



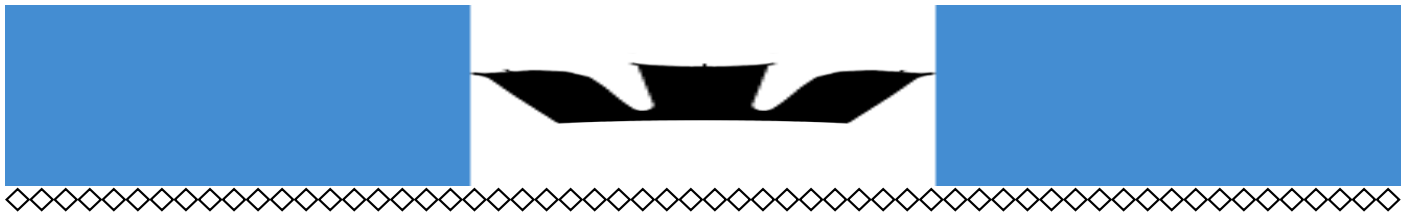
**RENNELL BELLONA  
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT**

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**PROVINCIAL YOUTH POLICY  
2010 - 2014**

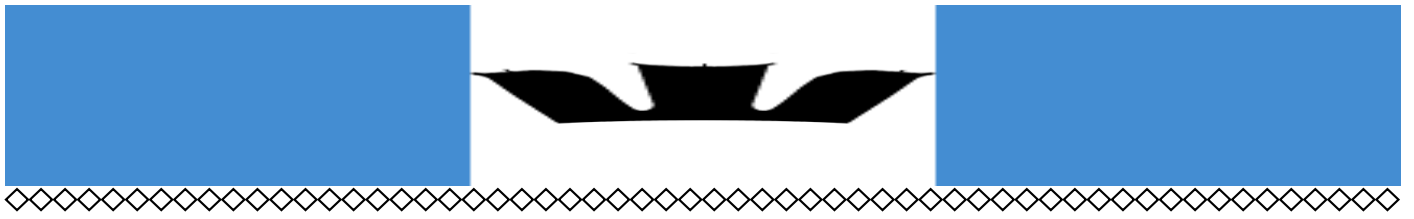
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## *Acknowledgement*

*The Premier and the Executive of the Renbel 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, provincial staff and the Renbel Taskforce, during the consultancy period, the invaluable 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 another.*

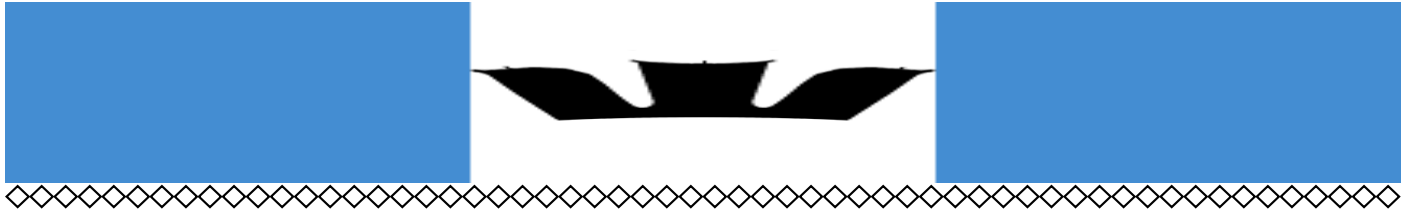
*Special mention goes to the Ministry of Women, Youth and Children Affairs, the National Youth Congress, Oxfam International and the Community Sector Program (CSP) for the financial assistance provided during the provincial Youth consultation that enabled to get the process off the ground and for their 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.*

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*Finally but not the least, to all young men and women who participated in the Provincial Workshop, without your meaningful contributions the Renbel Provincial Youth policy 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 Renbel Province.*



## *Preface*

*This Youth Policy has taken few years to draw up in a form that is compatible with the Country's National Youth Policy and appropriately inclusive of the wishes of youth of the Rennell and Bellona Province.*

