



National Parliament of Solomon Islands



Australasia
Parliamentary
Educators Conference
(APEC - Hobart)

Alex Seama
Lawrence Scott

Engaging Rural communities – Unique aspects,
Opportunities and Challenges

Facts:

POPULATION: 611,343 (2017)

**5 MAIN ISLANDS,
More than 900 smaller islands.**

50 Members of Parliament – 50 Constituencies



Community Engagement:

1. YOUTH PARLIAMENT
2. ROLE PLAY
3. AMAZING RACE
4. CONSTITUENCY TOURS
5. RADIO PROGRAM
6. YWPG (*Young Women's Parliamentary Group*)
7. Student & Teachers Resource Book

Youth Parliament

50 youth Representing
the 50 constituencies

Focus on Youths in the
Communities.

Next Youth Parliament
2020



Ali Barnabas

Photo: UNDP/Merinda Valley



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I was scared before —
the **government** was too
big. I didn't know how
to get **involved** because
I'm deaf, but now I have
confidence after I joined
the **youth parliament**.

Ali Barnabas

East Honiara MP, 4th National Youth Parliament



ROLE PLAY



First time to roll it out with the grade 5 students.

Amazing Race

In Partnership with YEC SI (Young Entrepreneurs Council of Solomon Islands)

Complete Challenge before moving on to the next Pit Stop (Clues)
10 Groups that participated

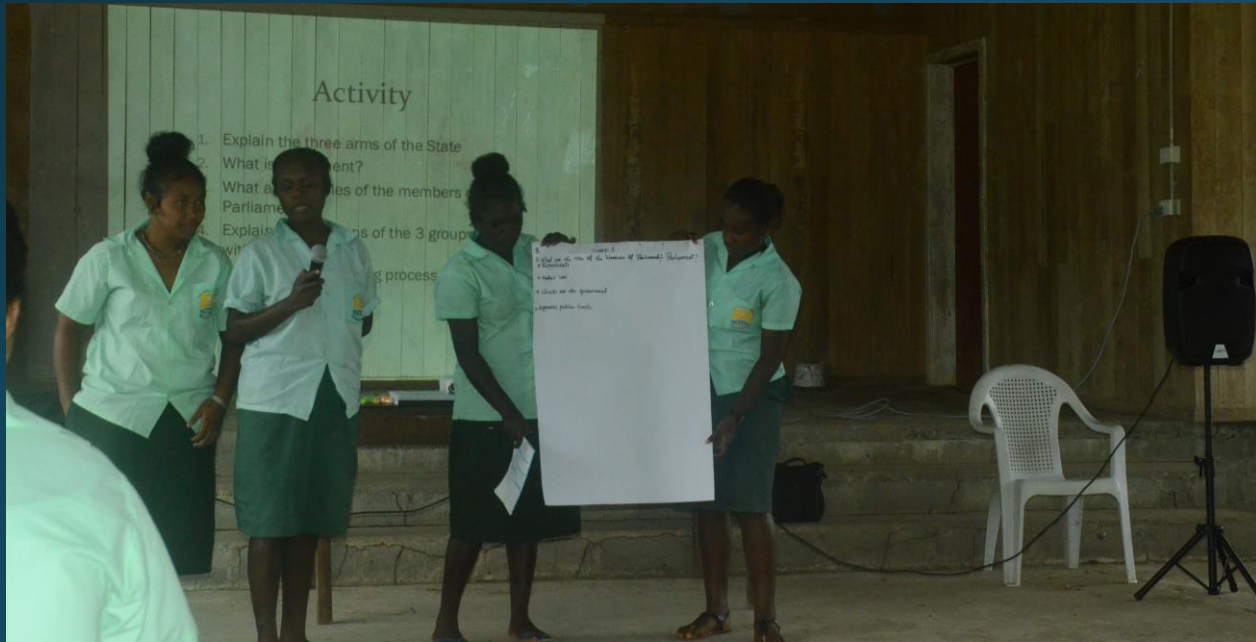


Constituency Tours

- 2019- Visited two Constituencies
- - Gizo-Kolobangara (Western Province) / Central Kwara'ae (Malaita Province)



30 Schools 30 communities





Opportunities:

- Students finally get to see the bigger picture of the whole governance system and Parliament as a separate arm of the state.
- Rural populace appreciates and can now relate to Parliament and their MPs
- Rural people are able to “engage” when they understand the processes in Parliament and not having to wait for the next elections
- Reduces the mental/physical division between those who “voted for” and “voted against” the current MP.
- Builds NPO staff capacity.
- Voters get to fully understand the roles of their MPs.

Challenges:

- Budget
- No Parliament Calendar
- Political Influence
- Geographical nature of the Islands /logistics
- Man Power







Resource Book



What Happens in Parliament?
Teacher Resource Booklet
Helping Students Understand The Functions of Parliament

Information from Parliament Civic Education Unit (PCEU)



What Happens in Parliament?
Student Activity Booklet
Helping Students Understand The Functions of Parliament

Information from Parliament Civic Education Unit (PCEU)



What Happens in Parliament?
Teacher Support Documents
Helping Students Understand The Functions of Parliament

Information from Parliament Civic Education Unit (PCEU)

YWPG (YOUNG WOMEN PARLIAMENTARY GROUP)



Radio Program

- A fortnightly program. (15minutes)
- Produced by the Parliament Media and hosted by PCEU.

Tours

Tours to Parliament

- School tours
- Local Visitors
- Tourists

TAGIO TUMAS