

# **MAKIRA PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT**

Dept. Of Community Governance & Social Services



## **MAKIRA PROVINCIAL YOUTH POLICY**

**AUGUST 2011**



**Ministry of Women, Youth  
and Children Affairs**

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## **ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS:**

<b>AIDS</b>	Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome
<b>CBOs</b>	Community Based Organizations
<b>CEDAW</b>	Conventions on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
<b>CRC</b>	Conventions of the Rights of a Child
<b>CSP</b>	Community Sector Program
<b>HIV</b>	Human Immuno-deficiency Virus
<b>MYC</b>	Malaita Youth Council
<b>MWYCA</b>	Ministry of Women, Youth and Children Affairs
<b>NGO</b>	Non – Government Organization
<b>NYC</b>	National Youth Congress
<b>PLWD</b>	People Living With Disability
<b>RDP</b>	Rural Development Program
<b>SCA</b>	Save the Children Australia
<b>SIYP</b>	Solomon Islands National Youth Policy
<b>STIs</b>	Sexually Transmitted Infections

## *Acknowledgement*

*The Premier and the Executive of the Makira Ulawa 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 Affairs, my Provincial Executive, Provincial staff and the Makira Ulawa taskforce during the consultancy period, the valuable assistance from the development partners, Save the Children Australia, (SCA) Community Leaders, and insight provided to the Province on new developments during the workshop and other personnel's who have helped in one way or the other.*

*Special mention goes to the Ministry of Women, Youth and Children Affairs, the national Youth Congress, and save the Children Australia for their financial assistance provided during the provincial Youth Consultation that enabled to get the process off the round and for their interest and support to ensure the policy is formulated and a plan of action developed.*

*To other Youth Stakeholders, Non- State actors contacted for data, for Resource information, we convey our sincere thanks for availing the information required.*

*Finally but not the least, to all young men and women who participated in the provincial workshop, without your meaningful contributions the Makira Ulawa Provincial Youth policy Document and Plan of Action would lack ownership. The Policy is yours and ensures that it serves its purpose for your future.*

*The Premier and his Executives values so much all of your contributions during the process and sincerely endorse this document as surety for the youth of Makira Ulawa Province.*

## Preface

Solomon Islands is a youthful population. Since independence, our youth –young people between 14 and 29 years have comprised 21 to 32% of our nation. This simple demographic reality demands action. It demands action because;

*[Youth] is a time in life given by Providence to every person and given... as a responsibility. During that time, [the youth] searches like the young man in the gospel, for answers to basic questions; [s/he] searches not just for the meaning of life, but also for a concrete way to go about living this life...[Every elder] must love this fundamental aspect of youth.*

This call signals the recognition of the important roles and responsibility young people can play in the society.

Because of continual fragmental and deteriorating state of moral, social, and cultural values, the National Government and Makira Ulawa Provincial government has tried to put mechanism in place in order to effectively and efficiently address the social issues that challenge the development and wellbeing of the young people of Makira Ulawa Province and the nation Solomon Islands.

The importance of formulating and developing the Makira Ulawa Province youth policy cannot be over-emphasized however, it is the only way forward in terms of youth development program within the Makira Ulawa Province. Furthermore, the Makira Ulawa Province youth policy definitely forms the basis and the platform upon which other youth development projects can build on.

The Makira Ulawa Provincial Government, Churches, NGOs, youth stakeholders, and development partners recognize young people as valuable asset and resources.

The way forward is through partnership and collaborations, May we work together for a better services to our young people of Makira Ulawa Province and committed to provide adequate resources and necessary mandate in the advocacy, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this provincial youth Policy.

We welcome you to work with us as we advance forward to help our young people to reach our vision of peaceful and secure future.

God Bless Makira Ulawa Province



Hon. Martin Karani  
Provincial Minister for Community Governance and Social Services



# INTRODUCTION

## BACKGROUND AND RATIONAL

Makira Ulawa Province is one of the nine (9) provinces in the Solomon Islands. The first people to settle on Makira were the lapita people around 140 to 150 AD .The small cave people called kakamora on the main land and the Masi on Ugi and Pio island and Ulawa are believed to still exists on the island . Makira Ulawa Province comprises of six islands, Makira (main land), Ulawa, Santa Ana, Santa Catalina, Ugi and the three Sisters Islands.