*As minister responsible for our young men and women, it is a great honour for me to be able to present to you this Youth Policy on behalf of our Youths, the Government of the Province and the people of Rennell and Bellona.*

*This policy document is a result of a lot of thinking, hard-work which have been put together so as to make this policy consistent with policies of our counterparts in other parts of the country.*

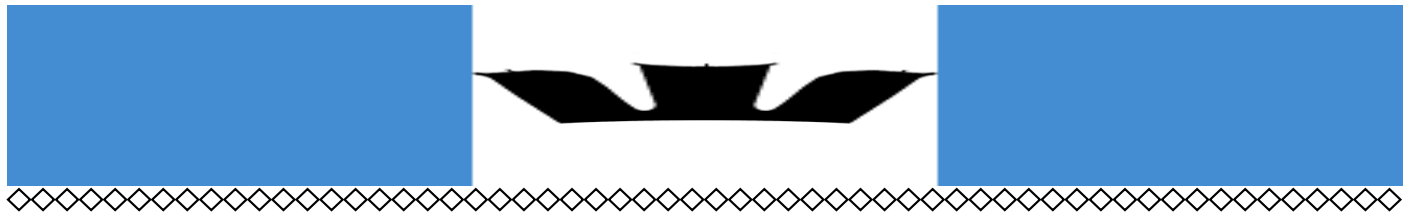
*Much effort had been made to ensure that this policy is home-grown so as to truly carry the inputs, concerns and the proposals of our rural young people using the features of the wide consultative youth survey of 2004 and 2009 as the basis of formulation.*

*It is my sincere hope that this policy will lead to significant improvement in the manner in which we address issues that affect our effect in the final hope of improving the development of our youths in Rennell and Bellona Province.*

*These we will achieve if we, all of us the Youth Representatives, Provincial & National Leaders, responsible Ministries and interested NGO's can put our efforts together and work, using this policy to guide us for the overall development of Rennell and Bellona Province(beginning in their respective communities and villages)*

*Thank You.*

*Hon. Brain Poaiqa  
Deputy Premier and Minister of Education ( & Youth Development)  
Rennell Bellona*



## A. INTRODUCTION

### 1. Background and Rationale

The term 'youth' is a fairly new concept in Rennell and Bellona Province and as such, young women and men are generally referred to as young girls and boys, just before getting married, and/or one who is seen fit, to actively participate in communal rituals and practices.

Traditionally, young people take on adult responsibilities at an early age. After an initiation ritual is performed young people become recognized as adult men and women. However, such practices are being challenged and in some instances are fast eroding and discontinued.

Although youth affairs emerged as a national issue in the government agenda in the 1980's it has only came into the provincial agenda in the early 1990's. In early 2000 the provincial government recognized the necessity of developing youth policy to effectively administrate and manage the growing needs of youths.

The provincial youth policy is therefore designed to advocate the needs and priorities of young men and women, who have for a long time being taken for granted. This policy therefore, should set the basis for a more comprehensive integration of streamlining youth affairs into provincial development plans and programs, the administration and coordination of youth affairs and develop monitoring and evaluation strategies.

Meanwhile the provincial government, interested aid donors, churches, sporting organizations, individuals, the communities and other NGOs have all, in one way or the other, helped to the participation of young people and promotion of their concerns and aspirations, at the provincial level.

With the help of Aus AID, through the Community Peace and Restoration Fund (CPRF) its Renbel Coordinator, this provincial youth policy, (draft) was compiled to provide an integrated and coordinate approach to facilitate youth affairs development in Rennell and Bellona Province.

