

## FOREWORD

The Penal and Criminal Procedure Codes were among the existing laws that had effect as part of the laws of Solomon Islands on independence in 1978. These two legislation contain, in general, the criminal law of Solomon Islands. In addition, other statutes have also enacted provisions creating offences thereby adding to the body of criminal law in this country.

It is pleasing that this comprehensive book examines the criminal law as it applies in Solomon Islands. This is the first comprehensive work on the criminal law of this country. It represents a great deal of work by Mr Errol Gibson, the Prosecutors Adviser, Solomon Islands Law and Justice Sector Institutional Strengthening Programme which is a bilateral programme of the governments of Australia and Solomon Islands.

The development of case law in Solomon Islands is fundamentally important. There is no need to refer to authorities from foreign jurisdictions when a legal principle has been firmly established for Solomon Islands as pointed out in ***Jane Tozaka –v- Hata Enterprises*** cc 198/1996 (Judgment given on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1997). In order to develop our own body of case law there is a need to research the law and then apply the law in the courts. Whilst I have no doubt that this book will assist in the education of police officers, including police prosecutors, it will be of great value also to legal practitioners who practise law in the criminal jurisdiction and the courts.

Sir John Muria  
Chief Justice  
High Court of Solomon Islands