SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

TEMOTU PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

TEMOTU PROVINCE

TEMOTU PROVINCIAL YOUTH POLICY

DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS, YOUTH, CHILDREN & WOMENS' AFFAIRS

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A. PREFACE

Hon: Edwin Meibu
Provincial Minister for Youth and Sport Development
Temotu Provincial Government

Solomon Islands were reminded of the urgent need for the formulation or developing of national and Provincial Youth policies by the CNURA Government Social Policy Framework 2008. This call signals the recognition of the important roles young people can play in their society.

As Minister responsible for Youth Affairs for Temotu Provincial Government, I am therefore most honoured to present on behalf of my Government, the Provincial Youth Policy.

The Policy document is a fulfilment of the National and Temotu Provincial Government mandate and Development Strategy on Youth. It illustrates the commitment and recognition of the Government and the society as a whole to empower its young people, regardless of race, religion, gender and disabilities. The commitment is to provide every opportunity to develop the personal, physical, social, economic, mental and spiritual potential of young people; to encourage them to positively participate in the Province building and to shape their future. The Policy stresses the need for all youth stakeholders in the Provinces, the Government Departments, Non-Government Organizations, Churches, the private sector and the community to make concerted efforts to address issues affecting the lives of our young people.

The Policy sets out the rationale and provides background information on the current situation of young people in the Province. 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 stakeholders in the future 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 Temotu Province beginning in their respective communities and villages.

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Hon: Edwin Meibu
Provincial Minister for Youth and Sport Development
Temotu Provincial Government

INTRODUCTION

Background

Temotu Province constitutes the Santa Cruz group, Vanikoro, Utupua, Taumako, Reef Islands, Tikopia and Anuta. It is one of the nine (9) provinces of Solomon Islands and is located on the North Eastern tip, facing the chain Islands of Vanuatu. The geographical structure and location of the islands has made it one of the most remote province of Solomon Islands with very little services provided to the outer islands.

Temotu Province has historical events that eventuated as a result of the incoming influence of outside cultures affecting the well-being of Solomon Islands society during the colonial days, as it were, e.g. discovery of Solomon Islands as per history by Alvaro De Mendana, Francis de Galaud de La Perous, Captain Peter Dillon and the killing of Bishop John Coleridge Patterson. These events have contributed to the political development of this province.

The diversity of the people of Temotu Province, given their own beliefs and cultural up-bringing makes it impossible to describe the history of each ethnic group within that particular society. Temotu Province has both Melanesian and Polynesian inhabitants with obviously different cultural practices. Even within the same tribe there are distinct differences that still exist between the different language groups. In spite of this there are a few common cultural practices that are still recognized.

Tikopia and Anuta are the two most remote islands that still maintain a heritage according to a heredity chiefly system.
In all the other islands apart from Tikopia and Anuta, the system of leadership is the 'Big Man' and is often referred as a chief appointed to the 'post' for his standing in society.

In 1981 the "Provincial Government Act 1981" passed by Parliament as the Second Devolution Order altered the status of the Councils to Provinces. The Eastern Outer Islands Council, under this Act, attained its status as a Province on the 8th June 1983 and was then legally became the Temotu Province.

Source: UNDP provincial profile

Since the province attained its status as a Province on the 8th June 1983, the province has grown rapidly over the years enduring many challenges especially in the area of social, economic, political, cultural, and spiritual and technology. Because of theses challenges, past and present Political Leadership of the province sincerely advocate in formulating legal framework to guide the province forward in combating the ever social issues impinge on the province. The development and

formulation of the Provincial Youth Policy is to response and address these challenges facing young people in the province, hence the mandate of the National Government and Provincial Government social Policies and development.

Population

According to 1999 Solomon Islands National Population Census, the population of Temotu Province was 18,912 with a population growth rate of 1.9% per year, a rate much lower than the national annual growth rate of 2.8% per annum.

A recent population estimate by households and province in 2005 and 2006 stated that Temotu Province population increase to 23,800 with an annual growth rate of 3.8 percent (Jourdan, 2008).

Temotu Province's population projection is as projected below in Table 1

Table 1: Temotu Province Population Projections 2007 to 2010

Year	Projections		
	Male	**Female**	**Total**
2007	10,916	11,855	**22,771**
2008	11,179	12,143	**23,322**
2009	9,829	11,361	**21,190**
2010	**11,699**	**12,713**	**24,412**

Source: *Statistics Office 1999 Census Provincial Population Projections*

Records from the 1999 National Census showed that Santa Cruz Island had a population of 11,923. Reef Islands and Duff Islands (Tinakula, Nukapu) recorded a population of 5,484. Vanikoro and Utupua including Tikopia and Anuta Islands collectively have a total population of 3,078. This population distribution generally reflects the ownership of their customary obligation.