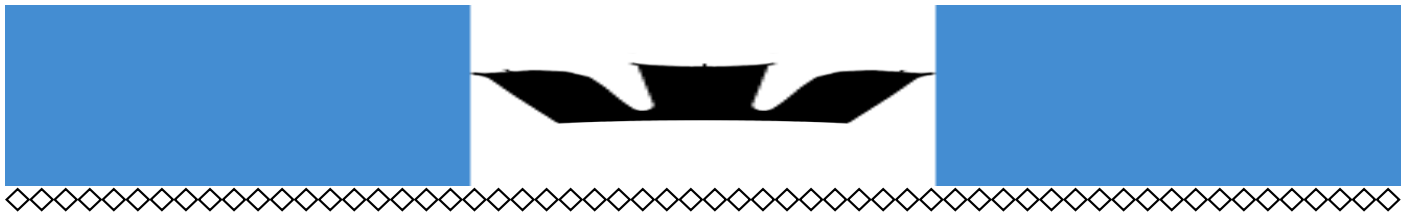
### 2. Youth definition

This policy acknowledges the youth definition stated in the National Youth Policy (*Youth are defined as ages from 14- 29 years*). However, this policy will be flexible to accommodating those less than 14 and over 29 years, who may go through similar circumstances

### 3. Youth Profile

Rennell and Bellona province has a high youth population. The 1999 census report revealed that the population of youth in the province comprises 61% of the population of 2 377 with young women making up 55% and men 45%.

Although the provincial population constitutes well over 61% of the total, there has been an increasing movement from Honiara to the province due to social and economical effects brought by the ethnic tension, of which much of the consequences face (especially) by those in town. Presently, three-fifth of the total population of youth of the society is residing at home.



Religion, education, sport and culture are central features in society and most young people are affiliated to a church denomination, educational institution, sport association and cultural foundation. There has been strong concern to ensure the involvement of young people in organized youth groups and activities. The main non-formal education program in the province is the South Sea Evangelical Church (SSEC) training centre in Rennell Island (known as the ‘Tevai’eha Bible Training Centre (TBTC)’). Such concept(s) of the programme, which developed from SSEC church activities, is/are still very much church based.

There are literate and illiterate age young people who are transition from childhood to adulthood, experiencing physical, mental, social, spiritual and other changes in nature of ones’ life circumstances and thus, who may need attention and guidance from each other, parents, society of the Rennell and Bellona Province.

In summary, young women and men of the Rennell and Bellona province are facing significant issues that constrain the accessing opportunities to fully participate in provincial and national development. Identified under the following categories are some of the issues:

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- Conflict: individual, family, society, cultural and religion
- Inadequate education system for young people
- Lack of employment opportunities for young people
- Human sexuality: reproductive, sexual and mental health problems; teenage unwanted pregnancy, STI/HIV/AIDS
- Jurisdiction, crime and juvenile delinquency
- Drug and substance abuse: alcohol, tobacco, betel nut and homebrew, and emerging abuse in marijuana
- Lack of self-esteem
- Changing lifestyle (social problems)
- Rural to urban migration

#### **4. Background to the Development of Youth Services in the Province**

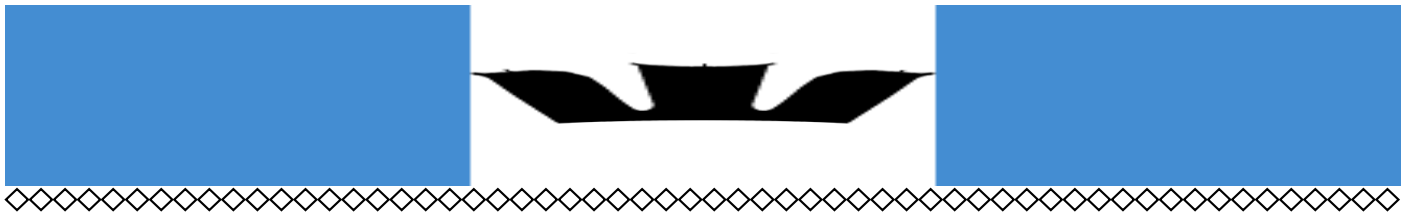
Youth Affairs in Rennell Bellona Province was first addressed in the 1980s when under the Central Province administration. Rennell Bellona Province was established as a separate province in 1992, and youth affairs were coordinated by the Provincial Education Division, the Ministry of Education.

