs and activities can build on.

Provincial Services

The Guadalcanal Province has been mandated by an act of parliament to perform three different functions in the provision of services to the people including legislative matters, provincial services and statutory functions". However, some of the statutory functions have not been transferred from the national to the provincial government.

Under the legislative matters, the province has been undertaking the duties of facilitating the marketing of products; raising revenues by collect inland rates; forming the Guadalcanal Physical Planning Board; providing water to some rural villages and establishing corporate bodies for the provision of provincial services including some economic activities

Our only way forward is through partnership and collaborations, thus may we work and join hands together for a better services to our young people of Guadalcanal province and the nation Solomon Islands.

Youth definition

The Guadalcanal Province Youth Policy acknowledges the definition of youth in the National Youth Policy in the 14- 29 years age bracket.

Youth Profile

Population

Guadalcanal Province constitutes of youth population approximately 60% of Guadalcanal people which are young men and women within the 15-29 age brackets. These age groups are very active and need proper direction to be able to actively participate in the positive development of the province.

Issues and Challenges

Social Issues

The period between 1998 and 2003 was not a good one for Guadalcanal and Solomon Islands as a whole. The so called “ethnic tension” started in early 1998 and ended with the signing of a peace agreement in late 2003 at Townsville in Australia.

As a result of the ethnic tension, many young people were denied access to formal and informal education, employment opportunities and medical services. Also a lot of young people suffered psychological problems that need proper counseling and rehabilitation.

Even with the existence of major industries in Guadalcanal such as Gold Ridge Mining, GPPOL, and various Logging companies, young people are still denied access to formal employment opportunities in these industries.

Peace Building

Another important and urgent matter affecting youths of Guadalcanal is the need for reconciliation amongst themselves and those in their immediate communities. The ethnic tension had caused many rifts within communities and wounds remain unhealed. This is an issue that must be resolved before any meaningful and successful youth development programs could be achieved.

Provincial Support

Youth affairs and youth related matters in Guadalcanal Province, although came into the provincial agenda since the ‘80’s was without the political will to harness, maintain and expand. Depending on the government of the day, a youth and sports division has been in-place, up and running. Provincial Youth and Sports Co-ordinators to man the Division were recruited and posted.

Despite such prosperous developments, the division continues to suffer limited budgeting and poor manpower projections to facilitate plans, programs and activities. At time, the division is seen as leaning more to sports than youth affairs.

Young people, with due respect to their active participation in their immediate communities, are seen to be without proper guidance and directive from the provincial administration. While on the other hand, youth related issues such as substance abuse, petty crimes, sexual abuse and etc are on the increase.

Young people, being in-close proximity to Honiara, the Capital of Solomon Islands, have easy accesses to opportunities and changes. They are therefore more prone to ‘stress’ as compared to modern changes and traditional norms, values and morals’.

Education

Youths are also disadvantaged in the formal and informal education sector. There are very few opportunities for youths to further their normal education and skills training. Scholarships and number of spaces available in secondary and tertiary institutions have been very minimal. Even opportunities in vocational schools have been limited despite a number of these schools being established in rural Guadalcanal. Empowerment of youths to be active partners in the development of Guadalcanal is difficult when there are limited training and skills development opportunities.

Employment

According to the 1999 National Population Census, the number of people on Guadalcanal of working age, that is 14 years and over, is 36,385. This represents 60.4 percent of the total population.

There are 3,979 people of working age who are unemployed but are seeking employment but most significantly, among the total population of 60,275, only 6,740 are engaged in paid employment. While those who are not working at all totaled 14,489, or 39.8 percent, those who are still in school, retired or perhaps outside the country was 10,816, or 29.7 percent. These statistics portray a very serious picture of the quality of life and the long-term livelihood of the people of Guadalcanal in terms of income earning and distribution. It is of critical importance that only a small proportion of the adult population earns any significant income in the formal economy sector.

The statistics indicate that the purchasing power of the people of the province is low and many people are socially and economically disadvantaged.

Each year more than 1500 youths wait to enter into the labour market, but the provincial economy is unable to create jobs for this number. Many find employment mainly in Honiara. A rehabilitation of the provincial economy and implementation of a comprehensive program of rural development would keep the youths busy in productive employment.

