



SoloBis

a bi-monthly round-up of Solomon Islands
business and economic developments,
August 2010

Welcome to the August 2010 edition of “SoloBis”, a bi-monthly newsletter prepared by the New Zealand High Commission, Honiara. SoloBis outlines economic and business developments in Solomon Islands of interest to New Zealand companies. It is also published on www.nzembassy.com/solomon-islands. For further information on any of these stories, please contact the New Zealand High Commission, Honiara: nzhicom@solomon.com.sb, placing “SoloBis” in the subject line.

- Solomon Islands went to the polls for national election on 4 August, resulting in 25 returned MPs and 25 new ones in the 50-member House. Under the Solomon Islands Parliamentary system, these MPs then meet to elect a Prime Minister from among their number. The Prime Minister’s election took place on 25 August between two candidates, with Danny Philip announced the winner. Most of the new Cabinet was sworn in on 27 August, with Peter Shanell taking the Foreign Affairs and External Trade portfolio.
- Minister of Foreign Affairs Hon Murray McCully led a visit by the 2010 Pacific Mission to Honiara on 30 August. Mr McCully met with new PM Danny Philip.
- The Company Haus, Solomon Islands Government’s company registration office, is asking all existing Solomon Islands companies to re-register before 30 March 2011. This is to comply with the Companies Act 2009 and to improve registry services. Any business wishing to operate in Solomon Islands must be registered locally. The Company Haus: Registrar of Companies, PO Box G26, Honiara, tel. ++677 26812 or fax ++677 25084.
- Two Auckland-based NZ firms have been awarded contracts for the supply of police housing. Timber Construction Solutions (TCS) Ltd will be supplying 84 kit set homes. Staxus Ltd have been contracted to supply 2 kit set homes (using a steel framed approach) with the possibility of further orders in the future. The NZ Aid Programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade is providing the funding for 34 of these homes.
- Ministry of Finance and Treasury took a stand against non tax compliant companies. As of 19 July, MoFT has required all Solomon Islands government agency payment requests for goods and services to be channelled through MoFT’s Tax Section to ensure that suppliers are registered and are paying tax.

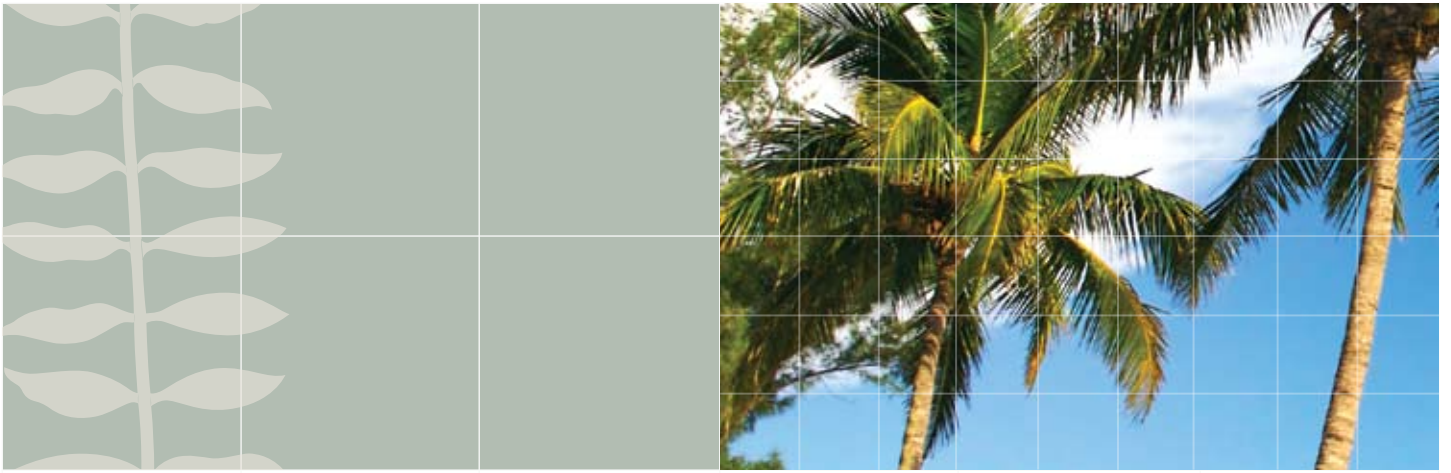


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- The Solomon Islands Telecommunications Commissioner penalised intending mobile market entrant bemobile US\$1.5 million when the company failed to launch the second mobile phone network by 18 June as scheduled in its licence; the Commissioner has threatened to call in an additional US\$1m of bemobile's US\$10m performance bond should it not launch service by 31 August. bemobile is reported as progressing with construction of cell-site towers.
- The Solomon Islands Government is advertising a tender process for prospecting licences to evaluate and develop nickel deposits on Isabel Island. Tender packages are available upon payment of a US\$10,000 fee and tenders close 15 September 1700 UTC. Contacts: Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification, PO Box G37, Honiara, tel (677) 21521/21522/28609/21374, or email isanickel.tender@solomon.com.sb or donn@mines.gov.sb.
- The 31st edition of the Solomon Islands Trade Directory was launched on 30 July and is online at www.bjs.com.sb. The 2010 guide provides a useful "one-stop shop" of commercial information for local and international businesses alike.

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