In 2002 the province attempted to establish a policy and administrative framework, but it was not until 2003 that the first draft Youth Policy was developed. This followed the release of the 2002 National Youth Affairs Forum Communiqué which stipulated the need to establish youth offices in all provinces.

This new policy will enable the province to coordinate a comprehensive youth development program with the financial and technical support of donor agencies and development partner.

#### **5. Principles and Values Underlying the Policy**

This policy paper, up-holds the principles and values as stipulated in the National Youth Policy.



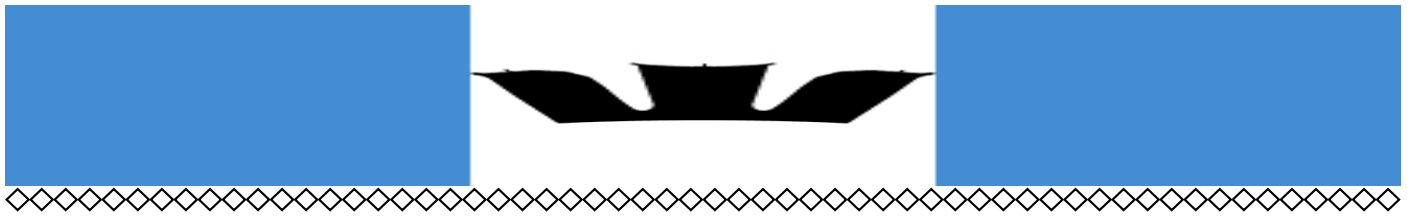
- Respect for human rights as enshrined in the National Constitution of Solomon Islands including freedom of religion and expression; democracy; and protection from discrimination on the grounds of color, race, and place of origin, creed or gender.
- Respect and acknowledge the rights of individuals, 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.
- 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 programmes 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 sustainable development.

## **B. GOAL AND VISION STATEMENT**

The Rennell Bellona Provincial Youth Policy, while in-recognition of the nation's goal and vision statement, aims to empower its young people by creating an environment that recognizes their full potential as equal partners that will advance the province to develop, with better management of their resources.

The Policy Goals are:

- Ensure the establishment of the youth division at the provincial level, responsible for the implementation of the Rennell Bellona Provincial Youth Policy.
- Involve youths in the planning process of development plans & programs.
- Develop provincial centers to cater for all provincial events including information's, performances, arts & music.
- 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.



- Ensure gender equality in the mainstream of provincial development.

### C. POLICY OBJECTIVES

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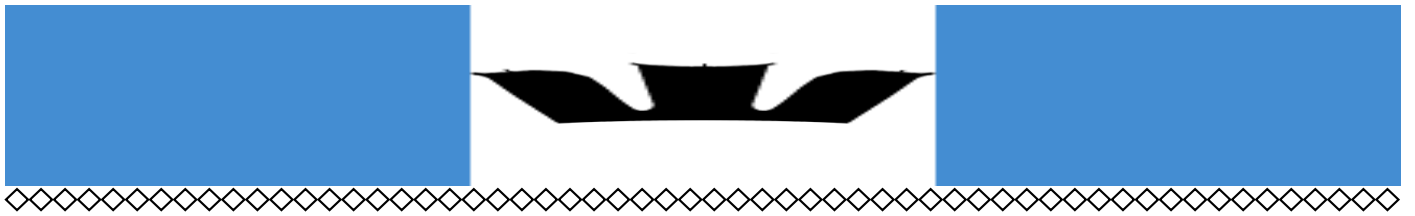
- To provide avenues for the participation of young males and females in planning, decision making, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development programs at the community and provincial levels.
- To organize relevant training programs for all categories of young males and females.
- To facilitate the establishment of appropriate policy and administrative frame-work at provincial and community levels.
- To ensure youth affairs is recognized, resourced and facilitated as a component of community and provincial development plans and programs.
- To promote youth participation in sports and cultural programs and activities.
- To address the needs of differently able youths in the province.
- To secure needed resources to enable young males and females to venture into business enterprises.
- To ensure the community recognizes the rights of youth, women and children.
- To build on the strengths of existing social, cultural and religious values which support youth development.
- To ensure gender equality is adequately addressed
- To encourage the province, churches and others to provide counseling services to young people.
- To increase appropriately resourced formal and informal education opportunities for young people.
- To lobby for the sustainable harvesting of natural resources.
- To ensure that an accurate youth affairs data-base is accessed by all sectors of the community.