Health/ Environment

Young people of Guadalcanal are vulnerable to health issues such as, HIV and STI's and other related health issues such as drugs and alcohol usage, because of regular and easy access to Honiara.

In summary, issues affecting young males and females in Guadalcanal Province could be categorized into the following:

1. Lack of cooperation between leaders and youth
2. Unemployment/ unskilled labours
3. Unplanned community Infrastructure development
4. Unequal distribution access to education and training opportunities
5. Rift of cultural values/family values
6. Lack of support from National and Provincial Governments
7. Health Issues including drug & Alcohol abuse, HIV AIDS and STI's
8. Population growth/ Urban Migration
9. Land Environmental issues
10. Gender sensitivity and equality

Development of Youth Services and Programs

Youth Affairs in Guadalcanal Province started almost the same time with other sister provinces. Although youth affairs came into the government agenda in the late '70's, it was not until the '80's that it was introduced into the provincial government agenda.

Prior to this, youth affairs was more prevalent within the educational institutions ran by the Churches, e.g. Boy Scouts, Girl Guides and church youth groups.

The 'Theme' selected for the 'Guadalcanal Province 2008 Youth Forum' is "Millennium Youth, Arise, Change and Lead"

Since the devolution of power for Guadalcanal to gain its provincial/political status, youth affairs documents have either been destroyed or removed during the heights of the "ethnic tension". The present administration therefore has little or no youth policy and action plan in place to guide, monitor and evaluate youth development programs, projects and activities. The province is handicapped to tackle youth problems and issues. The youth development Division suffered great loss during the unrest. The office is without proper office accommodation, equipment, man power, finance and resources to effectively implement youth programs.

However, Guadalcanal province in its policy framework document has developed 21 (a-h) policy statements relating to youth, women, culture and sports.

There is certainly a need to clearly identify and spell out the youth social issues based in the context of Guadalcanal province with which these 21 documented policy statements will address. Furthermore, an action plan is equally important that will ensure the implementation of these policy statements.

The Youth Development Division of the Ministry of Women, Youth and Children Affairs have worked in collaboration and partnership with the provincial Government, NGOs, youth stakeholders and other youth development partners to ensure that provincial youth policies are in place and implemented.

The Guadalcanal Province Youth Forum is the first of its kind that brought together 50 young people representing 21 wards and four provincial secondary schools, to deliberate on formulating a Provincial Youth Policy and Action Plan that would form the basis for youth affairs development in Guadalcanal Province.

Principles and values underlying the Provincial Youth Policy

The Guadalcanal Province Youth Policy acknowledges the principles and values as stipulated in the National Constitution and the National Youth Policy.

- Rights of the child as stipulated in the Convention of the Rights of the Child that is subscribed to by the Government.
- Right of equal protection of the law and protection from discrimination, exploitation, violence or any other form of abuse.
- Right of access to education, employment, vocational training, health care, legal services and sports and recreational facilities.
- Right to healthy, supportive and stable family surroundings, good parental care and community guidance.
- Access to participation in decision-making process on issues affecting young people.
- Right to decent and dignified existence.
- Right to safe and clean environment.
- Right to equal access to land rights and its usage.
- Right to the share of the country's natural resources
- Right to enjoy youth hood and be adequately equipped to confidently enter adulthood with positive outlooks.
- Right of the disabled youths to fully participate in community activities
- Right to participate in decision making processes

B. GOALS AND VISION STATEMENTS

Vision Statement

The Guadalcanal Province recognizes the potential, creativity, and abilities of the young people so that they can make effective decisions that affect their lives and enable them to actively participate in socio- economical development of the province.

Policy Goal to:

1. Ensure the youth and sports division is fully resourced (including staff, facilities, and equipments) to coordinate and facilitate the implementation of the Provincial Youth policy
2. Realizes the full potential of youth to fully participate in formal and informal economy through education, training and access to entrepreneurs opportunities.
3. Recognizes the need of strong youth sector structured as platform for participation of young people in the development of the province at both the community and provincial level.
4. Recognizes the rights of young people with special needs to have access appropriate services provided
5. Maximizes the social development of youth by creating opportunities to participate in cultural and sporting activities
6. Ensure young people are provided with appropriate services to enhance their physical and mental wellbeing to active participate in the development of the province.

