
Foreword

This Bench Book is a welcome assistance for Magisterial work. It is intended to be a practical, user-friendly and informative guide to many aspects of the jurisdiction of the Magistrates' Courts. I urge every Magistrate to use it often, to add to it and become part of developing and improving it further in the years ahead.

The Bench Book is an important milestone in the work of the National Judicial Education Committee and I am confident that it will lead to greater uniformity and consistency in the approach of Magistrates' Courts throughout Solomon Islands.

I gratefully acknowledge the initiative and commitment on the part of the Pacific Judicial Education Programme (PJEP) to produce this Bench Book, and the financial backing by the Governments of Australia and New Zealand through their respective aid agencies, AusAID and NZAID. In addition, the assistance provided by the Government of Canada through the Canada Fund, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade as well as the University of Saskatchewan Native Law Centre.

I particularly commend the outstanding work of Assistant Registrar of High Court, Nelson Laurere; Tina Pope, the Bench Book Consultant; and Crystal Reeves, the Legal Researcher. They collaborated tirelessly in true team spirit to prepare and produce this Bench Book.

I appreciate the valuable contributions of PJEP Co-ordinator, Afioga Tagaloa Enoka Puni and PJEP Administration Manager, Mrs Vere Bakani; and Rex Faulkona, the Co-ordinator of the National Judicial Education Committee.

The Bench Book has been produced in loose leaf format to enable on-going revision and improvement. Comments are invited and should be referred to the Assistant Registrar of the High Court.

This joint effort has resulted in a Bench Book of which we can all be proud and which will go a long way towards improving the standards and quality of services provided by the Magistrates Court to members of the public.

Sir John Muria
Chief Justice