### D. RESPONSIBILITIES AND OBLIGATIONS

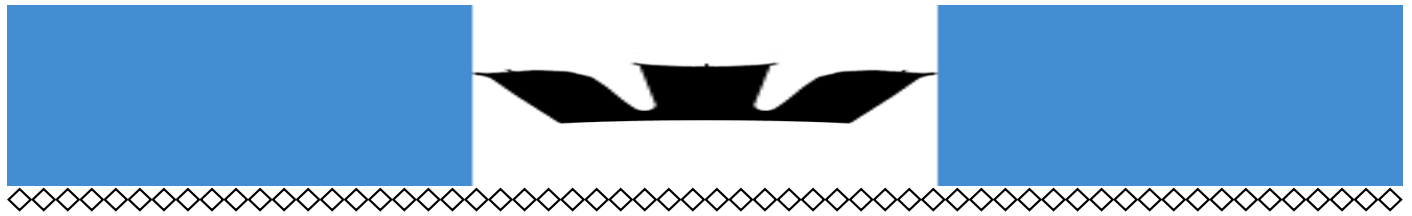
This policy upholds the responsibilities and obligations as stipulated in the Solomon Islands National Youth Policy.

- 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.
- Right to participate in decision making processes



## E. KEY STRATEGY AREAS

### Education

- Increase the number of trained teachers
- Provide relevant facilities for schools to improve their social activities and program
- Authorities responsible for education and schools in the province to be active and genuine in their roles and responsibilities
- Education right should be an advocatory issues at all levels in the province
- Establish more schools, vocational training centres and community based centres
- Provide training/learning opportunities for young people eg. Distance Education, Training Workshops, etc.

### Employment

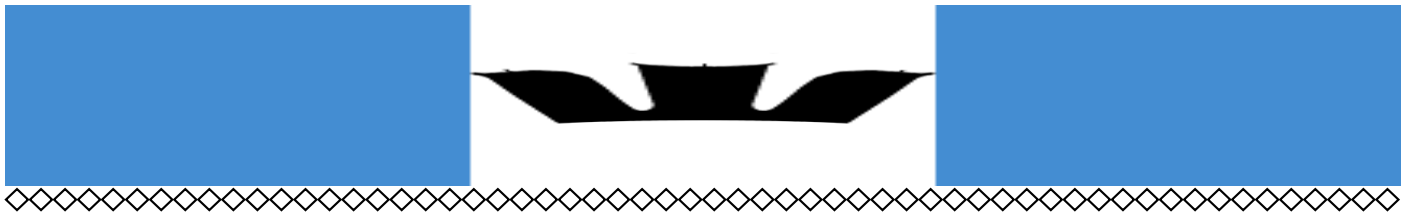
- Create and provide avenues to reduce the unemployment rate in the province through; establishing arts & crafts centers, entrepreneurship scheme, and etc.
- Create more job opportunity for young people at the provincial level through foreign investors and private companies
- Create self employment opportunities
- Secure assistance through line-ministries for training and employable opportunities for young people, e.g., Ministry of Agriculture and fisheries, Ministry of Indigenous Affairs and etc.

