

SUPPLEMENT to the Solomon Islands GazetteFriday 5th September, 2014

S.I. No. 52

[Legal Notice No. 70]

**RENNELL AND BELLONA PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
(SUSPENSION OF EXECUTIVE POWERS) ORDER 2014**

WHEREAS the Deputy Premier and three Members of the Rennell and Bellona and Bellona Provincial Executive have resigned their portfolios;

WHEREAS the Premier of Rennell and Bellona Province has failed and/or refused to advise me of appointments for the formation of a new Provincial Executive, thereby breaching sections 19(1) and 20(4) of the Provincial Government Act 1997 ("the Act");

WHEREAS having given notice of allegations of financial and administrative mismanagement to the Premier and after considering the verbal and written representations of the Premier, together with audit reports dated 20 March 2014 and 17 June 2014 and legal advice from the Attorney General's Chambers, I am satisfied that there exist circumstances sufficient to warrant the exercise of my powers under section 44(1)(b) of the Act.

NOW THEREFORE, in pursuance of powers vested in me under section 44(1)(b) of the Act and in consultation and with the concurrence of Cabinet, I, Silas K.V. Tausinga, Minister for Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening, do hereby order as follows:

- (1) All functions and powers of the Premier and Provincial Executive under the Act, including those held under or in pursuant of any other provincial ordinance, legal directive, or policy are hereby suspended.
- (2) The Provincial Secretary of the Province ("the Provincial Secretary") is appointed to oversee management of the Province and, to the extent necessary, may exercise any function or power normally performed by the Premier or Provincial Executive under the oversight of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening ("the Permanent Secretary");

- (3) In performing his duties, the Provincial Secretary is directed to:
- (a) priorities staff pay and resolve any issues relating to unpaid salaries;
 - (b) priorities service delivery and cancel payments of all Ward Development Grants to Members;
 - (c) consult with and obtain the approval of the Permanent Secretary for any expenditure exceeding \$50,000; and
 - (d) keep the Permanent Secretary informed of all matters concerning the functioning and management of the Province.
- (4) Save for legislative powers, Members of the Rennell and Bellona Provincial Assembly are prohibited from exercising any of the powers or doing any of the things described in this Order, or otherwise interfering with the Provincial Secretary's performance of these functions, until such time as this Order has been rescinded.
- (5) This Order comes into effect on the date that it is published in the *Gazette* and expires on the date of the Province's next ordinary election.
- (6) The Permanent Secretary may issue directives or guidelines as necessary to clarify or resolve any concerns, doubts, or inconsistencies that may exist in relation to the application of this Order.

Dated and signed this fourth day of September, 2014.

HON. SILAS K.V. TAUSINGA
Minister for Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening

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