The statistics for school age population provide indicator for planning purposes. The school age population refers to the total age cohort (6 to 18 inclusive) who might be expected to attend primary and secondary schools. According to the 1999 Census, the school age population in Temotu Province was 6,400 (of whom 3,275 were males and 3,125 were females) The 1999 census also recorded 1,375 school age children who were recorded as having "no education" at the time.

Table 2: Growth Projections, Senior Secondary Schools, 2007 to 2010

Year	***2007***	***2008***	***2009***	***2010***
Population Projections, age 16-18 (Scenario 1)	*1521*	*1544*	*1351*	*1479*
Projected enrolments at 1.9% annual growth (Scenario 2)	**196**	**199**	**203**	**207**

Youth Definition

This policy acknowledges the youth definition stated in the National Youth Policy (Youth are defined as ages from 14- 29 years).

"Youth are the school and out of school age young people who are in transition from childhood to adulthood, experiencing physical, mental, social and spiritual changes in their lives circumstances and thus, who need attention and guidance from each other, parents, communities and the nation as a whole."

Youth Profile

Youth Population

Temotu Province, similar to other provinces, has a very young and robust population. According to 1999 Population Census, more than forty-one percent is less than 15 years of age and more than thirty-three percent is between 15 to 34 years of age. The youth population is twenty percent of the total population.

Source: UNDP provincial profile

Youth issues and challenges

Inadequate Education and Skills training Opportunities

Temotu Province has thirty eight Primary Schools, one Provincial Secondary School, eight Community High Schools and two Rural Training Centres (RTC). The existing education amenities are generally in poor conditions and inadequate to support the young population of Temotu Province. There should be a comprehensive approach taken by Provincial and National Governments, relevant stakeholders and donor agencies to address this issue.

Alcohol and drug abuse

The effects of drug and alcohol abuse have had an adverse influence such as anti-social behaviours, law and order delinquency amongst young people. Temotu Province youths are no exception from the adverse effects of alcohol and drug abuse.

Unemployment / unskilled and Urban Migration

According to 1999 Population Census, the working age population, age 14 and over consists of 11,637 people represents more than sixty-one percent of the total population. Only 12.1 percent of the working age population is active in paid work whilst unemployed seeking job, not working (undertaking unpaid jobs) and not working (attending school, retired and disable) make up 18.8 percent, 28.3 percent and 40.3 percent respectively.

The insufficient of employment and skilled-job opportunities in Lata, the administration centre and other rural centres in Temotu Province resulted in youths migrating to Honiara in the hope of better opportunities, education, employment and social life.

Poor infrastructure & lack of recreational centre

The existing infrastructure is generally in poor condition and is insufficient to support the needs of the community. Public buildings, roads, wharfs and sporting facilities are seriously in need of attention as they are affected by numerous natural catastrophes and local vandalisms (Report of the CSP Community Snapshots).

A recreational centre plays a vital role in a society by offering the community a place to have leisure and relaxation. The youths needs recreational centre to entertains and to some extent, educate them on youth issues such as STIs, HIV/AIDs, etc. Lack of recreational centre resulted in youth's boredom and idle that eventuated into juvenile delinquency, law and order negligence, sexual, reproductive and mental health issues.

Poor communication facilities are one factor that has affected development in the province in the last two decades. The situation has improved with the introduction of telephone and faxes by Solomon Telekom Company Ltd, the setting up of Radio Temotu, and the introduction of improved postal and radio wireless services.

Culture & Arrange Marriage

Arranged Marriages is a common norm in some other cultural groups as it were in Temotu Province. The marriage is initiated and arrange by both parents without the consent of the boy and girl. Once all the formalities are done, the boy's parents presented to the girl's parents a token of appreciation, commonly known as bride price and then the girl is given in marriage to the boy.

Arrange Marriage in terms of cultural values is a form of respect. With knowledge of outside influences such as human rights, youths tend to dishonour their culture by refusing arranged marriage.
Conversely, some youths tends to see arrange marriage as a denial of their rights to decision-making and eventually some arranged marriage ends in divorce.

Gender inequality

The reports so far received are in favour of having an equal share in the development of all aspects of Solomon Islands. This is where women and youth should be represented in the execution of commitments as assigned where appropriate.

Effects of Climate Change and Global Warming

This is an emerging issue that concerns both national and global level. Temotu Province comprises of low coral islands such as Duff Islands and Reef Islands which are of low coral terraces, sandy cays and reefs. These islands are mostly affected by sea-level rise, an effect of Global Warming and Climate Change. All the

other islands, including Duff and Reef Islands are affected by frequent cyclones and inconsistent weather conditions.