### Fisheries

- Create small fisheries projects for young people
- Strengthen the fisheries facilities and department
- Train young people in modern fisheries skills and techniques

### Agriculture

- Encourage young people to engage into agricultural activities such as farming
- Establish market centers
- Provide agricultural training and workshops for young people
- Create a youth farm network



## Youth and Religion

- church youth groups should organize youth related programs and activities like, youth rallies, youth conferences, forums etc
- Religious youth should advocate human right, gender equity and environmental issues
- Young people should be given religious responsibilities and obligations
- Provide relevant equipments for youth church groups to support and help improve the way their church programs are conducted and presented
- Leaders and senior members of different churches in Rennell and Bellona should encourage spiritually weak young people rather than criticizing them.
- Churches in Rennell and Bellona should support youth programs and activities in communities and the province as whole

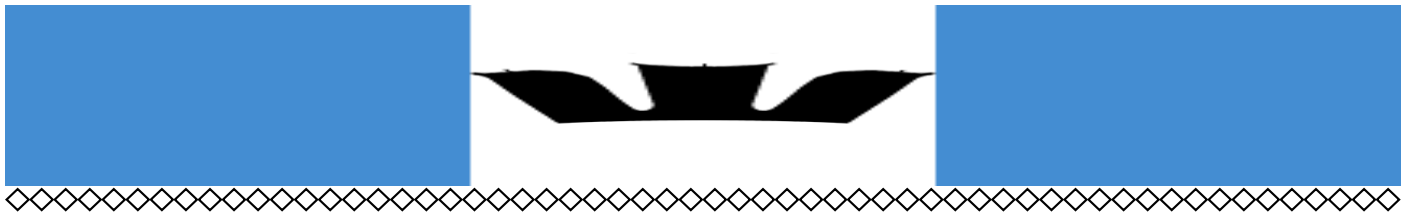
## Youth and Culture

- Establish youth cultural center and facilitates youth cultural activities
- Develop a formal cultural structures where young people's needs can be address
- Recognize tribal traditions and cultures
- Review how culture is valued by the young people of Rennell and Bellona
- Encourage young people of the province to respect their culture and traditions

## Youth and Sport

- Provincial sport authorities should be active in it roles and responsibilities
- Establish a youth center in order to
- School principals and headmasters should organize and emphasize school sport carnivals
- Develop some links between local sport clubs and national sport organizations and federations.
- Provide technical skills and knowledge for young people through relevant trainings.
- Leaders of sport associations and federations should provide adequate prizes for local league and tournaments
- Provide Sport scholarship opportunities for interest and capable young people in the province
- Provincial sport unit should take the initiative to organize and conduct relevant workshops for the young people of Rennell and Bellona

## Youth and Health



- Conduct health awareness programs for young people in all communities on health issues, e.g; HIV/AIDS, marijuana, teen age pregnancy
- Strengthen community policing in order to lessen young people usage of drugs and alcohol
- Provide a youth friendly clinical environment
- Establish youth health research and information center in the province
- Young people should engage and participate in youth social programs and activities which would help to provide a good healthy life
- Young people should value life as Gods given gift to man kind
- Health Division in the province should play a more active role in providing health education programs/ activities.

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### Music

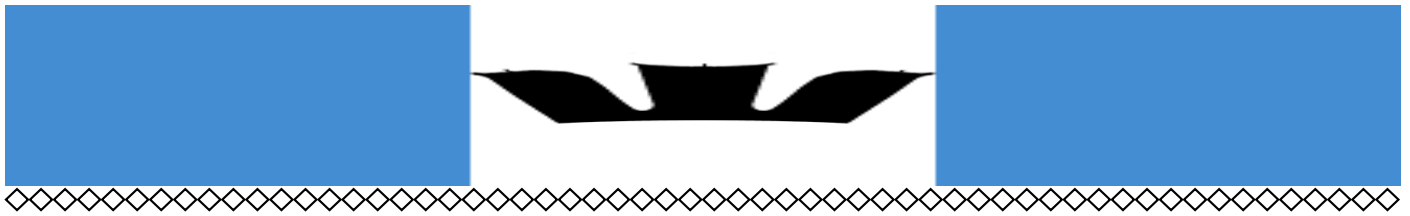
- Design music festivals for young people
- Provide music instruments for youth groups
- Provide funding to support young people who intended to produce albums
- Create markets for albums marketing at the national level as well as regional level

### Communication

- Establish telecommunication network in all communities
- Establish a youth resources center.