Before Christianity comes, Makira ceremonial way were they are very close and sacred ties to fishing their gods which they worship and believed were linked with the oceans sharks, Bonito, turtle frigate bird. Now are days it can be identify through the appearance of carving and craft made in the province. In Makira they usually practice both matrilineal and patrilineal system of ownership. Despite foreign influence due to development changes, culture which are intact with practices and belief are still alive and prevalent. There are eleven separate languages spoken in Makira, the highest spoken language were the Arose language (21.8%) and the smallest spoken language were the Rawo language (0.3%).

There are three dominant churches established in Makira, Church of Melanesia, South Sea Evangelical Church and Roman Catholic Church and the minor churches were Seventh day Adventist, Rehma and Church of Christ.

The island of Makira is rugged and has steep hills that vary from 400-1000 meters in height and it is surrounded by rolling hills, terraces and plateaus to coastal and there are several rivers of varying lengths. The other smaller islands have lower hills with height not more than 160m and coral reefs platforms. The province has a total land area of 3,230 square kilometers and the weather pattern of Makira is similar to other provinces which the annual average is 3,600mm, average maximum temperature is 30 degree Celsius and relative humidity of 90.8 percent .The dry season is from August to January wet season from May to October.

The 1999 population census recorded 31,006 (15,063 females) people in the Makira Ulawa province which represent 7.7% of the country's overall population. Makira has a very young population with 42.4% percent less than 15 years of age .It shows that the province has a very high dependency ratio, measured as the proportion of young and old to the total population of 46.2 percent .Thus 46.2 percent of the population is dependent on the remaining population for its economic needs.

The record shows that a total of 7972 people between ages of 4 to 30 years attending school this age group (10-14) group includes student in primary and junior secondary schools.

The table below shows the population by age group who attend schools includes the youth.

AGE	POPULATION			ATTENDING SCHOOL					
	Total	M	F	Total	%	M	%	F	%
05-09	3,906	2,081	1,825	1,951	49.9	1,022	52.4	929	46.6
10-14	4,241	2,217	2,024	3520	83.0	1,857	52.8	1,663	47.2
15-19	3,736	1,917	1,819	2178	58.3	1,213	55.7	965	44.3
20-24	2,915	1,411	1,504	288	09.9	208	72.2	80	27.8
25-29	2583	1,223	1360	35	01.4	22	62.9	13	37.1
Total	17,381	8,849	8,532	7,972	45.9	4,322	54.2	3,650	45.8

Because of continual fragmental and deteriorating state of moral, social, and cultural values, the Government has tried to put mechanism in place in order to effectively and efficiently address the

social issues that challenge the development and wellbeing of the young people of Makira Ulawa Province and the nation SI.

The importance of formulating and developing the Makira Ulawa Province youth policy cannot be over-emphasized however, it is the only way forward in terms of youth development program within the Makira Ulawa Province. Furthermore, the Makira Ulawa Province youth policy will definitely form the basis and the platform upon which other youth development projects can build on.

The Makira Ulawa Provincial Government, Churches, NGOs, youth stakeholders, and development partners recognize young people as valuable asset and resources.

The way forward is through partnership and collaborations, May we work together for a better services to our young people of Makira Ulawa Province.

#### YOUTH DEFINITION

This policy recognizes and acknowledges the definition as stated in the National Youth Policy (*youth are define as young people at the age of 14yrs to 29yrs*)

#### YOUTH PROFILE

Youth development in Makira Ulawa Province began around the 80's and was centered on the churches. A lot of the youth programs and activities then were also centered on the different religious philosophies and doctrines. At the provincial level, youth related matters were undertaken on adhoc basis by adhoc committees.

#### DEVELOPMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES PROGRAM

Youth Development is first introduced into the Provincial agenda in mid 80's through awareness raising programs by the national youth Congress. These are followed by other workshops and training programs that involves the participation of both provincial and youth representatives.

In the early 90's the Province began vigorously to address youth affairs by organizing sporting activities and cultural festival. This was made possible through the establishment of youth and sports divisions and employment of a youth and sport officer. However, with the change of government and their policies, the youth sector is narrowed down and its functions are absorbed into the Education and Home affairs portfolios.

In the late 90's and early 2000, youth affairs are slowly revived, but the effects of the ethnic tension have adverse impacts on the programs, activities and services. A number of national forums and conferences, example. The Youth affairs forum 2002 and the national Youth Strategic Planning Forum 2003 are a catalyst in reviving youth affairs in the province. The churches, however tried their best in involving youths in programs that will keep them busy, but their programs were generally geared toward religious themes.

#### VALUES UNDERLYING THE POLICY

This policy acknowledges the principles and values 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.
- 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 sustainable development.

