

ANNEXES

ANNEX I

Composition of the Observer Group

Sir Arnold Amet, Papua New Guinea (Chairman)

Sir Arnold Amet was the Chief Justice of Papua New Guinea from 1993 to 2003. He was a Justice of the Papua New Guinea National and Supreme Courts for 20 years. He had also served as a visiting Justice on the Fiji Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court, Vanuatu Court of Appeal and Solomon Islands High Court. He was Chairman of the South Pacific Judicial Education Program from 1999 to 2003. He has served as resource advisor in the Pacific Island Forum Secretariats good governance and leadership code workshops with the Parliaments of Tuvalu, Kiribati and Marshall Islands. He is also currently a member of the Commonwealth Secretariat Arbitral Tribunal.

Mr Joseph Borg, Malta

Mr Joseph Borg is the Vice President of the Local Association of Councils in Malta. He has been on the elected Council on the Mellieha Local Council for the last 13 years. He participated in elections in Malta for the past 35 years, and was chosen to observe not less than 28 elections within the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, mainly in the ex-Soviet States and the Balkans. These elections included ones for national governments, presidential, regional, local municipalities; and mayoral elections as well as referenda. He also participated in the Palestine Presidential Elections as a member of the European Union team, and will be observing the Fiji Parliamentary Elections in May 2006 with a European Union team of observers.

Ms Cema Bolabola, Fiji Islands

Ms Cema Bolabola is the Executive Director of the Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (PIANGO) based in Suva, Fiji Islands. She previously worked for a number of years in the distance continuing education programme of the University of the South Pacific. Ms Bolabola has worked extensively for the improvement of the status of rural women through research, training and adult education, as well as with national, regional and international community development women's group. She has served two terms as the Vice-President of the YWCA of Fiji Islands and served in the leadership of the provincial branch of the Fijian Women's Association (Soqosoqo Vakamarama). Ms Bolabola is a long serving Trustee of the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre.

Mr Kwame Damoah-Agyemang, Ghana

Mr Kwame Damoah-Agyemang was Chief Director of the Electoral Commission of Ghana until December 2004, having been appointed to the position in 1992. He joined the Ghana Electoral Commission in 1974. He served as Member on a number of United Nations teams, including the United Nations Transitional Election Assistance Team to Namibia (UNTAG) (1989); East Timor (UNTAEET) (2001) and Afghanistan (UNAMA) (2003). He also served as a Member of the Commonwealth Assistance Team (COMSA) during the South African Transitional Elections in 1994. Mr Damoah-Agyemang was an Election Adviser (UK/TRG) in the South African Provincial Elections (1995); an Election Expert in The Gambia (1998-1999) and Referendum Adviser in Zimbabwe (2000). He is an International Election Management Consultant.

Ms Elaine Howard, Tonga

Ms Elaine Sihoatani Howard currently serves as the Chairperson of the Regional Youth Caucus of the Commonwealth Youth Programme – South Pacific. She is the Director of the Tonga National Youth Congress, which is the largest organisation advocating on behalf of young people in the Kingdom of Tonga. She was a finalist in the Westpac Bank of Tonga's *Women in Business Awards* in the field of 'Young Executive Woman of the Year' in 2005. Ms Howard completed her MA(Hons.) in Development Studies from the University of Auckland in 2005, where she won a university-wide research award for her work on globalisation's impact on church-based development organisations in Tonga.

Mr Oseah Philemon, OBE

Mr Oseah Philemon was appointed the Editor-in-Chief of the Papua New Guinea Post-Courier newspaper in July 2005. Prior to that, he was the Editor of the Post-Courier for 13 years. He has been a journalist for over 30 years working in radio broadcasting, government information services and print media. Mr Philemon was honoured for services to the media in Her Majesty The Queen's Birthday Honours in 2005.

Lord Peter Truscott, United Kingdom

Peter Truscott is an author, a political analyst and an Associate Fellow of the Institute for Public Policy Research in London. He has held posts in the Trade Union and Labour Party movements, becoming a Labour Member of the European Parliament from 1994-1999. He was Vice-President of the Committee on Security and Disarmament and a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee. Lord Truscott was made a Life Peer of St James's in the City of Westminster in 2004 and is currently a (Labour) serving member in the House of Lords.

