

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE (PAC)

STANDARD PROGRAM AND 2024 WORK PLAN

1. Background

The mandate and the role of the Public Accounts Committee is set out in the Standing Orders and the Expenditure Review and Audit Act, Cap 241. Some responsibilities of the PAC are also outlined in the Public Finance and Economic Management Act.

As per Standing orders 68, it is required that the Chair present a list of matters to be enquired into or examined by the committee in the 12 months following. The Expenditure Review and Audit Act denotes that the PAC can meet once in a month or as required by the Committee. Under the provisions of the current standing orders, I, Hon Ulrich Sumptoh, as Chairman of PAC, I am honoured to present this work program and 2024 work plan.

2. Standard Annual Program

4.1 Aim of work program

This work program aims to:

- Provide for consistency in the meetings of PAC each year,
- Ensure that the roles and responsibilities of PAC are attended to within a year and in a sustainable manner, and
- Ensure that PAC reports to Parliament on both ordinary session of Parliament.

2.2 Standard Program

For this 13th legislature, the standard program for PAC aims to ensure PAC fulfill its mandate as set out in the Standing Orders and meets its objectives as set out in the Expenditure Review and Audit Act (ERAA).

The Table below sets the standard program for PAC annually in this 13th Legislature.

Standard Annual Program for PAC for the 13th Legislature

PAC Session	Review Specific Activities in Standing Order (S.O.) s.63.1.a	Compliance to S.O. & ERAA	Public Consultation on Budget	Public Sector Audit & Financial Performance	Public Enquiry	Report to Parliament
In Compliance with Standing Orders (S.O.) & Expenditure Review and Audit Act (ERAA)	Govt. Expenditure & Financial Performance, Taxation & Revenue, Publicly Owned financial Corporations, Finance, Superannuation & Insurance	ERAA s.14.1.a. ERAA s.14.2.a. ERAA s.14.2.b. ERAA s.14.2.c. ERAA s.14.2.i	S.O. s63.1.a: Finance, Revenue, & Expenditure ERAA s.14.1.b.	ERAA s.14.1.c. ERAA s.14.2.d. ERAA s.14.2.e. ERAA s.14.2.f. ERAA s.14.2.g.	ERAA s.14.1.d. ERAA s.14.2.h. ERAA s.14.2.k.	ERAA s.14.2.j. ERAA s.14.2.h. ERAA s.14.2.k.
PAC 1st Meeting	↗	↗		↗	↗	↗
PAC 2nd Meeting		↗				↗
PAC 3rd Meeting		↗		↗	↗	
PAC 4th Meeting	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗
PAC 5th Meeting		↗	↗			↗

The above table shows that there are six main activities of the Public Accounts Committee. Each year, PAC aims to address all activities.

3. 2024 Work Plan

The 2024 Annual workplan, as outlined below, is intended to implement the standard Annual program for PAC.

The plan falls in line with the 2024 sitting calendar.

There would be five PAC sessions and matters discussed are in line with the standard program.

26 February to 22 March 2024

PAC 1st meeting (28 calendar days)

Agenda

- Review government tender contracts 2021 (MALLFB)
- Review government tender contracts 2022
- Review Compliance to Standing Orders and ERAA
- Public Sector Audit and Financial Performance – Consider Report of the Auditor General on: Adequacy and nature of intended programme, adequacy of proposed external audit arrangements, and sufficiency of resources of the Audit office.
- Public Enquiry – Enquiry into matters referred to PAC by Parliament or the Public.
- Report to Parliament – Follow up on last report of PAC.
- Follow up on PAC outstanding matters

6 May to 8 May 2024

PAC 2nd meeting (4 calendar days)

Agenda

- Report to Parliament – Finalize Report for PAC for 1st Ordinary session
- Review Compliance to Standing Orders and ERAA
- Review Compliance to Parliament Administration Act _Annual reports by Ministers

3 June to 28 June 2024

PAC 3rd meeting (28 calendar days)

Agenda

- Review Compliance to Standing Orders and ERAA
- Public Enquiry – Enquiry into matters referred to PAC by Parliament or the Public
- Public Sector Audit & financial performance – Review 2022 & 2023 Audit Reports including for the Whole of Government, Statutory bodies and State-owned enterprises

19 August to 13 September 2024 (28 calendar days)

PAC 4th meeting

Agenda

- Review Specific Activities in the Standing Orders – Review a specific Insurance Policy
- Review Compliance to Standing Orders and ERAA
- Public consultation on Budget – Community consultation including Public call for submissions
- Public Sector Audit and Financial Performance – Public Hearing in Malekula on Financial performance of Government Schools and Hospital
- Public Enquiry – Enquiry into matters referred to PAC by Parliament or the Public
- Report to Parliament – Consideration of bills referred to PAC by Parliament

14 October to 25 October 2024 (14 Calendar Days)

PAC 5th meeting

Agenda

- Review Compliance to Standing Orders and ERAA
- Public consultation on Budget – Public Consultation on 2024 Budget in Luganville

- Report to Parliament – Finalize Report – PAC Enquiry, 2025 Work Plan and Activity Report for tabling on 2nd Ordinary session

4. 2024 Budget

The estimated budget for the 2024 work plan for PAC is Vt. 28 million. The details of the 2024 budget are as follows:

1. PAC 5 Sessions for total of 102 Calendar days	= Vt. 10,770,810
2. PAC Public Hear @ Malekula and meeting	= Vt. 1,019,760
3. PAC Public Consultation on Budget @ Luganville and meeting	= Vt. 1,171,140
4. Entitlements: Chair and Vice Chair	= Vt. 10,000,000
5. Office resources and related items	= Vt. <u>5,000,000</u>
Total Budget	Vt. 27,961,710

PAC requires an additional Vt.10,063,988 million to the already stated Vt17, 897,722 million in the 2024 budget report.

5. Conclusion

Apart from its normal undertakings, in this 2024 work plan, PAC will review the financial performance of Government Schools and Hospital of Malekula and undertake a public consultation on Budget and government expenditure in Luganville.

PAC will require an extra Vt. 10,063,988 million to successfully implement this 2024 work plan.

PAC is thankful for the support of the Government, the Government Agencies and the public and looks forward to that support in implementing its 2024 work plan successfully.

Thank you everyone for your attention.


Hon. Sumpton Ulrich, Chairperson of Public Accounts Committee