

7. Parliament and Prime Ministers

Solomon Islands is a democracy, with power concentrated in the National Parliament and a second layer of nine provincial assemblies. The National Parliament is the supreme legislative body. There were two Chief Ministers during the self-government years (1974–78) with 16 governments since, but only 11 Prime Ministers, given that some incumbents have served multiple terms. The present National Parliament has 50 members elected for four-year terms. The National Parliament represents the people, acts as a legislature making laws, approves public expenditure and holds the current government to account.

Chief Ministers and Prime Ministers

Chief Ministers

Solomon Mamaloni, 28 August 1974–14 July 1976

Peter Kenilorea, 17 July 1976–7 July 1978

Prime Ministers

Peter Kenilorea, 7 July 1978–31 August 1981

Solomon Mamaloni, 31 August 1981–19 November 1984

Sir Peter Kenilorea, 19 November 1984–1 December 1986

Ezekiel Alebua, 1 December 1986–28 March 1989

Solomon Mamaloni, 28 March 1989–18 June 1993

Francis (now Sir Francis) Billy Hilly, 18 June 1993–7 November 1994

Solomon Mamaloni, 7 November 1994–27 August 1997

Bartholomew Ulufa'alu, 27 August 1997–30 June 2000

Manasseh Sogavare, 30 June 2000–17 December 2001

Sir Allan Kemakeza (b. 1950), 17 December 2001–20 April 2006

Snyder Rini, 20 April 2006–4 May 2006

Manasseh Sogavare, 4 May 2006–13 December 2007

Dr Derek Sikua, 20 December 2007–25 August 2010

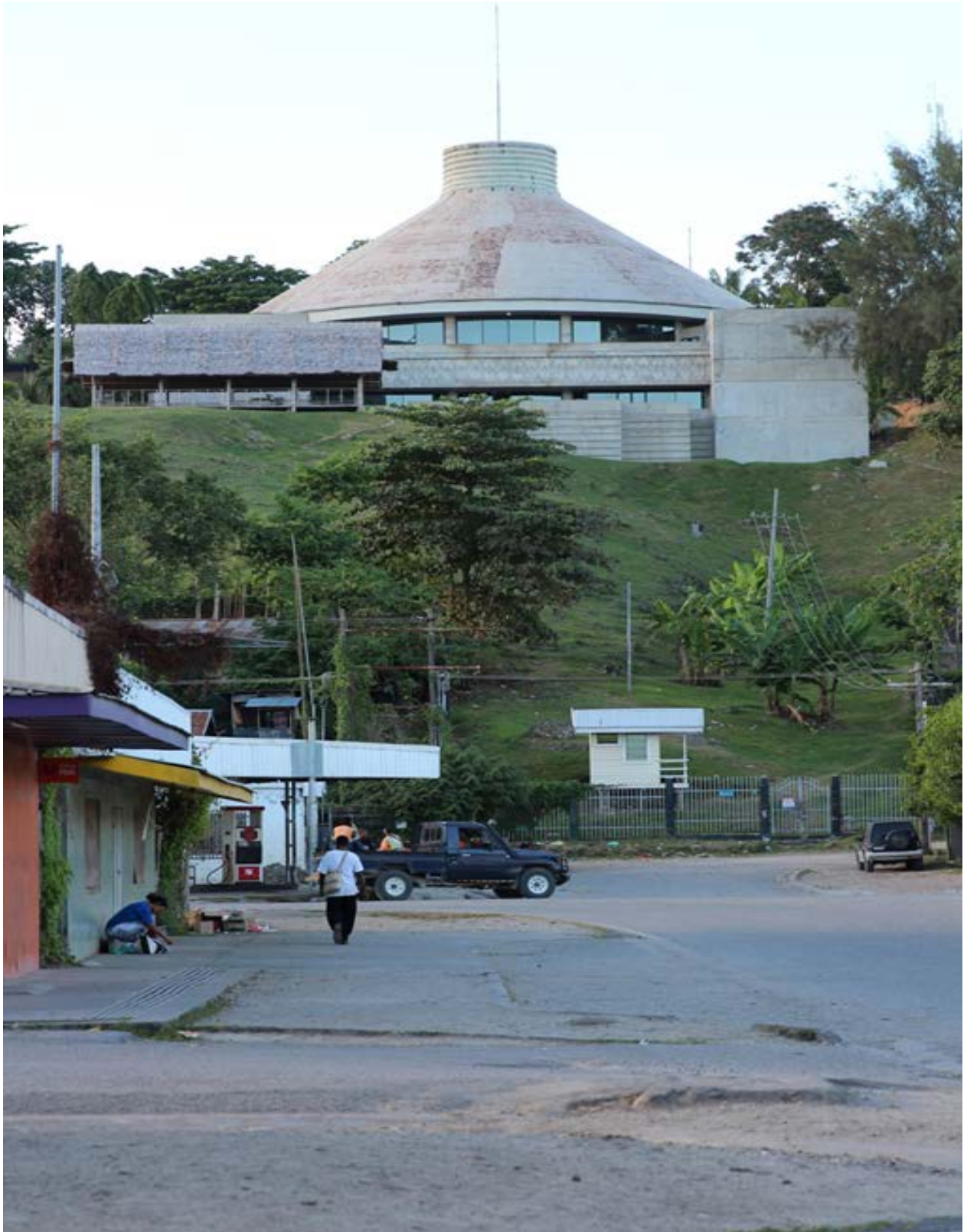
Danny Philip, 25 August 2010–16 November 2011