This is an attempt to verify the issues as affecting young people of Temotu Province

- Influence of modern technology
- Depletion of natural resources
- Lack of support from parents
- Peer pressure
- Domestic Violence and Abuse
- Lack of spiritual guidance & less participation in religious/development activities
- Attitudinal problems
- Teenage Pregnancy/early marriage

With the above, and taken into account the development for youth, where may be, they have a bigger roles to play.

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 to vigorously address youth affairs by organizing sporting activities and cultural festival. This was made possible through the establishment of Youth and Sports division and the employment of a Youth and Sports 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, e.g. 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.

Principles and Values underlying the Policy

This policy 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 colour, 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

C. GOALS, VISION AND POLICY

Vision Statement

The Temotu Provincial Youth Policy 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 its Resources.

Policy Goal Statement

The Temotu Provincial Youth Policy recognizes young men and women as future resources and assets and as such guides all concerned that enable young people to actively participate in the province building including decision making at appropriate level.

POLICY GOALS

- To ensure the Provincial Youth Division office is fully resourced and strengthens as an integral set up.
- Ensure that young men and women take responsibilities in the implementation of the Temotu Provincial Youth Policy.
- Ensure that the Provincial and National Government, Youth Stakeholders play an important role in facilitating the implementation process of this policy. (Establishment of Youth Division in the Province).
- Encourage and involve young men and women to participate and respond in decision making process in their respective ward, constituency, provincial and national where appropriate.
- Recognize and encourage young men and women in the planning process of development plans and programs.
- Recognize the need of young men and women to have equal access in the areas of socio-economic, health, education, employment and skilled training opportunities.
- Recognize and ensure gender equality is mainstreamed in all Provincial Development and Plans and Programs.

D. POLICY OBJECTIVES

1. To ensure youth affairs are recognized, resourced and facilitate as a component of Provincial Development Plans and Programs.(mainstreaming of youth affairs)

2. To facilitate the establishment of appropriate policy and administrative framework at the provincial and community level.

3. To ensure that young people understand the negative impact of substance abuse and other related social issues in the community

4. To enable young people to utilise their knowledge and skills by provision of employable and voluntary community service opportunities.

5. Lobby for the strengthening of the community justice system.

6. Provision of opportunities for young people to participate in the community decision making process.

7. To enhanced and develop appropriate resourced formal and informal education opportunities for young people in the communities.

8. To provide youth friendly services in health centres and clinics.

9. To revive and strengthen appropriate cultural norms and values.

10. To lobby for the sustainable harvesting of natural resources and the impact of climate change.

11. To ensure the community recognises the rights of youth, women and children as per Conventions of the Rights of a Child (CRC), CEDAW and other Charters accorded to Youth.

12. To ensure sporting facilities for young people in all communities are facilitated.

13. Encourage faith-based organisations to provide counselling services to young people and to live by their principles and values.

14. To empower and address the needs of young men and women with special needs in the province.

15. To secure needed resources to enable young people to venture into business enterprises

16. To facilitate the process of establishing a provincial youth resourced centre

E. RESPONSIBILITY AND OBLIGATIONS

This policy acknowledges the responsibilities and obligations as stated 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 AREA

Sports

- Provide better sporting facilities and equipments
- Provide coaching clinics and refereeing courses

Law and Order

- Provide Community Policing outreach program
- Respect for juveniles, human rights including freedom of religion and expression; democracy; and protection by the law.
- Consideration of CRC

Health

- Establishing youth friendly services in clinics and area health centres
- Health awareness program for youths e.g. HIV/AIDS and STIs. (through Role play and drama etc)

Employment

- Provide employable and life skills training
- Access to the proposed economical growth centre and RDP projects
- Develop a provincial youth entrepreneurship scheme

Culture

- Elders and chiefs to revive appropriate cultural norms to reflect the rights of youth, and encourage their participation in the community
- Elders and Guardians to advise youths on cultural norms, values and mores
- Formation of youth cultural forums and workshops

Environment

- Promote awareness on the adverse effects of climate change and global warming and educate youth on the importance of conservation and sustainable harvesting of their natural resources.

Education and training

- Strengthen and expand the existing Vocational Training Centre with facilities and equipments
- Access to community and village based educational training programs
- Formulate human resources development plans
- Literacy training programs

Religion

- Provide spiritual counselling services
- Provide spiritual guidance programs
- Combine religious activities
- Promote unity among different faith based organizations

Good Governance

- Leadership training
- Civic education

G. PRIORITY TARGET GROUP

- **School drop outs**
  Create other learning opportunities for young people

- **Unemployment**
  Assist young people to develop entrepreneurship skills and provide opportunities to participate in income generating activities

- **Youth 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

- **Adult trainers/ mentors**
  Provide support for activities and programs for young people.

