



Formal Report on Gizo Trip – Western Province

Table of content

TITLE	PAGE
1.0. Executive Summary	3
1.1. Introduction	3
1.2. Key Outcomes	4-5
1.3. Discussion	6-8
1.4. Conclusion	8
1.5. Recommendations	8-9

1.0. Executive Summary

This report details the outcomes of a significant trip to Gizo, Western Province, from 14 to 17 February 2025, led by Dr. William Parairato, Pro Vice Chancellor (PVC) of Solomon Islands National University (SINU). The purpose of the trip was to follow up on a previous verbal land allocation agreement with the Western Provincial Government (WPG) and to secure formal endorsement for the establishment of SINU's fifth campus in Gizo. The trip also included site visits and meetings with WPG officials. The WPG expressed full support for SINU's expansion into the Western Province, and it was confirmed that the Executive Land Board would meet to endorse the land allocation. The trip also involved a visit to the Poitete campus and potential land sites, which indicated promising opportunities for the future development of SINU in the region. The outcome of the trip represents a significant step forward in enhancing educational access and contributing to regional development.

1.1. Introduction

On 14 February 2025, Dr. William Parairato, Pro Vice Chancellor (PVCC) of Solomon Islands National University (SINU), led a delegation of five members to Gizo, Western Province. The team consisted of the Director of Property, Facilities, and Projects, the Executive Officer of PVC, the Planning Officer, the Senior Marketing and Public Relations Officer, and the Secretary to the SINU Council.

The primary purpose of the trip was to follow up on a verbal land allocation made by the Western Provincial Government (WPG) in 2020, aimed at providing land for the establishment of SINU's fifth (5th) campus. While the allocation had not yet been formalized, the goal was to secure WPG's formal endorsement through the Executive Land Board and to engage in discussions on future campus development. Additionally, the trip was designed to explore potential sites and the logistical steps needed to advance the project.

1.2. Key Outcomes

1. The WPG, including the Premier and the executive government, expressed unwavering support for the establishment of SINU's 5th campus in Gizo. The WPG confirmed that the Executive Land Board would meet within the next few days to finalize and endorse the land allocation.
2. Discussions during the trip confirmed that a plot of approximately 75 hectares, located near Mile Six, had been earmarked for SINU's campus. The Land Department will continue with



Premier of the Western Province, Hon. Billy Veo



Executive Members of the WPG



PVCC Dr William and the SINU delegation gather for



SINU team in discussion with the WPG Executives

the process of formalizing the land allocation and mapping out the area.

3. The WPG expressed concern over the high dropout rates in local schools and emphasized the importance of establishing a local campus to provide greater access to education, reduce travel costs, and improve educational outcomes for the province's youth.

4. The SINU team visited the Poitete campus, which is currently under development for forestry training. While the dormitories, classrooms, and administration blocks are well under construction, challenges remain in completing the ICT infrastructure and renovating the dining facilities. This will be covered by Indian Government second trench of funding. Further consultations with local stakeholders are required to ensure the campus meets all operational needs.
5. In addition to the Poitete site, the team visited multiple land allocations on Gizo Island. The 75-hectare plot near Mile Six was confirmed as suitable for the future development of the SINU campus. The Western Provincial Land Officer confirmed the land's suitability and pledged to facilitate the necessary steps to finalize the allocation.



SINU team site visit to Gizo “Million Dollar



1.3. Discussion

The trip was marked by productive meetings and site visits, highlighting both challenges and opportunities for SINU in establishing its presence in the Western Province.

1.3.1. Support from the Provincial Government

The full backing from the Western Provincial Government was one of the major successes of the trip. The Premier, alongside other government representatives, voiced strong support for the establishment of SINU's 5th campus, particularly in response to the high failure rates in schools within the province. The government recognized the importance of expanding access to higher education, especially for students who face the financial burden of traveling to Honiara for their studies.

1.3.2. Poitete Campus Development

The Poitete campus visit was vital in assessing the current state of SINU's infrastructure in the province. The team found that dormitories and classrooms were nearing completion, while



SINU Poitete Campus Signage



SINU Team group photo with the Poitete Campus Caretakers



SINU Poitete Campus Dining



SINU Poitete Campus Boys Hostel

administrative and ICT infrastructure required further development. The renovations to the dining hall and kitchen also remain incomplete. This will be covered in the second trench of Indian Funding.



SINU Poitete Campus female dorms bunk-beds



SINU Poitete Campus refurbished female ablution

1.3.3. Land Allocation Process

The team's visit to several land sites in Gizo, including the 75-hectare plot near Mile Six, revealed promising potential for campus expansion. The WPG, through the Land Department, expressed commitment to completing the mapping and formalizing the land allocation. This process, although still in progress, is a positive step forward in ensuring SINU's future establishment in Gizo.

1.3.4. Challenges and Opportunities

While the trip highlighted the strong support from local stakeholders and the government, challenges remain regarding land formalization and the completion of infrastructure at Poitete. However, the engagement with local landowners and government representatives indicates that

the project has a broad base of support. Additionally, transportation issues, such as the potential need for a wharf at Poitete for better sea access, must be addressed to improve connectivity between Gizo, Noro, and other parts of the province.

1.4. Conclusion

The trip to Gizo was highly successful in terms of securing full support from the Western Provincial Government and making significant progress towards the formalization of land allocation for SINU's fifth campus. The visit to the Poitete campus and the assessment of additional potential land sites provided valuable insights into the current state of development and the future needs of the university. The trip demonstrated a shared commitment to enhancing educational access in Western Province and highlighted key opportunities for regional development through higher education.

Despite some logistical challenges, particularly around infrastructure completion and land formalization, the trip laid a strong foundation for SINU's expansion into the Western Province. The university is well-positioned to move forward with the next steps in establishing the campus.

1.5. Recommendations

1. SINU should continue to work closely with the Western Provincial Government and the Executive Land Board to ensure that the land allocation process for the 75-hectare site near Mile Six is completed swiftly. A clear timeline for mapping and confirmation should be established.
2. To ensure that the Poitete campus meets all operational needs, SINU should prioritize completing the administration blocks, improving ICT infrastructure, and finalizing the renovation of the dining hall and kitchen. The project team must be on site to ensure these works are completed in a timely manner.

3. Further discussions should be held with local landowners in the Poitete area to explore the possibility of constructing a wharf. This would improve accessibility for students and staff, providing a more direct connection to Gizo and Noro.
4. With the expressed need for local educational opportunities, SINU should develop a comprehensive academic program in Gizo, focusing on high-demand fields such as DFL, UPC, tourism, fisheries, forestry, agriculture, and etc. This would help address regional educational gaps and meet local needs.
5. SINU should collaborate with local schools and the provincial government to monitor student enrollment, dropout rates, and educational outcomes in Western Province. This will help ensure that the new campus meets the educational needs of the region, providing a viable alternative for students who currently face challenges in completing their education.
6. SINU will develop the development plan and costing of the fifth campus before taking the matter up to council for approval.

By addressing these recommendations, SINU can ensure the successful establishment of its fifth (5) campus in Gizo and contribute meaningfully to the educational development and economic growth of Western Province.