

Open Letter to the Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands

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The Honourable Jeremiah Manele Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands Office of the Prime Minister Honiara, Solomon Islands

Mr. Prime Minister,

Today I write to you as The Observer Between Oceans.

I spend my time watching countries.

Large countries.

Small countries.

Powerful countries.

Poor countries.

Countries that dominate headlines and countries that the world remembers only when disaster strikes.

And I have noticed something curious.

The world often assumes that importance is measured by population, military strength, GDP, or political influence.

But history does not always agree.

Sometimes a small country becomes important because it quietly preserves something valuable while the rest of the world races in another direction.

That is why today my attention turns to Solomon Islands.

For many people around the world, the Solomon Islands are little more than a name on a map.

A scattering of tropical islands somewhere in the Pacific Ocean.

A distant place.

A forgotten place.

But for the people who live there, it is the center of the world.

And that distinction matters.

Because every country is somebody's home.

Mr. Prime Minister,

The Solomon Islands possess a remarkable beauty.

Dense rainforests.

Volcanic mountains.

Coral reefs.

Crystal waters.

Villages surrounded by nature.

The kind of landscapes that tourists describe as paradise.

Yet the people who live there know that paradise also comes with challenges.

The reality of daily life is not measured by sunsets.

It is measured by schools.

Hospitals.

Roads.

Jobs.

Electricity.

Water.

And the confidence that children will have a better future than their parents.

For many citizens, those questions remain unresolved.

Mr. Prime Minister,

The Solomon Islands are home to hundreds of thousands of people spread across nearly a thousand islands.

That geography is both a blessing and a challenge.

It creates beauty.

But it also creates isolation.

Providing healthcare to a population scattered across distant islands is difficult.

Providing education is difficult.

Building infrastructure is difficult.

Connecting communities is difficult.

In many parts of the world, people complain about traffic jams.

In the Solomon Islands, some communities worry whether a doctor, teacher, or supply shipment will reach them at all.

Geography continues to shape destiny.

Just as it has for generations.

Mr. Prime Minister,

Life in Honiara is very different from life in many remote villages.

The capital contains government offices, businesses, schools, banks, shops, restaurants, markets, hotels and growing commercial activity.

But beyond the capital, many citizens still depend heavily on fishing, agriculture, local trade and community support.

Families remain central to daily life.

Churches play an important role.

Traditional customs remain influential.

The modern world is present.

But it has not entirely replaced older ways of living.

In many respects, the Solomon Islands continue to live in two eras simultaneously.

One traditional.

One modern.

The challenge is to gain the advantages of modern development without losing the social cohesion that has helped communities survive for generations.

Mr. Prime Minister,

Young people throughout the country increasingly seek opportunity.

They want education.

They want skills.

They want careers.

They want access to technology and global markets.

And above all, they want reasons to believe that success can be achieved at home.

This may be one of the defining challenges of the coming decades.

How does a small island nation create enough opportunity to keep its brightest minds engaged in building the country rather than leaving it?

Natural resources alone will not answer that question.

Timber can be exported.

Fish can be exported.

Minerals can be exported.

But national confidence cannot be exported.

It must be built.

Mr. Prime Minister,

The world is also paying increasing attention to the Pacific.

Major powers now speak more frequently about strategic influence in the region.

Foreign governments see maps.

Citizens see homes.

This difference is important.

Because for the people of the Solomon Islands, the future is not a geopolitical discussion.

It is a practical question.

Will schools improve?

Will healthcare improve?

Will infrastructure improve?

Will opportunities expand?

Will communities remain strong?

These are the questions that ultimately matter most.

Mr. Prime Minister,

When I observe the Solomon Islands, I do not see a small country.

I see a country standing at a crossroads.

A country rich in natural beauty.

Rich in cultural diversity.

Rich in community spirit.

But still working to transform those strengths into broad prosperity.

The future of the Solomon Islands will not be determined by the size of its territory.

It will be determined by whether every child born on every island can realistically believe that tomorrow will be better than today.

That is the measure by which all governments are ultimately judged.

Respectfully,

The Observer Between Oceans

P.S. A Citizen's Audit of the Country

- Stability and Security: 3.5 / 5

The country remains generally stable, though political tensions and occasional social unrest have demonstrated underlying vulnerabilities.

- Economy and Standard of Living: 3.0 / 5

The economy continues to grow gradually, but many communities still face limited employment opportunities and infrastructure challenges.

- Social Well-Being: 3.5 / 5

Strong family structures, community networks and cultural traditions provide important social resilience.

- Development and Future Prospects: 3.5 / 5

The nation has significant long-term potential but must continue improving infrastructure, education and economic diversification.

Final Score: 3.38 / 5 — A Nation Scattered Across Islands, United by Hope

The Solomon Islands face challenges that geography has imposed for centuries.

Yet they also possess something that cannot be measured on a map:

the determination of people who continue building communities across one of the most beautiful regions on Earth.

Русский перевод

<https://lettertoleader.com/en/solomon-islands/prime-minister/181-open-letter-to-the-prime-minister-of-the-solomon-islands>

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