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Renowned carvers from the MSG member countries of Kanaky-New Caledonia, Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu are currently attending a two-week “art in residence” at the Vanuatu Cultural Centre in Port Vila as part of preparations for the official launching ceremony of the Melanesian Spearhead Group 25th Anniversary in early 2013.

The Officer in Charge at the MSG Secretariat in Port Vila confirmed that the special event is being hosted by the Vanuatu Cultural Center. He said the “artists in residence” week is an initiative of the MSG Secretariat to bring together carvers from Vanuatu and other countries of Melanesia to interact and exchange further their art and techniques in carving and work together in preparing for the coming special anniversary of the MSG to be held in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

He said carvers such as Jean Philippe Tjibaou, Joseph Sihaze and Edmond Hace representing Kanaky were able to share their knowledge and techniques in wood-carvings with other colleague carvers like Norman Haikiu from the Solomons Islands, Paul Ligairi from Fiji and Philemon Jimmy from Vanuatu. Mr Nirua confirmed that Papua New Guinea carver is soon to join the residence this week.

Mr Nirua said the artists are carving three metre-tall sculptures that will represent the five Melanesian countries. He said the sculptures once completed will be erected at the MSG Secretariat Headquarters in Port Vila and will officially be unveiled at the launching of the 25th

Anniversary of the Melanesian Spearhead Group in Port Vila.

The MSG “arts in residence” week initiative is an implementation of the Memorandum of Agreement on Cultural Cooperation within MSG signed by MSG Ministers of Culture last July during the Pacific Arts Festival in Honiara.

Authorized by the Officer in Charge

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