C. POLICY OBJECTIVES

1. To create enabling conditions and environment for young men and women to participate in the planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of development plans and programs at provincial and community level.
2. To ensure youth affairs are recognized, resourced and facilitate as a component of Provincial development plans and programs.(mainstreaming of youth affairs)
3. To facilitate the establishment of appropriate policy and administrative framework at the Provincial levels
4. To Provide a youth friendly services for young people with special needs (disabled, mentally affected), and people living HIV and AIDS to access friendly services in the community, provincial and nationally.
5. To instil in young men and women on our cultural norms and values and traditional skills at the family, community, provincial and national level.
6. To provide facilities and appropriate trainings for spiritual development for young people.
7. To provide health education awareness programs in all communities, focusing on issues affecting young people to inform young people to make positive decision that affects their lives.
8. To create and Implement support systems to encourage youth enterprise program that will encourage self employable activities for young men and women in the province.
9. Provide support structures for the reintegration of young offenders into the community and to prevent the individuals reoffending.
10. Provide quality education for young people throughout Guadalcanal Province, recognising the equal importance of the formal and informal education systems.
11. Provide equal access for youth of both genders to all services.

D. RIGHTS RESPONSIBILITY AND OBLIGATIONS

This policy upholds the rights and responsibilities as stipulated in the National Youth Policy.

- Respect for human rights as enshrined in the National Constitution of Solomon Islands including freedom of religion and expression; democracy; and protection from discrimination on the grounds of color, race, and place of origin, creed or gender.
- Respect and acknowledge the rights of individuals', responsibilities and obligations therein.
- Pursuance of a just and fair society.
- Fostering unity in diversity and multi-ethnicity.
- Recognition of young women and men as potentially mature physically, socially, economically, culturally and spiritually, and whose potential and well being must be developed.
- Enhance partnership between all youth stakeholders and young people for youth involvement in development and in the decision making process.
- Pursuance of quality and equitable provision of opportunities in education and employment in non-formal education and self-employment.
- Upholding the traditional family unit base, respect for parents, the elderly, and all members of the community.
- Upholding parental and societal expectations of young people to enter adulthood equipped to respond responsibly to socio-economic challenges and contribute positively to peace, progress and prosperity.
- Upholding expectations to enjoy youth life and enter adulthood confidently with positive outlooks.
- Recognition and commitment to gender equity in the development and provision of relevant programs and services.
- Recognition of social justice for the disabled, economically disadvantaged, and rural youth are given opportunities to participate in nation building.
- Respect for the natural environment and a sense of responsibility for sustainability development.

The freedom of expression and association in cultural, religious, social, economic and political activities.

E. KEY STRATEGY AREA

Education and Training

Formal and informal education must be addressed holistically through a coordinated and cooperated approach by relevant sectors. The policy provides the platform for more consultative avenue for dialogue to provide the required services that is appropriate for the learning environment that is conducive to our young people. Educational services to provide, qualified teachers, materials, infrastructures and human resources. Research and information centre is also to be prioritized in the community for young people to have access to information.

- Unqualified teachers
- Need to upgrade school facilities
- Illiteracy
- Skilled labour
- Lack of support
- Low self-esteem
- Child rights

Health Services

Health is one of the fundamental aspects of human's life. Our young people need to stay healthy. In order young people to stay healthy they need appropriate health services that are reliable and friendly. Health services in the community to provide peer to peer education, educational programs, and behavior change program, VCCT

programs. Churches and other community based groups should also provide such health services.

- Lack of health services and program provided in community
- Health and physical education for young people
- Mental illness
- No healthy lifestyle in rural community
- Health risk behaviour such as:
 - Tobacco
 - Marijuana
 - Drugs and alcohol
 - Unprotected sex (HIV/AIDS – STIs)

Unemployment

Fair employment opportunity for young people must be highly regarded as a priority area to address. All stakeholders must play an active role in identifying relevant employable activities that sustainable to young people. This encourages, both self employable activities, and formal employment activities for young people. Thus young people in the community can venture into sustainable employment activities in their own community.