## **GOALS AND VISION STATEMENT**

### **VISION STATEMENT**

Makira/Ulawa young citizens who have potentials to participate as equal partners in the socio-economic re-structuring of our society.

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

This Provincial Youth Policy aspires to recognize, foster and fulfill the potential of the growing generation.

### **GOALS**

1. Ensure the establishment of the division at the provincial level, Responsible to the implementation of the Makira Ulawa Provincial Youth Policy.
2. Develop provincial center to cater for all provincial events including information, performances, arts & music.
3. Involve youths in the planning process of development plans & programs.
4. Ensure gender equality in the mainstream of provincial development.
5. Recognizes the need for equal access to education and training with special emphasis for differently able, school dropouts, health, employable opportunities, sports and recreation, arts and cultural activities.

## **POLICY AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

1. Established and strengthen appropriate policy and administrative frame work at all levels, (province area and community).
2. To enhance the active participation of young people in community activity eg. Church youth group, cultural youth group.
3. Ensure young people actively participate in decision making process (planning, implementation,



monitoring and evaluation of plans and programs.)

4. To identify and develop relevant training needs for young men and women.
5. To ensure young people proactively participate in political voting (equal) rights(e.g. provincial and national level )
6. Develop relevant skills and programs to assist young people in employable activities and /or income generating activities(livelihood projects)
7. To enhance youth to participate actively socio-economical activity. e.g. Health, sports, cultural group.
8. To strengthen network between young people and community to better understand criminal law (e.g. Production of illegal substances' drugs).
9. To ensure young people have access to disbursement of economic resource and benefits e.g. Ward grant, constituency funding.
10. To revive and strengthen cultural norms and values.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES AND OBLIGATION**

This policy recognizes and up-holds the responsibilities and obligations as stipulated in the National Youth Policy.

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

## KEY STRATEGY AREAS

### 1. Education

- Handicapped education
- Free education (primary to form three)
- Install more rural training center with improved facilities, equipments, and infrastructure, upgrade level of syllabus (content & scop) and properly take on board concept of discouraging urban drift
- Established leadership training institution
- Access to tertiary education/training
- Information technology
- Literacy education

### 2. Church organization

#### 2.1 Church ministries, such as,

- » Action chorus(youth )
- » Sunday school
- » Path Finders
- » Women religious group

#### 2.2 Pastoral Counselling (church leaders)

### 3. Health and Medical Services

- Family planning
- STI awareness
- By- law (health and promotion awareness)
- Support to infected STI youths.
- Build and equipped more clinics in rural center

### 4. Sport Organization

- Organized sport activities for young people
- Provide more sport facilities
- Sport head quarters
- Sport training

### 5. Agriculture

- Training on cash crop(income generating activities )
- Agriculture facilities

### 6. Culture /customs

- Identify talks by chiefs
- Revive traditional activities

7. Trade and commerce
  - Business and life skills training
  - Youth Enterprises
8. Sustainability and conservation
  - Marine resources
  - Flora and fauna
  - Training workshop and awareness

## **PRIORITY TARGET GROUPS**

- Illiterate youths(male and female)
- Differently able youths.
- School dropout (class 6,form 3,5,6,7(male and female)
- Single mothers/orphans & abused children
- Marginalized youths (vulnerable to alcohol ,marijuana, kwaso etc) /vulnerable youth
- Church youth group
- Females' victims & unsafe sexual behavior practices.
- Sport /cultural group
- Unemployment youth
- Ex-prisoner (Rehabilitation and Reintegration back into the communities).
- Settlers/ Settlements.
- HIV victims & STI victims.
- Victims affected by the Natural Disasters
- Parents/Guidance

## **IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM**

### **The Department of Community Development & Social Services through Youth Division**

- Will be able the leading sector to coordinate, administer and implement the youth policy

