



CENTRAL BANK of SOLOMON ISLANDS

P.O. BOX 634, Honiara, Solomon Islands

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**Press Release: 08/2017**

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2017**

## **New Financial Inclusion Specialist in Honiara**

The Central Bank of Solomon Islands (CBSI) formally received the appointment of a new financial inclusion specialist under the United Nations Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme (PFIP) in Honiara, on Monday, May 1, 2017.

Isaac Holly Ogwal is the new financial inclusion specialist for Solomon Islands appointed by the United Nations PFIP. Isaac is a Ugandan national with over 10 years of industry experience covering FMCG (Coca-Cola), telecommunications, inclusive finance and digital financial services. Prior to being appointed to this role, Isaac was based in his home country working for a sister program of the PFIP, the Mobile Money for the poor (MM4P).

Central Bank Deputy Governor Mr. Gane Simbe was on hand to welcome Isaac to his new role and work environment, and thanked him for accepting the task.

Isaac fills in the position vacated by his predecessor Krishnan Narasimhan who after working in the Solomon Islands for 3 years (August 2013-August 2016) has moved to Fiji to take up higher responsibilities as Deputy Programme Manager of PFIP, based in Suva.

PFIP has been in the forefront of progressing financial inclusion in the region and Solomon Islands represents one of its key countries with the largest number of projects in execution. PFIP has been supporting CBSI in developing and implementing the National Financial Inclusion Strategies and continues to provide technical and financial support to various financial service providers including ANZ Bank, Bank South Pacific, SPBD Micro finance, Solomon Islands National Provident Fund, World Vision etc. As part of its larger engagement with Government, PFIP is supporting the Ministry of Finance & Treasury in digitizing its revenue receipts and payments. Integration of financial education into school curriculum is also another initiative taken up with Ministry of Education & HRD (MEHRD).

**About PFIP**

PFIP is a Pacific-wide programme that has helped 1.5 million low-income Pacific islanders gain access to financial services and financial education. It achieves these results by funding innovation with financial services and delivery channels, supporting [policy and regulatory initiatives](#), and [empowering consumers](#).

PFIP operates from the UNDP Pacific Office in Suva, Fiji and has offices in Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Solomon Islands. It is jointly administered by the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and receives funding from the Australian Government, the European Union and the New Zealand Government.

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For more information, please contact:

**Central Bank of Solomon Islands | P.O. BOX 634 | Honiara | Ph: (677) 21791 | Email: [info@cbsi.com.sb](mailto:info@cbsi.com.sb) | Website: [www.cbsi.com.sb](http://www.cbsi.com.sb)**