Gordon Darcy Lilo, 16 November 2011–9 December 2014

Manasseh Sogavare, 9 December 2014, ongoing



7.1–2. The two Chief Ministers: Solomon Mamaloni (b. 1943–d. 2000) and Sir Peter Kenilorea (b. 1943–d. 2016). Both were also Prime Ministers. (Clive Moore Collection)

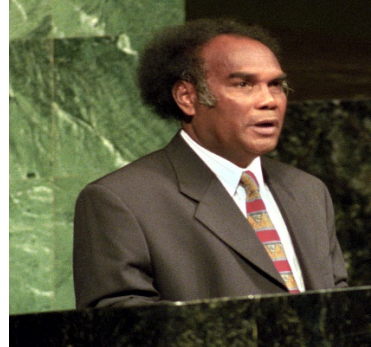


7.3. The exterior of the National Parliament on Vavaya Ridge overlooking Point Cruz, Honiara. The building was funded by the US government in 1992 to mark the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the Second World War. In the 2010s, the Republic of China (Taiwan), funded the creation of a Parliamentary Annex, providing extra offices and meeting and working space. (Clive Moore Collection)



7.4. The interior of the National Parliament chamber. (Solomon Islands Government)

There have been 11 Prime Ministers: the first two (Peter Kenilorea and Solomon Mamaloni) appeared earlier in this chapter.



7.5. Ezekiel Alebua (b. 1947)

7.6. Sir Francis Billy Hilly (b. 1948)

7.7. Bartholomew Ulufa'alu (b. 1939–d. 2007)



7.9. Sir Allan Kemakeza (b. 1950)

7.10. Snyder Rini (b. 1949)

7.11. Dr Derek Sikua (b. 1959)



7.12. Danny Philip (b. 1953)

7.13. Gordon Darcy Lilo (b. 1965)

7.14. Manasseh Sogavare (b. 1955)

(All Prime Minister photographs are courtesy of Solomon Islands Government, except for that of Ezekiel Alebua, which is by Graham Baines, 2010)



7.15. The National Parliament is truly the house of the people. For important events they climb up the ridge from Point Cruz to watch proceedings. This was the scene in 2016 when the body of the first Prime Minister, Sir Peter Kenilorea, was lying in state in the chamber, before burial. (Vincent Verheyen Collection, in Clive Moore Collection)



7.16. There is a *haus win* (an open traditional structure that catches the breezes) in front the National Parliament, over-looking the city, 2008. It creates an informal space where people can sit and rest beside their legislative chamber. (Clive Moore Collection)



7.17. The front entrance of the National Parliament, 2016. (Vincent Verheyen Collection, in Clive Moore Collection)