

11. MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRIES, LABOUR AND IMMIGRATION

POLICY STATEMENT

The GREAT Coalition shall:

- a. **Indigenous Economic Empowerment and Business Development:** Advance indigenous economic empowerment through business protection, reserved sectors, procurement opportunities, targeted support, and equitable access to finance and markets.
- b. **Investment and Business Environment Reform:** Reform investment policies and improve the business environment to attract responsible investment, reduce business costs and barriers, and support sustainable
- c. **Investment Climate Reform:** Reform investment policies to ensure transparency, reduce barriers, and attract responsible domestic and foreign investment aligned with national priorities.
- d. **Industrial Development and Value Addition:** Drive industrial growth through value addition, downstream processing, industrial development, and workforce skills enhancement
- e. **Business Environment and Market Access:** Strengthen the business environment by improving infrastructure, reducing costs, and expanding market access for local enterprises.
- f. **Local Industry Protection:** Safeguard local industries through protective measures, fair competition policies, and incentives to enhance competitiveness.
- g. **Employment, Job Creation and Productive Growth:** Expand employment opportunities (25000 jobs in 4 years), strengthen labor standards, and promote productive growth across key economic sectors.
- h. **Special Economic Zone:** Establish and regulate special economic zones to attract investment, stimulate industrialization, and create jobs.
- i. **Second National City Development:** Develop a second national city as a hub for economic diversification, infrastructure expansion, and balanced urban growth.
- j. **Border Security and Migration:** Strengthen border security and migration management to protect sovereignty, regulate movement, and support national security.

- k. **E-Commerce Development:** Promote ecommerce by expanding digital infrastructure, enabling online trade, and supporting innovation in digital markets.
- l. **MCILI Reform Program:** Implement reforms within MCILI to modernize governance, streamline services, and enhance institutional effectiveness.
- m. **Consumer Rights and Fair Trade:** Commit to safeguarding consumer rights, enforcing fair trade practices, and ensuring market transparency.
- n. **Commodity stabilization support:** Strengthen commodity marketing, support producers, improve market access and protect rural income. CEMA will focus on market facilitation, produce support, quality assurance, price information, trade coordination, without competing with the private sector. Existing support for copra and cocoa, including price and freight subsidies, will be reform to ensure assistance is transparent, targeted, and consistent with international trade obligations, with priority given to remote island producers facing the highest freight costs. A stronger commodity stabilization support mechanism will also be established to cushion producers from sharp price movements and support reliable trade and key export commodities.
- o. **Trade Development and Export Competitiveness:** Expand market access, strengthen trade facilitation, diversify exports, and promote e-commerce and digital trade.
- p. **Digital Economy and Innovation Development:** Promote digital entrepreneurship through e-commerce, digital platforms, fintech, digital payments, and innovation hubs.
- q. **Payment Gateway:** Encourage and promote the modernization of the national payment system by promoting the adoption of digital payment gateways, mobile money platforms, and interoperable payment solutions to reduce cash reliance and advance financial inclusion across the Solomon Islands.
- r. **Commercial Agriculture & Market Systems:** Transform commercial agriculture through value addition, agri-business development, finance access, and efficient market systems.
- s. **Farmer Cooperative Development:** Strengthen farmer cooperatives support collective marketing, assist cooperatives to negotiate contracts and access finance.
- t. **Coconut Industry Development:** Develop RIPEL (Yandina) coconut plantation into a National Coconut Processing Industry hub.
- u. **Agribusiness finance and market linkage:** Expand DBSI credit lines; support women's groups; introduce grants for nutrition-focused and labour-saving initiatives