ANNEX II

Press Release, 27 March 2006



COMMONWEALTH

NEWS RELEASE

06/16

27 March 2006

Former Chief Justice of Papua New Guinea to lead Observers for Solomon Islands General Election

Commonwealth Secretary-General Don McKinnon today announced that he will be sending a Commonwealth Observer Group to the Solomon Islands to observe the country's General Election scheduled for 5 April 2006.

The Observer Group will consist of the following seven eminent Commonwealth citizens:

Sir Arnold Amet (Chair)
Former Chief Justice
Papua New Guinea

Ms Cema Bolabola
Executive Director, Pacific Islands Association
of Non-Governmental Organisations
Fiji Islands

Mr Joseph Borg
Vice-President
National Affairs Local Councils Association
Malta

Mr Kwame Damoah-Agyemang
Former senior election official
Ghana

Ms Elaine Howard
Chair of the Commonwealth Pacific Youth
Caucus and Director of the Tonga National
Youth Congress
Tonga

Mr Oseah Philemon
Editor-in-Chief, Post Courier
Papua New Guinea

Lord Peter Truscott
Member, House of Lords
United Kingdom

An advance group, consisting of Mr Mose Saitala (former Legislative/Governance Adviser in the Pacific Islands Forum) and Mr Kosi Latu (Adviser, Special Advisory Services Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat), has been present in the Solomon Islands since 16 March 2006.

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ISSUED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIVISION

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**Nauru is a special member*

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CYPRUS
DOMINICA
FIJI ISLANDS
THE GAMBIA
GHANA
GRENADA
GUYANA
INDIA
JAMAICA
KENYA
KIRIBATI
LESOTHO
MALAWI
MALAYSIA
MALDIVES
MALTA
MAURITIUS
MOZAMBIQUE
NAMIBIA
NAURU*
NEW ZEALAND
NIGERIA
PAKISTAN
PAPUA NEW GUINEA
ST KITTS AND NEVIS
ST LUCIA
ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
SAMOA
SEYCHELLES
SIERRA LEONE
SINGAPORE
SOLOMON ISLANDS
SOUTH AFRICA
SRI LANKA
SWAZILAND
TONGA
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
TUVALU
UGANDA
UNITED KINGDOM
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
VANUATU
ZAMBIA

The full Observer Group will start work on Thursday 30 March 2006 and will be supported by a team of officials from the Commonwealth Secretariat, led by Ms Juliet Solomon, Special Adviser in the Political Affairs Division.

The Observers have been invited in their individual capacities and the views they express regarding the elections will be their own and not those either of their representative Governments or of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Note to Editors:

The Commonwealth Secretary-General sent a Commonwealth Secretariat Assessment Mission in February 2006. This established that there would be broad support from the political parties and civil society for the presence of Commonwealth Observers.

The Terms of Reference for the Observer Group are as follows:

“The Group is established by the Commonwealth Secretary-General at the request of the Government of the Solomon Islands. It is to observe relevant aspects of the organisation and conduct of the elections scheduled to take place on 5 April 2006, in accordance with the laws of the Solomon Islands. It is to consider the various factors impinging on the credibility of the electoral process as a whole and to determine in its own judgement whether the conditions exist for a free expression of will by the electors and if the results of the elections reflect the wishes of the people.

“The Group is to act impartially and independently. It has no executive role; its function is not to supervise but to observe the process as a whole and to form a judgement accordingly. It would also be free to propose to the authorities concerned such action on institutional, procedural and other matters as would assist the holding of such elections.

“The Group is to submit its report to the Commonwealth Secretary-General, who will forward it to the Government of the Solomon Islands, the Electoral Commission, the leadership of the political parties taking part in the elections and thereafter to all Commonwealth Governments.”

With financial support from Australia and New Zealand, the Commonwealth Secretariat has also provided an expert to assist civil society in organising domestic election observers for these elections.

For media information, please contact Albert Mariner, Commonwealth Observer Group, Tel: +677 20071 (ext. 404); Mobile: +677 97921.