

# MELANESIAN SPEARHEAD GROUP SKILLS MOVEMENT SCHEME

## INFORMATION SHEET

**THE SECRETARIAT**  
**MELANESIAN SPEARHEAD GROUP (MSG)**



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# MELANESIAN SPEARHEAD GROUP (MSG) SKILLS MOVEMENT SCHEME

## Information Sheet

1. The MSG Skills Movement Scheme (SMS) is governed by the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was signed between MSG Members States of: Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon and Vanuatu on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2012. Solomon Islands later signed the MOU in mid September 2012. The MOU came into force on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012.
2. The objective of the SMS is to facilitate the temporary movement of skilled MSG nationals within the MSG countries for the purposes of taking up employment without compromising national laws and policies on health and safety, minimum working conditions and border requirements.
3. Access to employment under the scheme is based on skilled professions that Members have offered in their List of Occupations contained in the Schedules, which is in Annex 1 of the MOU. This is attached as Annexure 1 of this information sheet. This is also contained in bullet point 9 of this Information Sheet. Those occupations not in the list may be considered on the discretion of Members based on shortages in those professions and/or where they mutually agree to open up. This SMS is not intended to be open to the unskilled sector where there are already surplus local workers but this will also be at the discretion of Members, where unforeseen shortages may occur.
4. To access the SMS, MSG nationals will need to first be offered a contract to work in another MSG SMS party. The applicant will be required to fill in the MSG SMS Application Form together with other required documents and submit to the Department of Labour in the other SMS party. Nationals of the MSG countries seeking employment in other MSG countries under the SMS will only travel to the other party to take up employment once approval of an application is granted by the receiving country including screening and subsequent contractual arrangements between the employer and the worker by the receiving country in accordance with the procedural requirements set out in the MOU.
5. The scheme is capped at a total quota of 400 people per Member country. This is a minimum quota and Members may exercise discretion above this quota depending on demand. The quota can therefore be re-negotiated depending on each Members' shortages over a period of time.
6. The MOU provides for the development of common standards and recognition of qualifications across the MSG SMS parties to facilitate movement of skilled nationals. There is ongoing work in this area based on the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) framework which is in Annex 3 of the MOU.

7. The MOU will be reviewed no later than 3 years from the date of its signing and every 3 years thereafter. The review will include all aspects of the operation in terms of access to employment opportunities and the list of occupations set out in Annex 1 of the MOU.
8. The MOU can be amended by mutual agreement between the SMS parties at anytime, however the amendments to the schedules can only be made under the following circumstances:
  - When there is an economic recession to the extent that the domestic labour market is adversely affected resulting in excessively high unemployment levels; and
  - When there is an over-supply of skilled or qualified MSG nationals in a specific area of occupation in a SMS party.
9. Below is the official contact points in each of the MSG SMS parties:

Country/Name of Official	Ministry/Department	Contact details
<b>FIJI</b>		
1) Mr. Vilimone Baledroka Director Labour Standards	Ministry of Labour	Tel: +679 330 3500 Fax: +679 Email: <a href="mailto:vilimone.baledroka@govnet.gov.fj">vilimone.baledroka@govnet.gov.fj</a>
2) Mr Naibuka Vuli Manager Border Control Permits / Visas, TIP / RSD	Department of Immigration	Tel: +679 331 2622 Fax: +679 Email: <a href="mailto:nvuli@immi.gov.fj">nvuli@immi.gov.fj</a>
3) Mr Sekove Tamanitoakula Acting Chief Economist	Ministry of Industry & Trade	Tel: +679 305411 Fax: +679 3302617 Email: <a href="mailto:stamanitoakula@govnet.gov.fj">stamanitoakula@govnet.gov.fj</a>
<b>PAPUA NEW GUINEA</b>		
1) Ms. Mary Morola Deputy Secretary	Department of Labour and Industrial Relations	Tel: +675 321 41060 Fax: +675 320 1062 Email: <a href="mailto:mary.morola@dlir.gov.pg">mary.morola@dlir.gov.pg</a>

<p>2) Ms. Sila Orake Trade Officer</p>	<p>Trade Negotiations Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs &amp; Trade</p>	<p>Tel: +675 3256047 Fax: +675 3254263 Em: <a href="mailto:sorake10@gmail.com">sorake10@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>SOLOMON ISLANDS</b></p>		
<p>1) Mr. Robinson Gegeu – Chief Labour Officer</p>	<p>Ministry of Commerce, Industries, Labour &amp; Immigration</p>	<p>Tel: +677 26811 Fax: 677 Em: <a href="mailto:rgegeu@yahoo.com">rgegeu@yahoo.com</a></p>
<p>2) Mr. Luke Houpea Chief Immigration Officer (Border Control)</p>	<p>Immigration Department Ministry of Commerce, Industry &amp; Labour</p>	<p>Tel: 677 Fax: 677 Em: <a href="mailto:luke.houpea@gmail.com">luke.houpea@gmail.com</a></p>
<p>3) Mr Jack Ooi Director of Trade (Acting)</p>	<p>Department of External Trade</p>	<p>Tel: 677 - 7421250 Mobile: 677 - 75 75571. Em: <a href="mailto:Jack_ooi426@yahoo.com">Jack_ooi426@yahoo.com</a></p>
<p><b>VANUATU</b></p>		
<p>1) Mr Lionel Kaluat Commissioner of Labour</p>	<p>Department of Labour &amp; Employment Services (External)</p>	<p>Tel: +678 22610 Fax: 678 26544 Em: <a href="mailto:lkaluat@vanuatu.gov.vu">lkaluat@vanuatu.gov.vu</a></p>
<p>2) Mr Francois Batick Principal Immigration Officer</p>	<p>Department of Immigration</p>	<p>Tel: +678 22354 Fax: 678 25492 Em: <a href="mailto:fbatick@vanuatu.gov.vu">fbatick@vanuatu.gov.vu</a></p>
<p>3) Mr Willie Luen Acting Principal Trade Officer</p>	<p>Department of Trade</p>	<p>Tel: +678 22770 Fax: +678 25640 Em: <a href="mailto:wluen@vanuatu.gov.vu">wluen@vanuatu.gov.vu</a></p>

