

## 2011 Nov 07 – Government of Vanuatu and MSG sign MOU

MOU signed between Government of Vanuatu and MSG Secretariat for Police Liaison Officer

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Government of the Republic of Vanuatu and the Melanesia Spearhead Group (MSG) Secretariat on the secondment of a Police Liaison Officer (PLO) to the MSG Secretariat was signed today at the MSG Secretariat headquarters. The MoU was signed by the Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vanuatu, Mr. Jean Sese, the Commissioner of Police of Vanuatu Mr. Joshua Bong and the Director General of the MSG Secretariat, Mr Peter Forau.

In welcoming the commitment by the Government of Vanuatu, Director General Forau said the purpose of the MOU is to formalize the arrangements and confirm the terms upon which the PLO will be seconded to the MSG Secretariat. The PLO will work closely with MSG member countries to coordinate police programs, training and exchange programs for the purpose of fostering close police cooperation among members.

He added that the secondment of the PLO at the MSG Secretariat is indeed timely and crucial as it will enhance the Secretariat's capacity to implement leaders' decision in the area of police cooperation in the region. The PLO will be based at the MSG Secretariat in Port Vila in the Political Affairs Division and will report directly to the Director of the division.

Mr Forau expressed his deep gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Vanuatu and the Vanuatu Police Force for availing an Officer and supporting the secondment. Mr Forau said the Government of the Republic of Vanuatu continues to support the work of the Secretariat and this MoU is once again another testimony of the substantial support received from the Government of the Republic of Vanuatu. " On behalf of the membership I wish to record the deep gratitude of the membership for this yet again, timely gesture of support."

In also welcoming the conclusion of the MoU, the Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr Sese and Commissioner Bong were proud to jointly announce the appointment of Superintendent Willie Ben Kalo, a senior member of the Vanuatu Police Force who will be seconded to the MSG Secretariat as the PLO. DG Sese and Commissioner Bong expressed their acknowledgement for the opportunity for the Vanuatu Police Force to be contribute to work of the Secretariat in coordinating policing among members.

The secondment arrangement was agreed at the Special MSG SOM that was held on the 11-12 August 2011 in Port Vila, Vanuatu and will run until a substantive officer is appointed.

The MoU is yet another achievement to further strengthen the cordial relationship the MSG Secretariat has with the Government of Vanuatu and strengthen service delivery to the MSG membership.