- Substance abuse
- Sex workers/multiple partners
- Poverty
- Street Youths
- Domestic violence

Law and Order

Law and order must be strongly emphasized in the community. Young people are to abide to our national laws and acceptable norms and cultures to create a peaceful and harmonious society. Community leaders must encouraged young people to uphold our cultural norms and values within the community.

- Wantok system
- No transparency (duty)
- No proper law awareness program (community)

Environment

Guadalcanal province is vulnerable to environmental hazards. Young people must involve in decision making regarding environment and operational issues. Sustainable harvesting of resources must be encouraged and promoted in our society through educational curriculums. Young people to take a role in advocating for change of legislations regarding land issue.

- Pollution
- Overharvesting of natural resources
- Climate change

- Land conflict
- Government to amend mining Act/policy

Sports & Recreation

Sporting and recreational activities contributes to youth development in the province. Sports can contribute to returning peace in province. There must be proper sporting facilities and infrastructures provided to young people from the provincial level to the rural communities. The province has established its sport office as the body responsible for the sporting activities in the province. Sports programs should include coaching, tournaments and sports festivals for professional developments in the province.

- Lack of support and recreational facilities
- Need to encourage formal and informal learning and development of sports and recreational areas in the surrounding
- Need to encourage the development of sports by the provincial sports council by improving and expanding infrastructure and facilities at community level.

Communication

Communication is one of the issues that need to be properly addressed in the policy. Internet and other appropriate means of telecommunication that is relevant to our societal context must be provided. Guadalcanal Province has four senior secondary schools which they need internet access for educational purposes.

- Access to internet, radio and reliable communication system
- Established Internet stations in each ward

Music

Young people are very talented in music. They need musical programs that encourage skill and talent development. Getting into music industry can contribute to means of employment for our young talented musician. Music classes and lessons should be encouraged and accessed by all categories of young people.

- Lack of music programs and promotions
- Lack of music equipments
- Lack of music school

F. PRIORITY TARGET GROUPS

1. *Young people with special needs*

The level of disabilities varies among the youth population. Currently there are no specific projects in the province that directly aim at addressing issues relating to this part of the community. In general PLWD are indirect beneficiaries from projects such as water and sanitation and home gardens projects. The implementation of these projects is seen as positive attempts in assisting this disadvantage group. It does have a positive direct impact on the well being of PLWD in the targeted communities

2. *Alcohol and drug abusers*

Facilitate awareness activities programs to empower and educate youth on the effects of drug and alcohol.

3. ***Street youths***

Provide alternative social and economic opportunities

4. ***Young people living with HIV/AIDS, STI's***

This policy must provide awareness on HIV/AIDS and break the stigma in the community.

5. ***Young sex workers***

Provide alternative economic opportunities for young people involved in prostitution.

6. ***Young illiterate***

Provide illiteracy training programs

7. ***Young school leavers***

Create other learning opportunities for young people

8. ***Homosexual and lesbian youths***

Reinstate in young people the cultural and spiritual morals of such behaviours.

9. ***Young law breakers***

Strengthen legal and justice systems and correctional institutions in communities

