



## **Progress Report: Media Association of Solomon Islands (MASI) Project with BBC Media Action**

**Date: 26 February 2024**

### **Introduction**

Since signing the contract with BBC Media Action, the Media Association of Solomon Islands (MASI) has been actively engaged in various activities outlined in the Terms of Reference (TOR) between the two organisations. This progress report provides an overview of the accomplishments and developments made thus far.

### **Activities Undertaken**

#### **Stringer Recruitment**

- MASI initiated the recruitment process for stringers to support its members in the coverage of the upcoming elections in Solomon Islands.
- A call for applications was issued via the national radio, SIBC, resulting in applications from selected provinces.
- Stringers representing Makira/Ulawa, Savo/Russells, Temotu, Choiseul Province, and Rennell Bellona were selected, totalling seven stringers.
- These stringers have undergone training with BBC Media Action and are in the process of returning to their respective provinces.

#### **Logistical Support**

- MASI facilitated the coordination of travel, accommodation, and other logistical support for the stringers.
- Equipment, including a projector and whiteboard, was provided to support the activities.

#### **Research Support**

- Two researchers were recruited by MASI to assist its members in election coverage.
- The researchers are actively collecting information as the election cycle progresses, including gathering data on voter sentiments, candidate profiles, and electoral issues.

#### **Amendments to Agreement**

- MASI and BBC Media Action have made amendments to the original agreement to enhance project outcomes.
- BBC Media Action increased funding support for the stringers, demonstrating their commitment to the project's success.
- Grant support has been allocated to different media outlets, with agreements reached between MASI members and the stringers regarding distribution.

### **Upcoming Activities**

- MASI is planning two election activities before polling day on 17 April 2024. These activities will focus on voter education and increasing civic engagement.

## Conclusion

The progress made in the MASI project with BBC Media Action demonstrates significant strides towards enhancing media coverage of the elections in Solomon Islands. The collaborative efforts and timely implementation of activities reflect the commitment of both organisations to supporting media development in the country. Furthermore, the increased funding support from BBC Media Action contributed tremendously to the success of the project. An advantage for MASI is having the BBC Media Action Project Manager on the ground to provide guidance and proactive day-to-day support for the MASI to ensure MASI meet its target goals.

## Next Steps

Moving forward, MASI will continue to monitor and support stringers and researchers in their respective roles. Effective coordination and communication between MASI, BBC Media Action, and the newsrooms will be maintained to ensure the smooth progression of the project. These actions will be carried out with a focus on achieving key milestones and objectives within the specified timeframe.

## Pictures and links



*Stringers having a discussion with Newsroom Editors and MASI Board Members*

1. [MASI partners with BBC Media Action to empower provincial Stringers for election coverage](#)
2. [MASI and BBC Media Action undergo workshop training](#)

## Contact Person

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