## F. PRIORITY TARGET GROUPS

- Young people with special needs (Differently able)**
  - » Recognize the rights of these people and provide avenues to support them
- Rural Youth**
  - » Provide alternative livelihood opportunities.
- School Leavers**
  - » Create other learning opportunities for young people
- Students**
  - » Ensure schools and institutions are appropriately resourced
- Unemployed young man and women**
  - » Provide entrepreneurship training opportunities to assist them to venture into business



**vi. Young Offenders**

- » Strengthen the legal institutions in the communities

**vii. Alcohol and drug users**

- » Provide empowerment activities for young people involved in substance abuse

**viii. Young people suffering from mental illnesses**

- » Recognize their rights and provide them supportive and rehabilitation environment in the communities

**ix. Young women**

- » Provide alternative opportunities for young women.

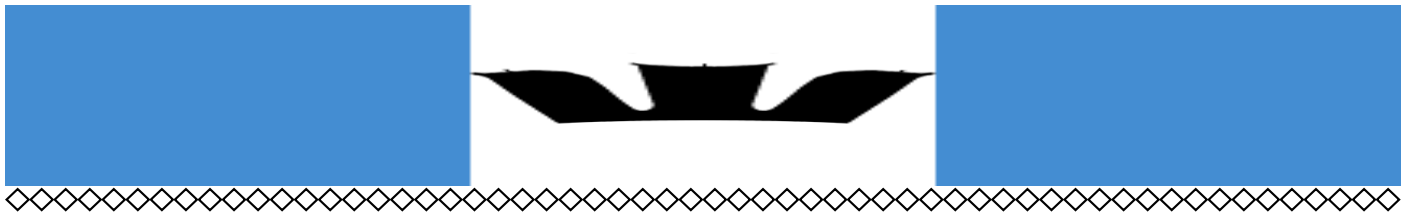
## **G. IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM**

This document seeks to provide the basis for integrated and elaborative efforts by all Government agencies impinging on youth and the efforts of non – government organizations and the churches committed to youth development

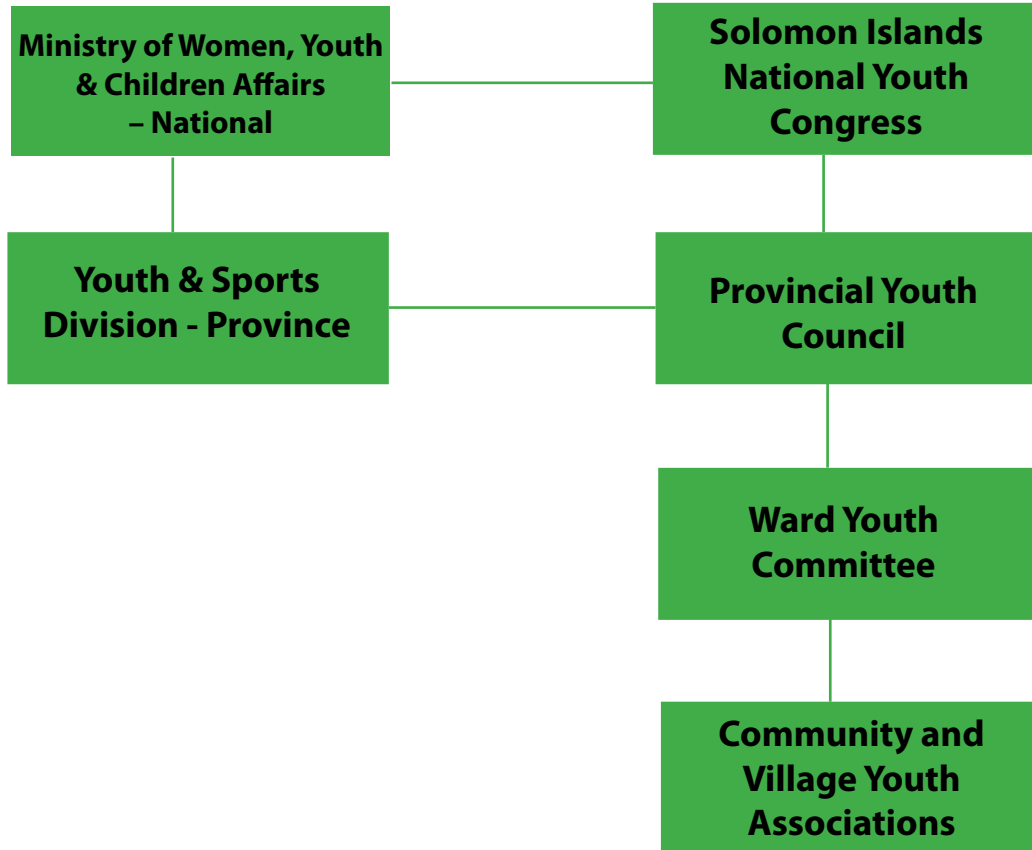
The implementation of this policy attracts training of youth workers, churches, schools, NGO's and young people. This is to ensure that the monitoring and evaluation of the policy goals and objectives are achieved.