10. ***Young single mothers***

Assist young people in premarital programs

11. ***Students***

Facilitate learning opportunities

12. ***Youths who do not go to church (backsliders)***

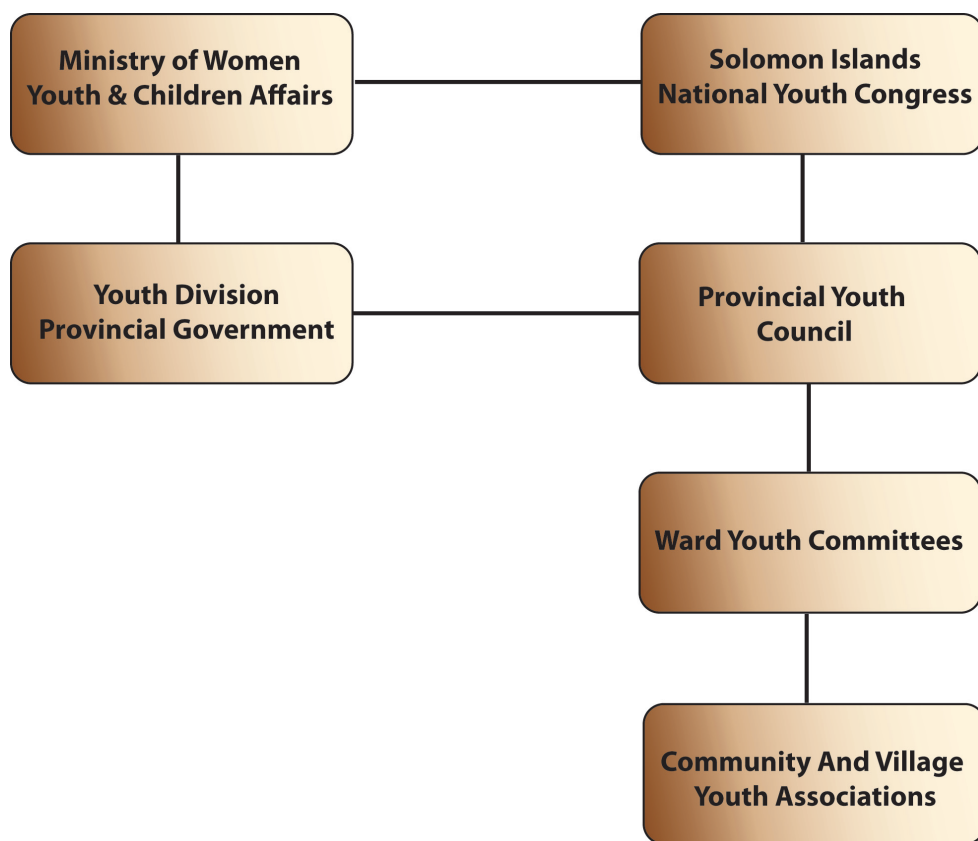
Provide and promote attractive spiritual development programs and activities

G. IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM

The establishment of improved youth policy and project coordination mechanisms will be central to the effective and efficient implementation of this policy.

- The Youth and Sports Division Guadalcanal Province will take the lead role in implementing the Provincial Youth Policy.
- The Provincial Youth councils is the body which is formed by young people as the channel of voices to the provincial level
- The Community Youth Associations will also take an active role in implementing this Youth Policy.
- The Provincial Youth Stakeholders will be the key supporting organization in the implementation of the policy.
- Monitoring and evaluation framework is to the mechanism in placed for the check and balance on the Action Plans
- In recognition of youth as valuable assets, the Guadalcanal Province will provide a youth-friendly environment and appropriate avenue for young people to take an active role in the implementation of the youth policy and the overall development of Guadalcanal

H. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



I. CONCLUSION

The Guadalcanal Provincial Youth Policy is yet to discover the potentials of young people of the province. It is anticipated that this recognition alluded to young people is seen as the right approach and in the right direction. Such that, the Provincial Government, CSOs, and communities, are facilitating avenues to bring about a collaborative effort for young people in taking up their places in their communities and society.

Young people represent a significant percentage of the provinces' population and as such, it is the responsibilities of all youth stakeholders, Provincial Government, individuals and youth organizations and communities to realize our respective responsibilities towards young people's development.

The Provincial Youth Policy accords formal recognition of the status of young people, and is premised on partnership with the adult population. Each organization is at liberty to use this as a framework and guide to work with its specific youth constituencies.

It is essential that a review of the effectiveness of this policy in terms of adequately meeting the changing needs and aspirations of young people and all organizations concerned with their welfare and development, is carried out on a regular basis. To assist in facilitating such a review, a constant monitoring and evaluation process is required of all youth programmes and services to assess their impact on young people. This will be the task of the "Provincial Monitoring Committee".

CNURA GOVERNMENT Social Policy framework – 2008

Commonwealth Secretariat, Formulating and Implementing National Youth Policies

Hem Nao Solomon Tude – Community Sector Program (CSP) -2008?

National Youth Policy – 2000

Provincial development Profile – UNDP 1996

Provincial Household survey – Christine Jourdan 2008.

Solomon Islands Government - National Youth Congress White Policy Paper, Honiara, 1980

The Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment - 2007 – 2015

The National Constitution of Solomon Islands, Honiara, 1978.

1999 Census Population Projection – Statistics office – MOF