



Memorial ceremony for Tony Scriva, RAMSI Adviser, Office of the Auditor General

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Honiara, Solomon Islands

6 December 2007

On the 22nd of April this year, a bright, young and popular Auditor died suddenly and tragically from an aneurism outside the High Court in Honiara. He was twenty-seven years old. For all of us – Tony’s family, friends, colleagues and members of the RAMSI family – it was a terrible shock. It is something many of us are still struggling to come to terms with.

Tony Scriva had been working as a RAMSI adviser in the Office of the Auditor General for almost eighteen months. During this time, he made a major contribution to the Office, helping to improve the skills of its staff and their capacity to do their jobs.

As the plaque we are about to unveil describes, Tony worked with dedication and enthusiasm to improve government accountability, for the benefit of all Solomon Islanders. He was bright and energetic. He was friendly and approachable. He was passionate about his work, committed to the future of the Audit Office, and hopeful for the future of Solomon Islands.

During his time working as an Adviser in the Office of the Auditor General, Tony helped re-develop the Public Accounts Committee of the National Parliament, which has improved – immeasurably – the Parliament’s ability to scrutinise government finances. Tony also worked on a number of quite sensitive audits.

More importantly, Tony spent time getting to know his Solomon Islands colleagues and helped them develop their skills as Auditors – two of whom are with us today - so that, when RAMSI departs, they and the Audit Office can continue to contribute to government accountability and reducing corruption in Solomon Islands.

Tony often spoke about the talent and dedication of his Solomon Islander colleagues, most of whom had just been recruited as graduate Auditors. He took great pleasure in reporting that they were starting to ask the right questions of the ministries they were auditing; starting to have confidence in their ability to get to the bottom of complicated procedural discrepancies; and they were starting to see the real difference the office was making to the smooth running of government, by highlighting problems that exist, and recommending ways to overcome them.

I’m sure if Tony was here today, he would be immensely proud of his legacy, and he would also be proud of what continues to be achieved in the Audit Office under RAMSI.

For this, we can all be proud. Tony came to the Solomon Islands to be part of a unique regional mission, comprising of fifteen Pacific Islands countries and countless different agencies ... all are playing a valuable role in creating a peaceful, prosperous and well-governed country. Tony chose to participate in RAMSI to play his part in reaching these goals, because he wanted to use his skills and knowledge to make a contribution to the future of the Solomon Islands. The way he did his job and the way he interacted with Solomon Islanders did Australia proud. I welcome here today our police and military colleagues, who know all too well the sacrifices that people make in serving their country overseas.

As we unveil this plaque to Tony Scriva, I would like you to join me in acknowledging the other two plaques on this memorial. They commemorate the lives and sacrifice of two other young men who died while serving with RAMSI: Adam Dunning, an Australian Protective Services Officer and member of RAMSI's Participating Police Force and Private Jamie Clark, an Australian Soldier and member of RAMSI's Combined Task Force. We know that their families, too, lost a loved one overseas, and we reflect on their loss, and on their sacrifice.

Tony had many friends here. He managed to work hard as well as keep up an active social life. He took regular trips to nearby beaches and to Maravagi and Western Province.

Of course, many of his friends have completed their deployments with RAMSI and have now left Solomon Islands ... but I know Tony's friends will never forget him. Tony will always loom large in the memories of their time here in Solomon Islands ... his, is a wonderful memory that his friends will carry with them, always.

To Tony's beautiful wife, Anita ... and to his family back in Perth ... please find consolation in the warmth and friendship of the Solomon Islanders and expatriates who are here with us today commemorating Tony's life.

We will all miss Tony well into the future ... and his inclusion in this memorial to RAMSI personnel will ensure that his work, and the legacy he left here, is never forgotten.

I now ask the Auditor General, Floyd Fatai, to join me in unveiling a plaque to commemorate Tony's life, and to honour his contribution to RAMSI and the people of Solomon Islands.