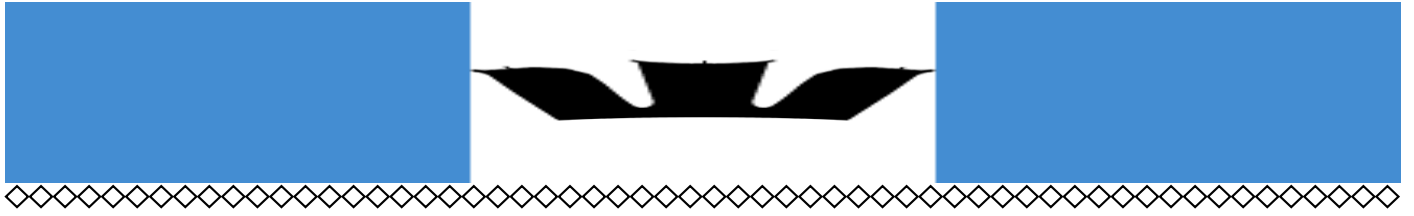
Therefore the implementation mechanism include the following,

- Youth Division – to coordinate the efforts and initiatives of the Provincial Government in implementing the policy. It will also maintain regular consultation with all government departments, churches, NGO's and other youth stake holders
- The Renbel Youth Council (RYC) will oversee the implementation of the policy and programs outline in the Renbel Provincial Youth Action Plan
- Churches are encourage in setting up their own operational structure and may where appropriate link with the provincial government and other youth stakeholders.
- Monitoring, Implementation and Evaluation of the Policy will be an ongoing activity to assess the impact.



## H. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



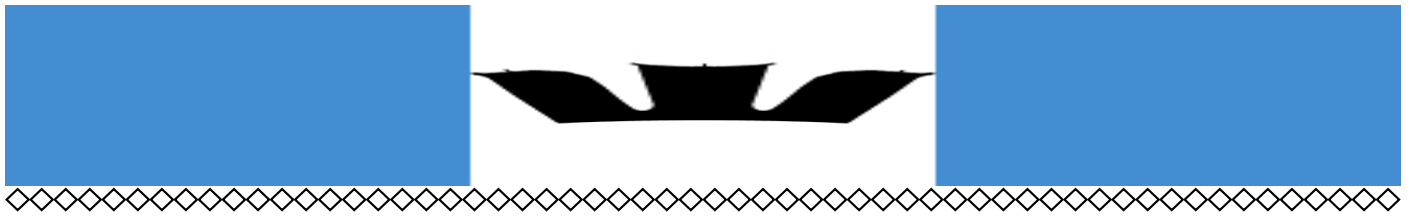


## I. CONCLUSION

The Rennell Bellona Provincial Youth Policy is yet to discover the potentials of young people in the province. It is anticipated that this policy would facilitate the recognition alluded to young people. It is the responsibility of the Provincial Government, youth stakeholders, their immediate communities and individuals to enable young people to realize their potentials, actively participation in decision making and socio-economic development of the province.

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 therefore, 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”.



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