### **Inter – Department and Policies Programs:**

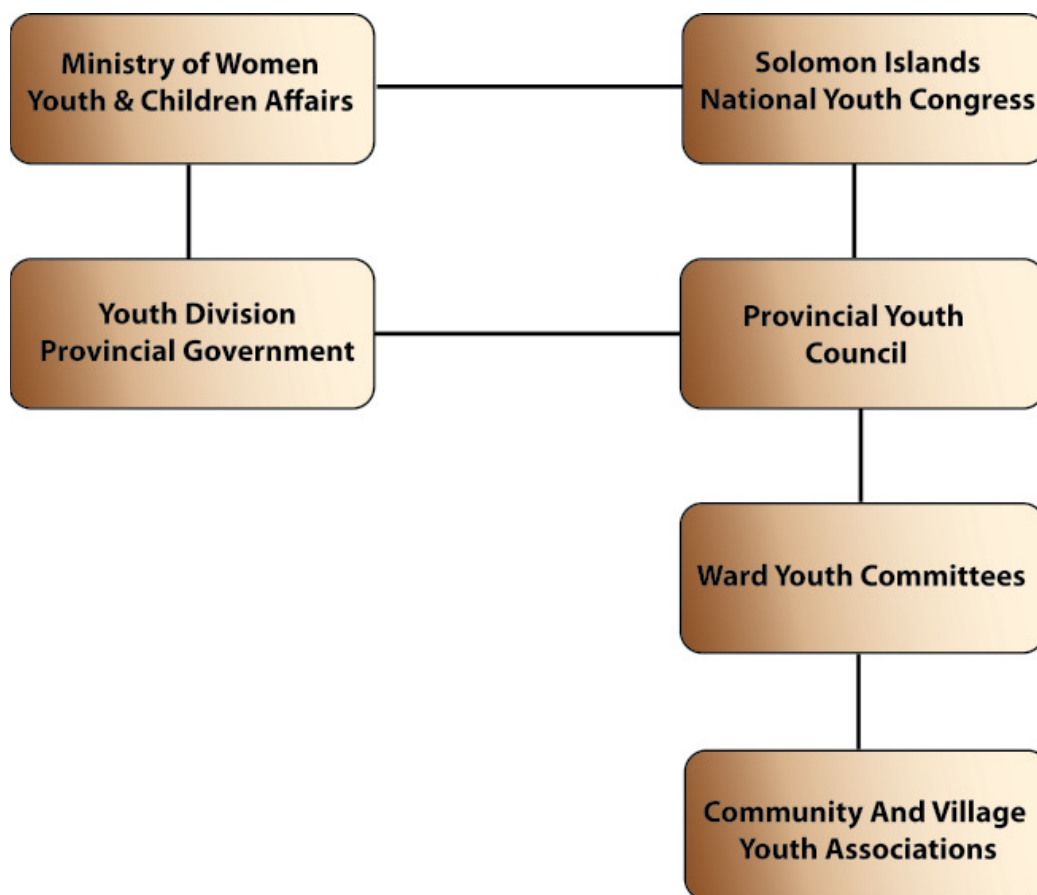
- Consultative committee of Provincial Gov't officers and option to coordinate cross – sector policies and programs.

### **Youth Sector Consultative Committee:**

- Through the SCA office & CSP youth sector program as the lead agencies (**refer MoU**) to coordinate the resources expertise of development partners in the implementation of the policy.

### **Ward Co-ordination and Monitoring Committee**

- Task Force Committees



## CONCLUSION

The Makira Ulawa Provincial Youth Policy is yet discovering the potentials that are available to the youth in the province. It is anticipated that this recognition alluded to young people is seen as the right approach in the right direction by assisting the young people, the Provincial Government, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Communities, the adults and the youth or individuals in facilitating avenues to bring about capableness in taking up their places in their Society.

It is the responsibilities of all Youth Stakeholders, Provincial Government, Individuals and Youth Organizations and Community to realize our respective responsibilities towards young peoples' development. They represent a significant percentage of the provinces population.

The Policy accords formal recognition of the cross cutting issues and status affecting young people and is premised on the participation and partnership with the adult population. Each organization is at liberty to do their framework that is spelled out from this policy document as a guide to work with the specific youth organization (s).

The review of this policy will determine the effectiveness and adequately meet the changing needs and aspirations of young people and all youth stakeholders with the welfare and youth development that is carried out on a regular basis.

A constant monitoring and evaluation process is required of all youth programs and activities with the service delivery provided to see the impact on young people. This will be the task of the Provincial Monitoring Committee.

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PROVINCE	TOTAL POPULATION ALL AGES	TOTAL POPULA- TION 14-29 YRS	FEMALE	MALE
Solomon Islands	409,042	131,231	64,672	66,559
Choiseul	20,008	5,897	2,921	2,976
Western	62,739	19,749	9,266	10,483
Isabel	20,421	6,074	3,032	3,042
Central	21,577	6,709	3,294	3,415
Rennel Bellona	2,377	622	291	331
Guadalcanal	60,275	19,380	9,464	9,916
Malaita	122,620	36,555	19,098	17,457
Makira/Ulawa	31,006	10,070	5,056	5,014
Temotu	18,912	5,660	3,132	2,528
Honiara - Town	49,107	20,515	9,118	11,397

Source: 1999 Population and Housing Census, SIG