



The Officer-in-Charge of the Melanesian Spearhead Group Secretariat and Chairman for the MSG Silver Jubilee Organizing and Planning Committee, Mr. Jean Pierre Nirua is pleased to announce that the official launching of the MSG Silver Jubilee celebrations throughout Melanesia will be held in Port Vila, Republic of Vanuatu on the 28th January 2013.

Mr. Nirua confirmed that the launching ceremony to mark 25 years of Melanesian solidarity and growth will be officiated by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Vanuatu, Honorable Meltek Sato Kilman Livtuvanu, and added that this particular Grand Launching Ceremony will mark the beginning of the celebrations throughout Melanesia.

The Chairman of the MSG Silver Jubilee Organizing and Planning Committee expressed his satisfaction that the Committee for the special event that comprises of officials of the Vanuatu Government and other key stakeholders have planned to stage a memorable launching at the Independence Park.

Mr Nirua explained that as part of the regional celebration program MSG members such as the FLNKS grouping of Kanaky, New Caledonia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu will also from February to June 2013 be hosting their one-week Melanesia celebrations. He said this is an initiative by the organizing committee and endorsed by the Leaders Summit in 2012 to enable all members to celebrate this Silver Jubilee in their respective countries.

The Chairman of the MSG Silver Jubilee Organizing and Planning Committee is also pleased to further announce that Papua New Guinea will hold their Melanesia Week in February, Vanuatu in March, Solomon Islands in April, Fiji in May and the people of Kanaky in June 2013 when Leaders Summit is scheduled to be hosted by FLNKS. He said Vanuatu who is the host country of the Secretariat of the Melanesian Spearhead Group in Port Vila, Vanuatu will host their Melanesia Week in March on the anniversary date of the birth of the MSG which falls on the 14 March 2013. "This will mark 25 years of the signing of the Principles of Cooperation between Independent States of Melanesia, the first agreement to give birth to the idea of strengthening Melanesian solidarity and cooperation," said Mr Nirua.

Mr. Nirua was also able to confirm and reveal that as part of the launching ceremony in Vanuatu a symposium under the theme "Leaders' Toktok-Tales from Our Founders and Pioneers" is being organized for founding leaders of the Melanesian Spearhead Group and current leaders of the MSG to share their perspectives on various key topics in Melanesia to highlight the history and future of Melanesian cooperation that began 25 years ago on 14 March 1988. "This is an exciting time for our people and our leaders as the symposium will give opportunity to leaders of Melanesia to share with the people of Melanesia the vision and ideas that gave birth to the strong relationship and relations enjoyed by MSG member countries," said Mr. Nirua. He said this will also give opportunity to leaders to share their perspectives on issues that are of common interest to the people and Governments of Melanesia.

He further added that the launching ceremony will also see the official release of MSG souvenirs and memorabilia to mark 25 years of Melanesian Solidarity and Growth, the unveiling of the Melanesian carving by member country carvers and a public luncheon for all. "This is a day to remember for the people of Melanesia so we will invite our Leaders, MSG pioneers and founders and our friends of Melanesia near and far to join us in marking this special day not just to remember the hard work of our Leaders, Senior officials and Governments but also to continue to embrace and enjoy our solidarity and cooperation for the many more years to come," said Mr. Nirua.

The Officer-in-Charge of the MSG Secretariat confirmed that the official program will soon be circulated to all member countries, Governments and the people of Melanesia.

Authorized by the Officer in Charge

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