- **Early marriages(young couples) and single parents**
  Assist young people in premarital programs

- **Church youth**
  Provide support for a coordinated program and provide activities to support them

- **Cultural youth groups**
  Recognize and provide activities to help young to understand their cultural norms and values.

- **Single mothers and Orphans**
  Recognize the rights of children and young people as reflected in the United Nations Conventions of the Rights of the Child

- **Rural and Urban Youth**
  Recognize the potentials of young people and create an enabling environment that is conducive to address their needs

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

- **Young offender**
  Strengthen legal and justice system and correctional institutions in the communities

- **Disaster victims**
  Facilitate an emergency disaster management program for young people

- **Young sports men and women**
  Facilitate sporting facilities, trainings and competitions for young people

H. 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,

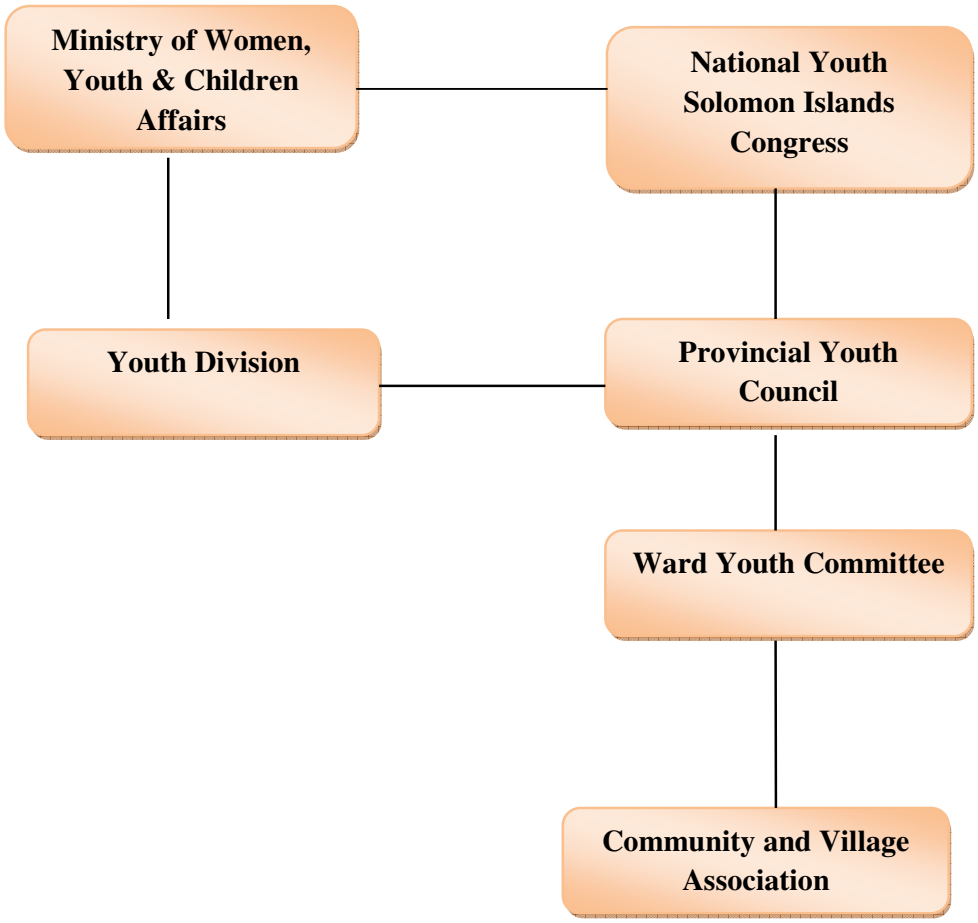
- Youth Division – to coordinate the efforts and initiatives of the Provincial Government in implementing the policy. It will also maintain regular consultation with all government departments, churches, NGO's and other youth stake holders

- The Temotu Youth Council (TYC) will oversee the implementation of the policy and programs outline in the Temotu 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 on going activity to assess the impact.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



I. CONCLUSION

The Temotu 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, 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 people's development. They represent a significant percentage of the provinces population.

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".

If you plan for a year, sow paddy, if you plan for a decade, plant trees, if you plan for the future nurture youths

"India NYP 2000"

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Premier and the Executive of the Temotu 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 Temotu 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.

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

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