

**OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL**

**MEDIA RELEASE:** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**HEADING: PETER LOKAY APPOINTED NEW AUDITOR GENERAL**

The Governor General today swore in Solomon Islands’ new Auditor General, Mr Peter Lokay. Mr Lokay has been appointed for a term of five years.

Mr Lokay has over 20 years of experience in public financial management in the Solomon Islands during which time he has served as Accountant General as well as be very involved in the development of Public Financial Management reforms in the country.

Following the arrival of the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) in 2003 Mr Lokay was a consultant working with major development partners to support the re-strengthening of the ministries responsible for finance, police, justice and education which were much impacted by the ‘tension’ period disruptions.

Mr Lokay said that he was very pleased to be given the opportunity to contribute to the strengthening of governance in the public sector of the Solomon Islands’ economy through his appointment as Auditor General.

“Solomon Islands faces many challenges in ensuring that the people’s money is most effectively spent on providing essential government services to them – and that those moneys are properly accounted for and made public so the people know how and where their money was spent” Mr Lokay said.

Mr Lokay welcomed the Government’s current push to increase accountability and transparency through a raft of new legislation aimed at anti-corruption measures but said their enforcement was a key to making them actually work.

“Legislation and policies and procedures are only effective if there are consequences for wrong behaviour by wrong doers. My role is to provide transparency to the collection and expenditure of public moneys, as well as make recommendations for strengthening internal controls to prevent corruption or poor or inefficient management of government services” Mr Lokay said.

“But it is essential that the Police and the courts, as well as the Ministry of Public Service and the Leadership Code Commission, all play their part in enforcing the law and penalizing those who make illicit personal gain from the people’s purse.” Mr Lokay said.

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**Attachment**: Photo: Mr Peter Lokay